

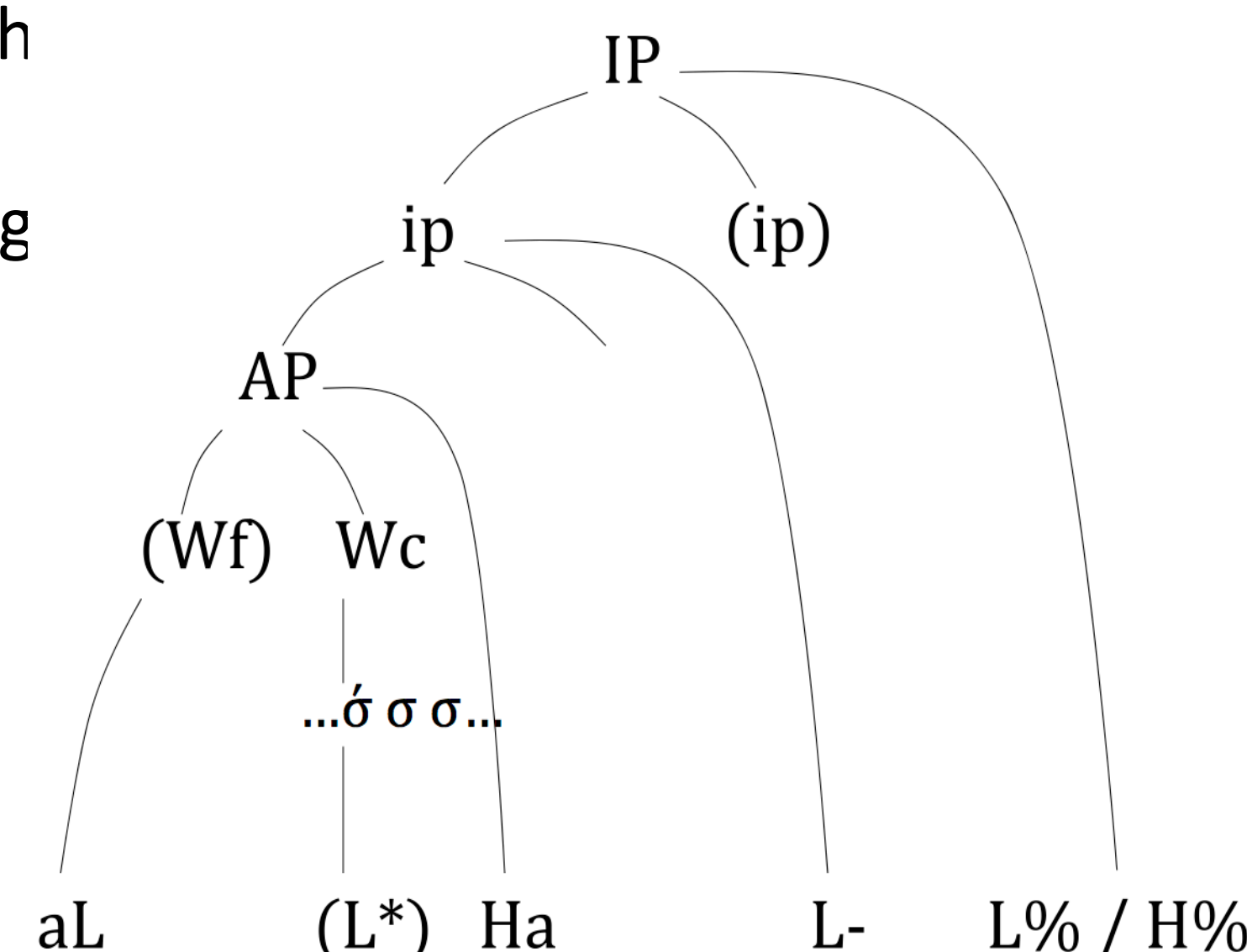


Singaporean English Background

- Singaporean English (SgE) – Nativized variety of English
- English used along side Mandarin Chinese, Malay and Tamil
- Systematic features – different from other varieties of English (Lim, 2004; see also Deterding, 1994)
 - Syllable-timed (Low *et al.*, 2000)
- Diglossic model (Gupta, 1994):
 - Colloquial SgE – L(ow) form
 - Standard SgE – H(igh) form
- Here, **SgE defined as Standard SgE** – reading intonation

Intonational Model

- Based on a small corpus of data collected from three native speakers of SgE – 2 females and one male
- Female speakers reported being English dominant
- Male speaker reported being Mandarin dominant
- All university-educated
- Recordings analyzed using Autosegmental-Metrical model of intonation (Beckman & Pierrehumbert, 1986)
- Proposal: SgE is both head- and edge-prominence marking (Jun, 2005)
- One pitch accent (optional)
- Three levels of phrasing – AP, ip & IP



