
AG 12: Prosodic Typology: State of the Art and Future Prospects

Gabriele Müller & René Schiering

Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster

Institut für Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft

Aegidiistr. 5, 48143 Münster

Tel.: (49) 251 83 244 97 (Müller), (49) 251 83 244 90 (Schiering)

Fax: (49) 251 83 244 78

E-Mail: gabriele.mueller@uni-muenster.de, rene@punksinscience.org

The study of prosody is traditionally concerned with suprasegmental features such as stress, tone, intonation and quantity. More recently, its scope has been expanded to include any phonological phenomenon sensitive to the domains of the prosodic hierarchy (ranging from the syllable to the utterance). In the course of this development, a number of theoretical frameworks have been developed which make strong claims about possible prosodic systems and their architecture. While the predictions are clear, the cross-linguistic evidence is often less so, especially since too often generalizations are based on a narrow language sample from better-known European languages.

This workshop invites phonologists, typologists, and experts on individual languages to comment on the following key questions in prosodic typology:

- 1) Which phenomena should be subsumed under the term 'prosodic'? E.g. is it reasonable to treat stress domains on a par with segmental assimilation processes? (cf. Bickel et al. 2009)
- 2) Can existing descriptive frameworks capture the attested diversity in prosodic systems? E.g. does ToBI provide an adequate means for cross-linguistic comparison? (cf. Jun 2005)
- 3) Are phonological theories capable of handling typological variation? E.g. can derivational approaches which assign metrical grids before intonational pitch-accent account for cases like Kuot? (cf. Lindström & Remijsen 2005)

Bickel, Balthasar, Kristine A. Hildebrandt & René Schiering (2009). The distribution of phonological word domains: A probabilistic typology. In *Phonological Domains. Universals and Deviations*, Janet Grijzenhout & Baris Kabak (eds.), 47-74. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Jun, Sun-Ah (ed.) (2005). *Prosodic Typology. The Phonology of Intonation and Phrasing*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Lindström, Eva and Bert Remijsen (2005). Aspects of the prosody of Kuot, a language where intonation ignores stress. *Linguistics* 43: 839-870.