

Prosodic domains, metrical prominence, and tone in languages with highly synthetic morphologies

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Two of the most central areas of prosodic research involve establishing evidence for prosodic domains and evaluating the relationship between properties associated with these different domains. This presentation will address the issue of domains and their interaction in two particularly complex spheres: the interplay between lexical and intonational tones and the mapping between morphosyntactic and prosodic constituents in languages with a high degree of morphological synthesis. The coexistence of lexical and intonational tone in a language introduces the possibility of tonal crowding arising from the combination of tones from different sources. Morphological complexity presents challenges to prosodic analysis since long morphological words both increase the likelihood of ambiguities in the source of properties and expand the range of possible mappings between prosodic and morphological domains. Drawing on primary fieldwork data, we will examine several case studies of languages with highly synthetic morphological systems and, in some cases, lexical tone with an eye toward advancing two research programs: first, establishing methodologies for teasing apart the source of prosodic properties and, second, uncovering typological generalizations governing the morphology-prosody mapping and the crowding between lexical and intonational tones.