Pitch Accent

- Only one pitch accent – **L***
- Realized on the stressed syllable of a content word (Fig. 1, Fig. 2, Fig. 3)
- Appears to be optional in some cases (Fig. 4)
 - Sometimes difficult to perceive a particular syllable as prominent
- Only marked when F0 is low and word is perceived as prominent

Acknowledgements

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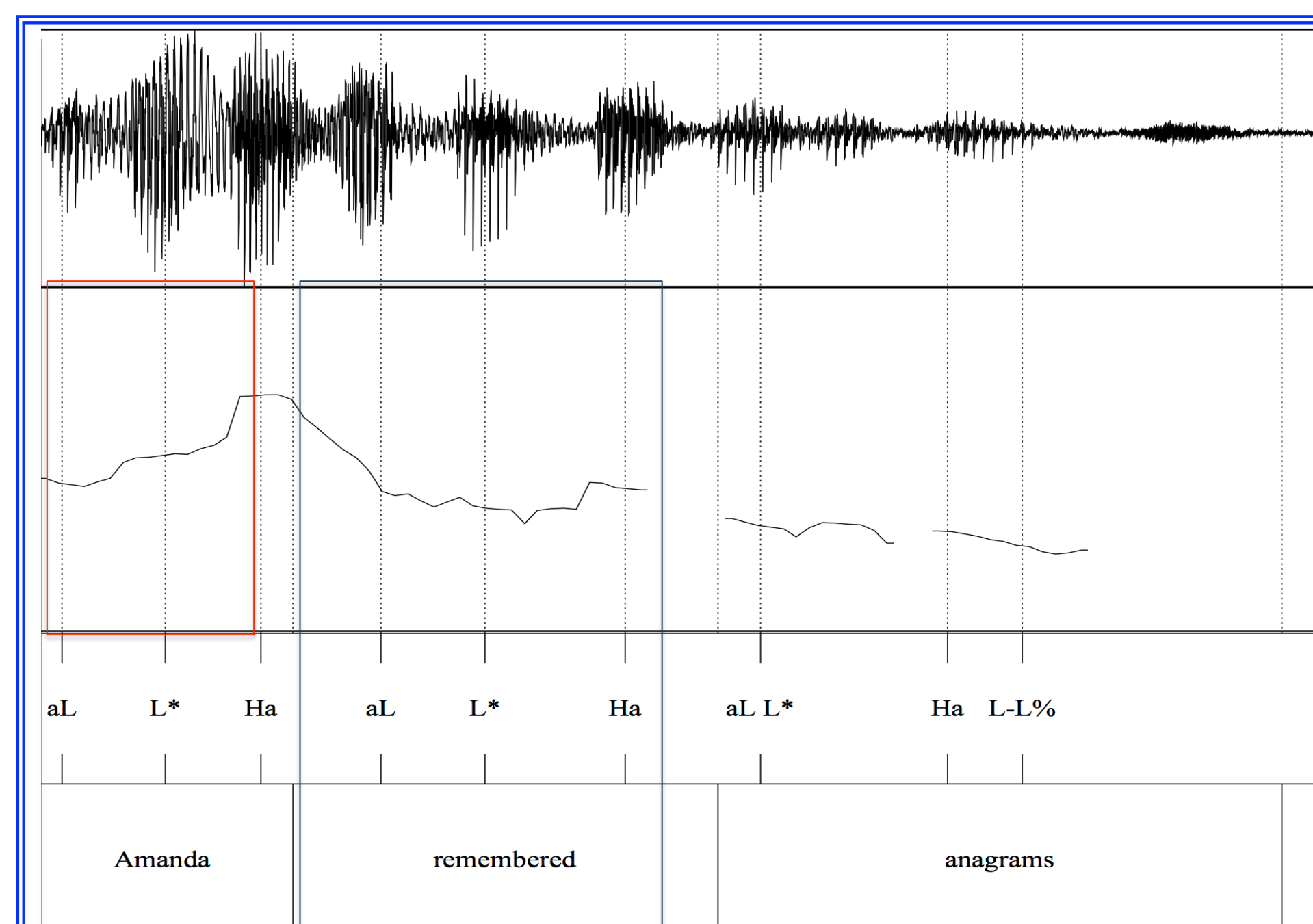


Figure 1. - Amanda remembered anagrams. (M1)

