Class 22 (May 6, 2002): More structure above the word

Structure above the syllable

utterance

intonational phrase

phonological phrase

phonological word

foot

syllable

in press reports of the incident his name wasn’t mentioned

Utterance: pretty much self-explanatory. More or less a sentence, but can be more than one sentence if they’re not separated by a pause, and addressed to the same listener.

Example from G&J: r-linking in RP (a British dialect of English); similar phenomena occur in “r-dropping” American dialects.

(....sti[ŋ]ing...)U
(a fai[ə] idea...)U
(Hi Sheila! [i]Everything all right?)U
(Hi Peter!)U(*[i]Open the window, Sheila)U

Intonational phrase: In English, usually the ‘core’ [NP VP] sentence. Parenthetical remarks, restrictive relative, and extrapolose adjuncts usually get their own IntPs. An IntP boundary sometimes goes after a long subject NP, or after each item in a list.

As we’ll see next time, IntPs can be detected by tones that occur at their edges

Example from G&J: Dutch adverbial stress retraction

altijd → altijd when followed by an accented word within the same IntP

(Naar de wáterstanden luistert ze altijd)_{\text{IntP}}
to the water-level-reports listens she always
‘To the water level reports, she’ll always listen.’

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1 For the last three sentences, I’m just guessing at the glosses and translations, because G&J don’t provide them.
(Waar ze altijd naar luistert)_IntP (zijn de waterstanden)_IntP
where she always to listen is the water-level-reports
‘What she’ll always listen to is the water-level reports.’

(Altijd luistert ze naar de waterstanden)_IntP
always listens she to the water-level-reports
‘Always she’ll listen to the water-level reports.’

(Ze luistert altijd naar de waterstanden)_IntP
she listens always to the water-level-reports
‘She’ll always listen to the water-level reports.’

Example: English rhythm rule

Clash avoidance
We can represent levels of stress with xs:

```
  x  x
 x  x  x  x
 x  x  x  x  x  x  x  x
Mi ssi ssi ppi le gi sla tors
```

If we put these two words together, the stress changes. One interpretation of this has been to give NOCLASH (no two adjacent stresses) a broader interpretation: two adjacent xs must not also be adjacent on the layer below.

```
  x
 x  x
 x  x  x  x  x
 x  x  x  x  x  x  x  x
Mi ssi ssi ppi le gi sla tors
```

(4th layer: English puts main stress on the rightmost word of a syntactic phrase)

What can we say about the domain of the rhythm rule, given the following examples?

U.M. often educates Mississippi legislators.

U.M. often gives Mississippi legislators.