



Home > Articles > Published articles > Record#2811: Tonal structure and pitch targets in Italian focus constituents

Information

Discussion

Tonal structure and pitch targets in Italian focus constituents

D'Imperio, Mariapaola

Abstract: This work investigates the tonal structure of the focal accent in narrow focus statements of Neapolitan Italian. The formal properties of this accent lend themselves to two competing analyses. Specifically, this accent could equally be described as a HL accentual fall or as a LH rise. The two analyses were evaluated on the basis of a set of utterances containing focus constituents with varying number of words. Long narrow focus constituents present in fact a medial F0 minimum that appears to be an actual tonal target. Such a target might be part of either a HL or of a LH accent. Tonal as well as timing evidence appear to lend support to the LH hypothesis. An important consequence is that the final fall of statement focus constituents must be analyzed as a tonal event that is separate from the nuclear pitch accent and is analogous to the question final fall.

Abstract: Aquest article investiga l'estructura tonal de l'accent focal de les oracions declaratives amb focus estret en italià de Nàpols. Les propietats formals de l'accent focal es podrien en principi analitzar de dues maneres possibles, bé com un accent tonal HL de tipus descendent o bé com un accent tonal LH de tipus ascendent. Les dues possibles anàlisis són avaluades en funció del comportament de l'accent tonal en constituents que contenen un nombre variable de mots. Els constituents focalitzats presenten una vall d'F0 que es comporta com un clar objectiu entonatiu. Aquest punt d'inflexió podria ser part també d'un accent HL o LH. Indicis tonals i temporals donen suport a la hipòtesi que es tracta d'un accent tonal ascendent. D'aquesta anàlisi se'n deriva el fet que el moviment tonal descendent final de les oracions declaratives s'ha d'analisar com un gest tonal diferent de l'accent nuclear i que aquest es comporta de forma anàloga al de frontera ascendent final de les oracions interrogatives.

Genre/form: Article

Keywords: Focus ; Accent tonal ; Punts d'inflexió ; Alineació ; Altura tonal ; Pendent tonal ; Italià ; Pitch accent ; Tonal target ; Alignment ; Scaling ; Slope ; Italian.

Published in: *Catalan Journal of Linguistics*. Bellaterra : Servei de Publicacions de la Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. V. 2 (2003), p. 55-65 ISSN 1695-6885



Record created 2006-03-13, last modified 2010-04-30

Similar records

Rate this document:

Add to personal basket

Export as BibTeX, MARC, MARCXML, DC, EndNote, NLM, RefMETS

(Not yet reviewed)