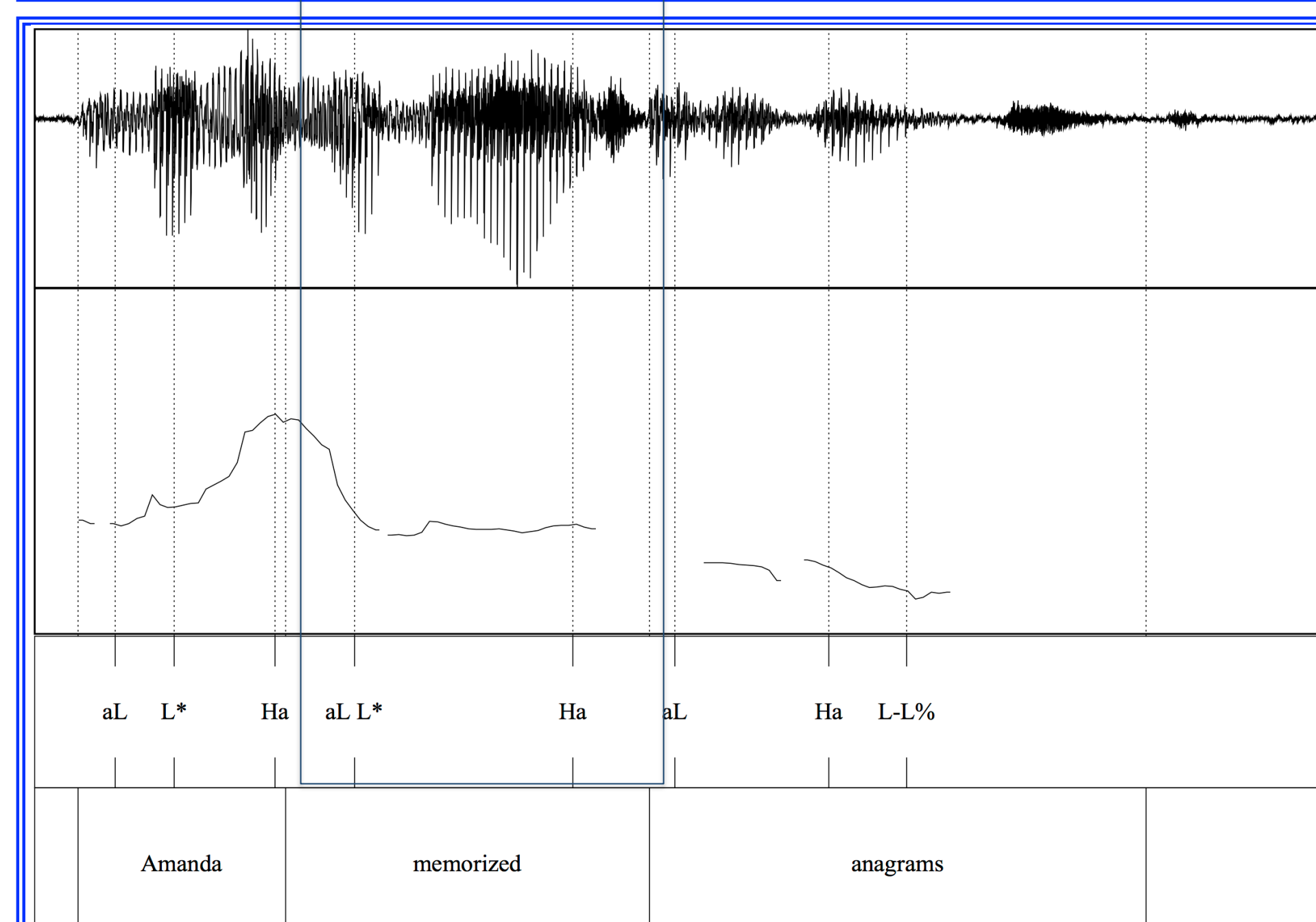


Figure 2. - Amanda memorized anagrams. (M1)

