

Linguistics 452 Seminar in Sound Structure: Prosody and Intonation

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Cresap 101 (Northwestern Evanston Campus)

Prosody and intonation provide the rhythmic structure and melody of speech. This linguistic subsystem manifests itself at all levels of representation, from phonetics through syntax and semantics to pragmatics. It is also a key to understanding how language is used in social interaction.

This seminar will begin with a survey of the biological foundations of the prosodic and intonational systems, emphasizing foundations for "entrainment", or automatic matching of patterns across interlocutors. Then, we will cover the modern theory of cognitive/linguistic representation. We will apply this theory in a few case studies, showing how prosody and intonation relate to information structure and to discourse moves made by speakers to update the mutual belief space in the course of a conversation. On the practical side, these case studies will also introduce coding standards for intonational and prosodic analysis of speech recordings from experiments as well as speech databases.

Prerequisites: Graduate standing or (for undergraduates), successful completion of Linguistics 450 or 460.