

Prosodic boundary cues in spoken language comprehension and production

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In this talk I will give an overview about the processing of prosodic cues, mainly about prosodic boundary cues that index phrase boundaries (f₀-rise, final lengthening, pause) in potentially ambiguous structures. These cues are consistently produced by speakers and hence provide a reliable signal for the listeners. Some theories assume that prosody is produced to help the listener to parse the sentence—others assume that prosody is produced for the speakers themselves as a “by-product of planning and articulation” (Kraljic & Brennan, 2005, p. 194). The data, that I will present, are in favour of the latter theories.

References:

- Kraljic, Tanja and Susan E. Brennan. 2005. Prosodic disambiguation of syntactic structure: For the speaker or for the addressee?. *Cognitive Psychology*, 50(2), pp. 194–231. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cogpsych.2004.08.002>.