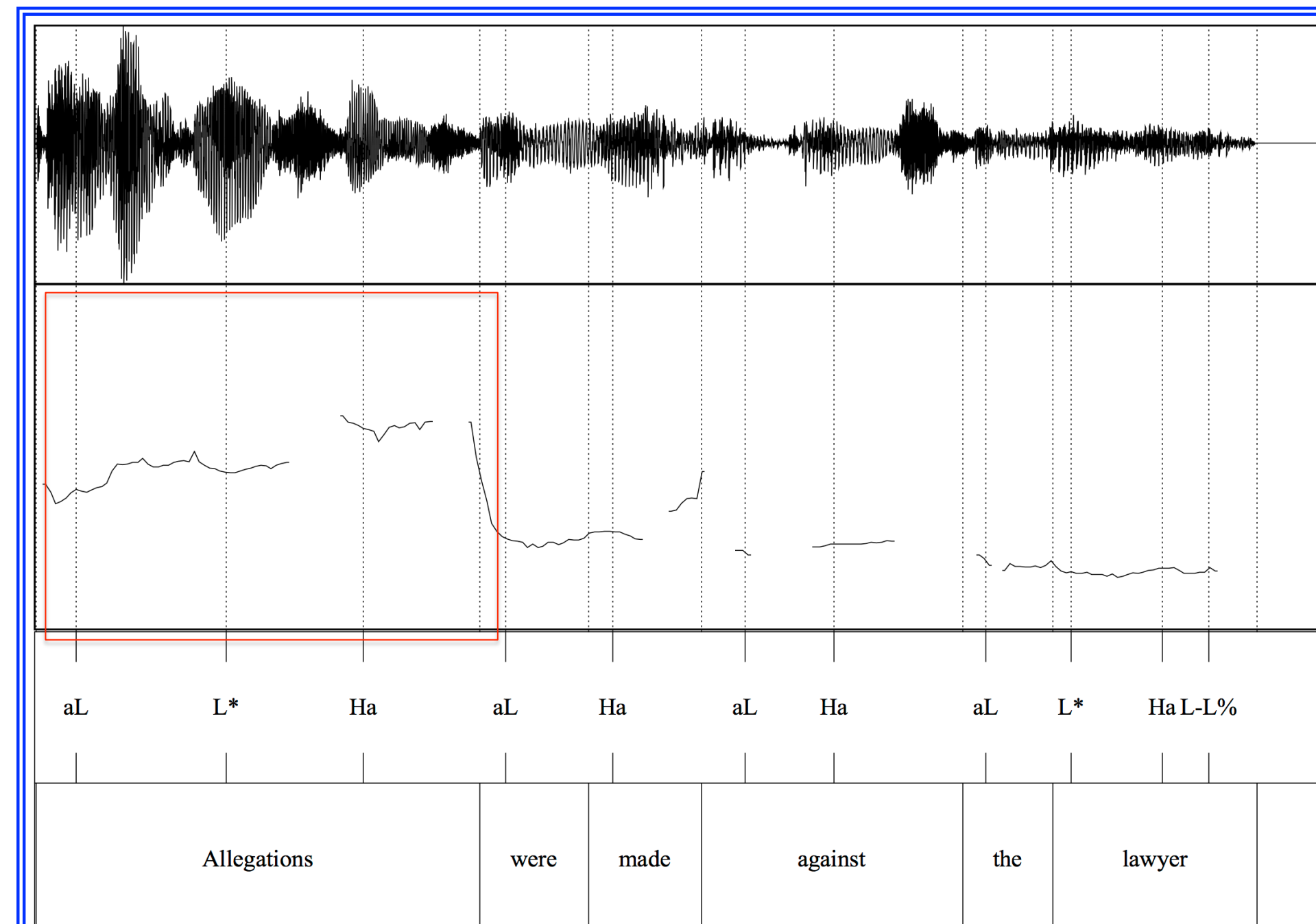


Figure 3. - Allegations were made against the lawyer. (F2)

