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Time, tone and prominence in Wolof and Quechua: conflicting functions and phonetic cues

From Trubetzkoy (1939) to Hayes (1995), phonologists have assumed stress to be culminative, in the sense that one and only one syllable in the phonological word is the most prominent and that this syllable is the locus for the association of accent tones and the realization of contrastive timing. However, evidence from many languages shows that tones can be associated to more than one syllable in the word, thus lending a binary typology of stress and tone languages. Later, languages such as Japanese suggested assuming a third type that would result from the specification of tone but only tone in a marked syllable. Following and extending proposals by Hyman (2009, 2014) and building on data on Wolof and Quechua, I want to advocate for a more phenomenological approach that exploits time and tone for the conflicting functions demarcativity, culminativity, distinctivity and rhythmicity in different ways and thus governs the phonological configurations of linguistic expressions.

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