

A flexible theory of the syntax-prosody mapping of intonational phrases: Evidence from intonation and tonal processes

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Hamlaoui & Szendroi (2015, to appear) proposed a flexible approach to the syntax-prosody mapping of clauses and intonational phrases, making reference to the highest position the root verb occupies in surface syntax. In this talk, I will show in some detail that this proposal derives the correct intonational phrasing in Hungarian, an intonation language and in Bàsàá, a tone language. The empirical scope of the account encompasses simple clauses with or without a left-peripheral focus or topic, complex clauses involving in-situ and extraposed embedded clauses (with or without topic or focus). Time permitting, I will also discuss why more rigid approaches to the syntax-prosody mapping, and approaches that make direct reference to information structure are less desirable.