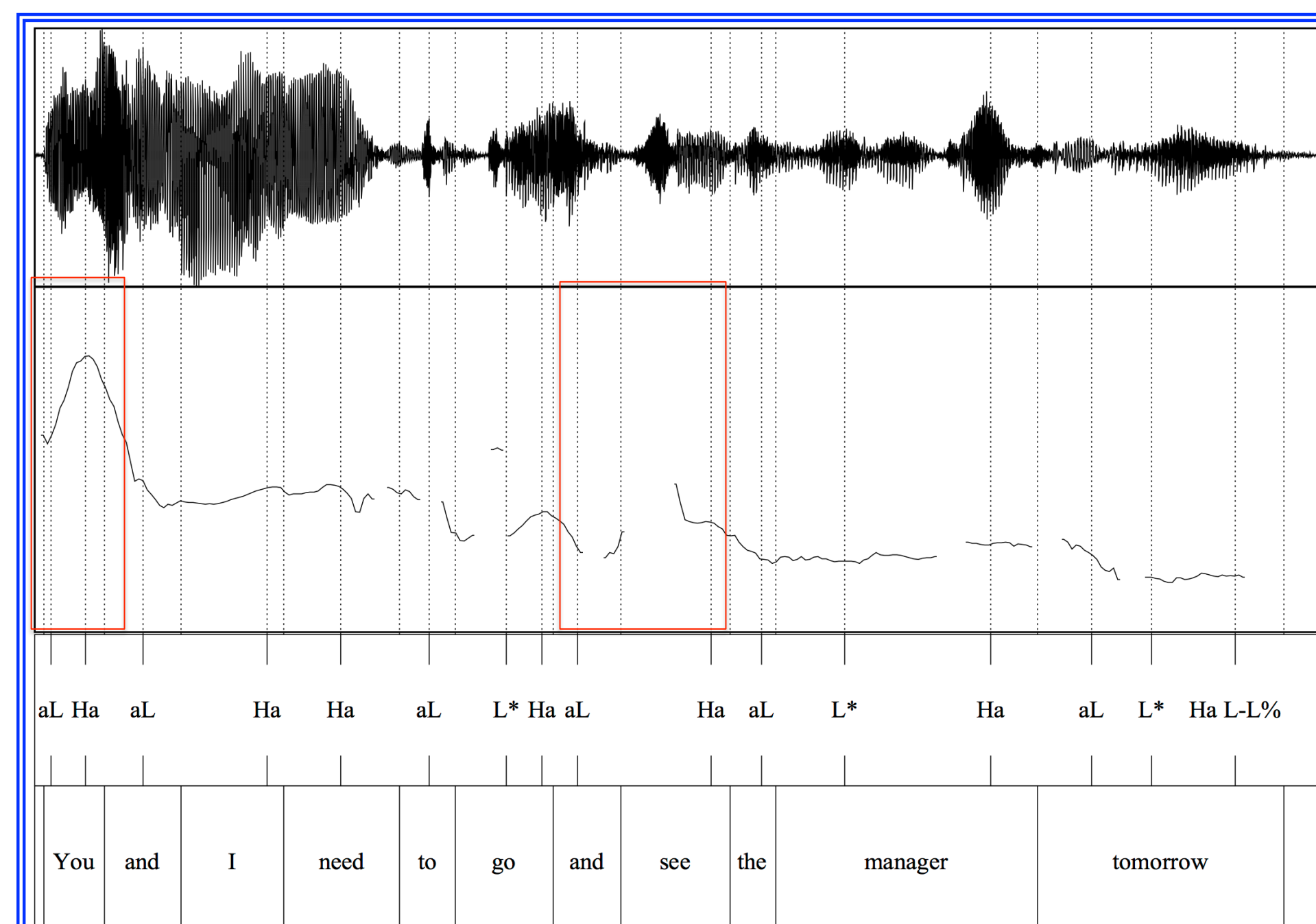


Figure 4. - You and I need to go and see the manager tomorrow. (F2)

