

Durational evidence for prosodic structure and its relationship with other components of grammar

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In this talk I will show how durational studies can provide evidence for prosodic structure and its relationship with other components of grammar. In particular, I will provide illustrations from tests of two hypotheses:

- 1) that the temporal extent of durational effects is defined/ constrained by constituent structure (the Prosodic Locus Hypothesis, after White 2002), and
- 2) that speakers use prosodic prominence structure to achieve an inverse relationship between language redundancy and acoustic salience. This inverse relationship yields what Aylett calls “smooth signal redundancy”, that is, an even distribution of probability of recognition throughout an intonational phrase. Smooth signal redundancy allows for robust communication with economy of effort in the presence of a potentially noisy environment.

REFERENCES

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