

Influence of prosodic boundary strength on durations, external sandhi and intonation in Modern Greek

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Recent research has focused on the effects of prosodic boundaries on segmental and suprasegmental processes. Different studies have shown a consistent hierarchical effect on such processes. For example, pre-boundary lengthening has been attested before prosodic boundaries (Wightman et al, 1992), as well as post-boundary strengthening (Fougeron & Keating, 1997). Also, coarticulation has been found to be affected by the strength of the prosodic boundary, in a way that stronger prosodic boundaries block coarticulation (Cho, 2004).

Although most of this research has examined those processes separately, it has been an assumption that they are all regulated by one single overarching structure. This is an important assumption that has not been tested. Furthermore, there is evidence suggesting that different segmental processes do not respond in similar ways under different prosodic conditions.

In order for this assumption to be tested, several of those processes need to be examined in parallel under different prosodic conditions, so as to identify how they operate. In my research I am proposing to investigate segmental and suprasegmental processes; in particular pre- and post-boundary durations, coarticulation of vowels in hiatus, stop-voicing, and intonational marking of constituents in Modern Greek.

In this talk I will present my motivation for the research question, and the design of an experiment I am currently running. Furthermore, preliminary results mainly regarding the segmental level will be discussed.

References

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