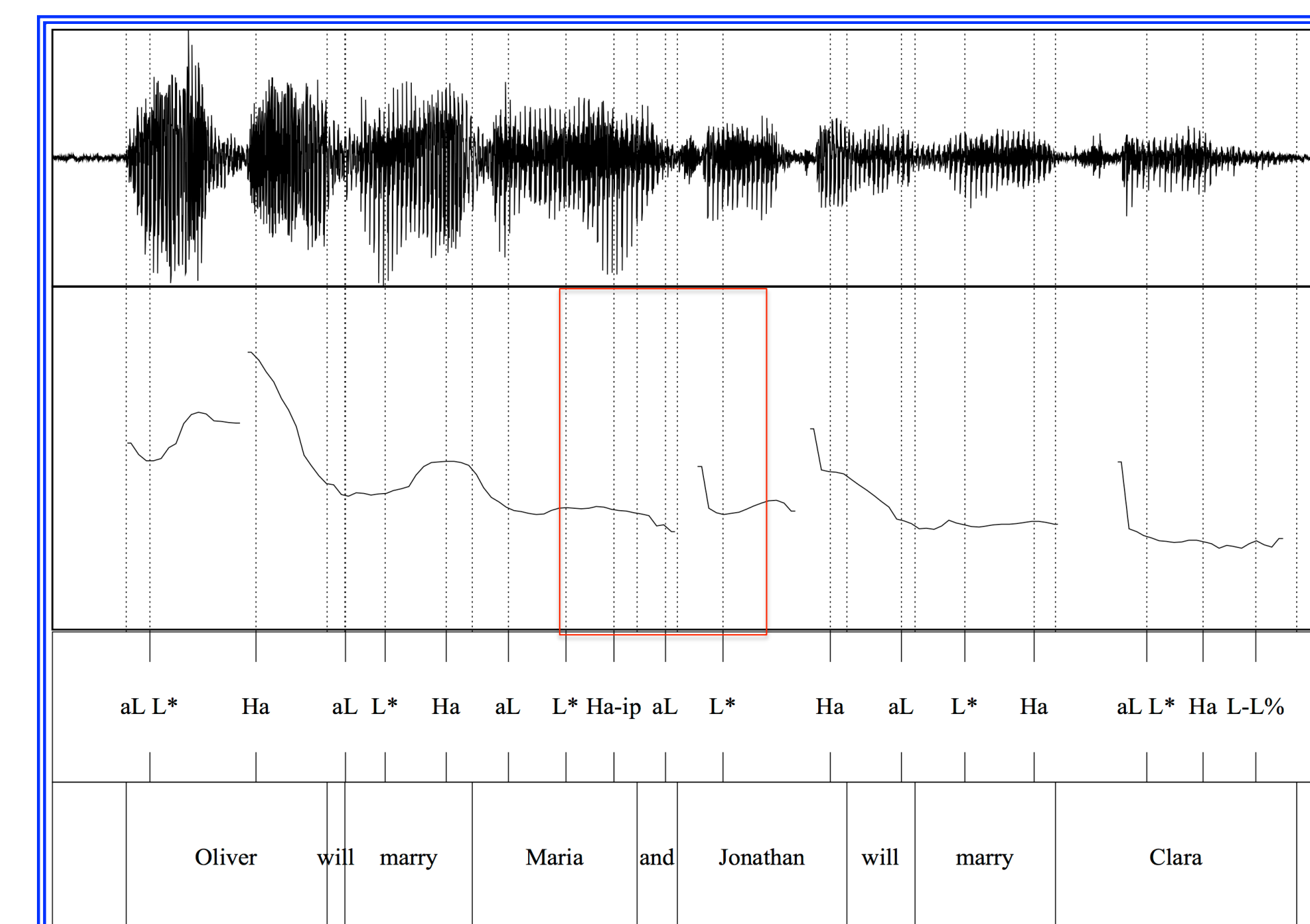


Figure 5. - Oliver will marry Maria and Jonathan will marry Clara. (M1)

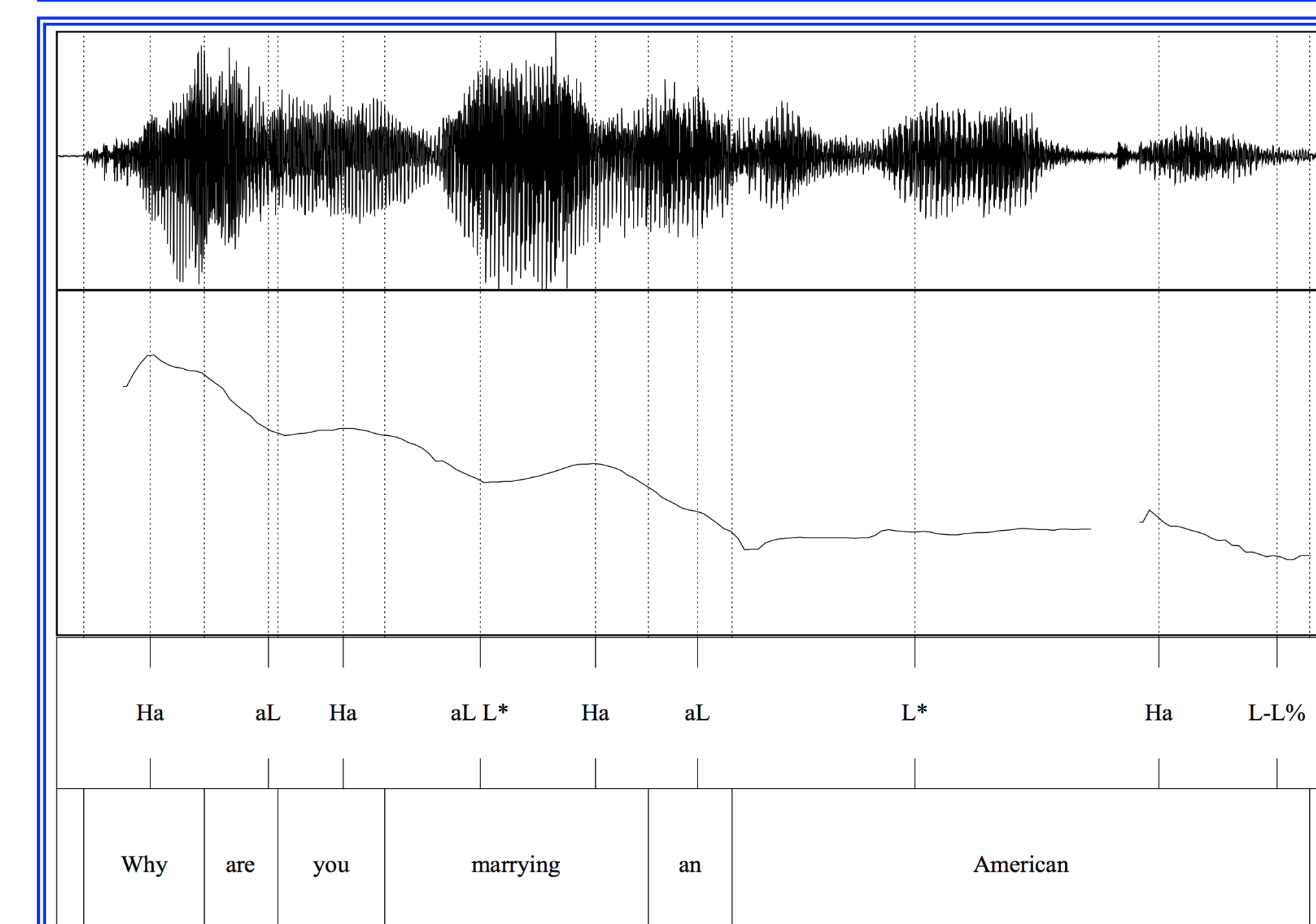


Figure 6. - Why are you marrying an American? (F1)

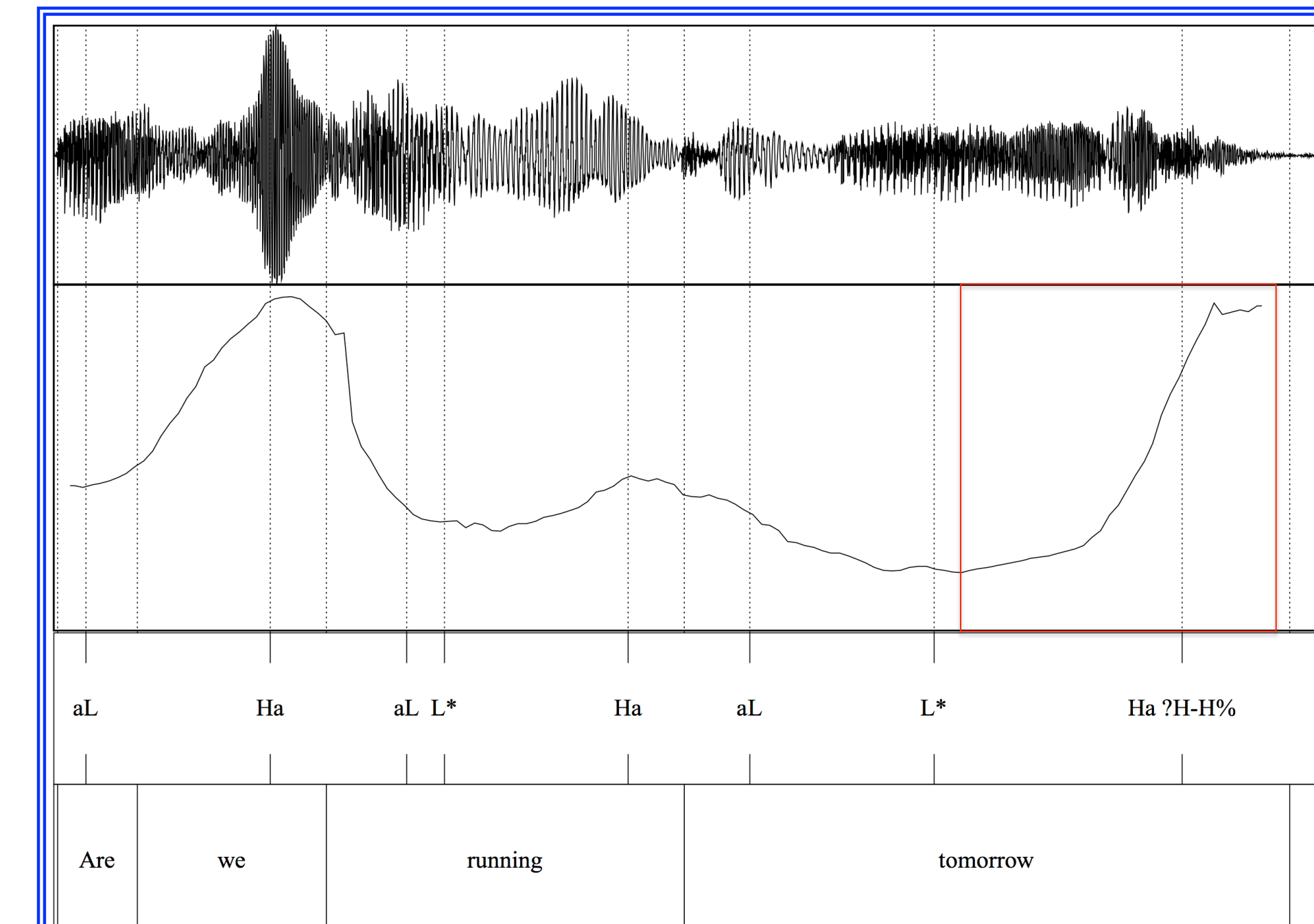


Figure 7. - Are we running tomorrow? (F2)

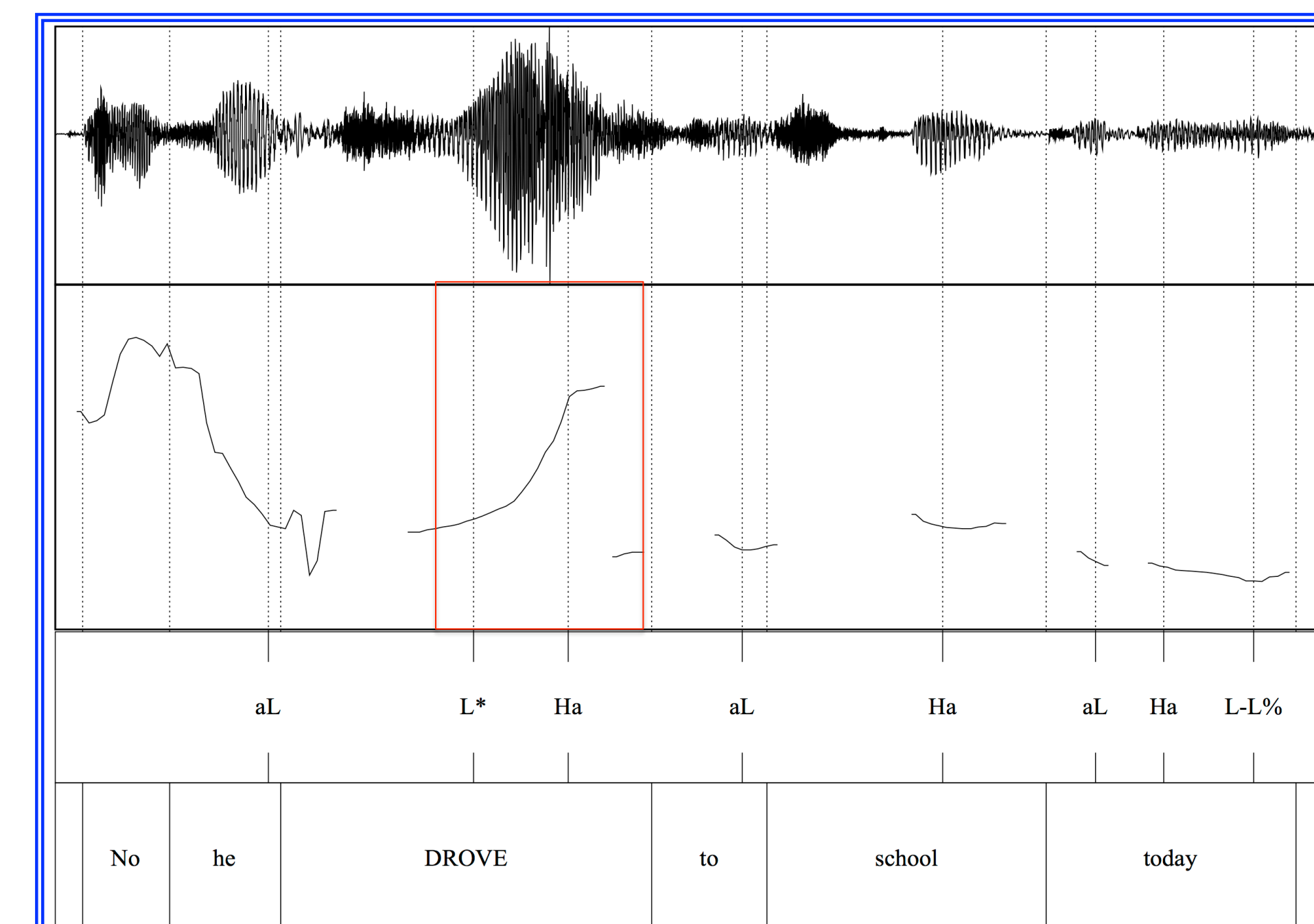


Figure 8. - No, he DROVE to school today. (F2)

Accentual Phrases

- Lowest level of phrasing defined by tone: **Accentual Phrase (AP)**
 - Characterized by general LH contour (see Fig. 3)
 - Marked at the right edge with H tone (**Ha**) realized on the final syllable of a word (cf. Ng, 2011)
 - Marked at the left edge by a L tone (**aL**)
 - L tone cannot be attributed to L*
- Initial AP has a larger pitch range
 - Subsequent APs have reduced pitch range
- AP-final Ha not always realized as phonetically high
 - F0 plateau often seen in medial APs
 - F0 stays relatively level against declination
 - Gives percept of final rise
- AP ≠ Intermediate Phrase
 - Length is short: At most one lexical word and preceding function words
 - Some pronouns can occupy their own AP (Fig. 4)
 - No strong juncture
 - No pitch reset

Intermediate & Intonational Phrases

- Highest level of phrasing is **Intonational Phrase (IP)**
- Marked with edge tone on final syllables:
 - **L% and H%**
- Possible evidence for intermediate level of phrasing: **Intermediate Phrase (ip)**
 - Evidence for L- (IP-finally)
 - ip characterized by pitch reset (Fig. 5)
 - Ha-ip (AP-final tone that also marks ip-final break)
 - Need more evidence for positing this level
- Unclear if higher tones override lower ones

Sentence types

- Declarative sentences: end with L-L% (Figs. 1-5)
- Wh-questions: end with L-L% (Fig. 6)
- Yes-no questions: end with (H-?)H% (Fig. 7)
- Preliminary evidence suggest focus is marked by an expanded pitch range (Fig. 8)
 - Focused word is also lengthened (see Chong 2012)

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