

The modelling of prenuclear accents in Central Catalan declaratives*

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Abstract

The aim of this paper is to examine the phonetic and phonological properties of prenuclear accents in Central Catalan declaratives within the Autosegmental-Metrical approach of intonational analysis. Prenuclear accents show a rising movement whose peak tends to be aligned after the accented syllable. Three possible interpretations for the modelling of such rises are considered: 1) an H* with peak delay, 2) a bitonal accent (L*+H), and 3) the combination of two different tones, namely, a pitch accent (L*) and a word edge tone (H). Words with different stress distributions (oxytones, paroxytones and proparoxytones) are analysed to observe whether the presence of a word boundary has an effect on the location of the F0 peak. The results show that the F0 peak is consistently anchored at the end of the word no matter the number of post-accented syllables. Thus, prenuclear rises in Central Catalan declaratives are interpreted as a combination of an L* pitch accent and an H word edge tone.

Key words: prenuclear accents, alignment, association, peak delay, bitonality, word edge tones.

1. Introduction

1.1. *The Autosegmental-Metrical approach*

In this study the phonetic and phonological properties of prenuclear accents in Central Catalan neutral declaratives are examined within the tenets of the Autosegmental-Metrical (AM) approach of intonational analysis (Pierrehumbert 1980, Beckman and Pierrehumbert 1986, Pierrehumbert and Beckman 1988, Beckman and Hirschberg 1994, Ladd 1996, among many others). Within the AM approach, pitch patterns¹ consist of a sequence of categorically distinctive entities,

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1. In this paper, the terms «pitch» and «F0» are used interchangeably. Pitch is the perceptual sensation of fundamental frequency (F0), which is the acoustic correlate of vocal fold vibration.

associated to elements of the segmental string and to the edges of prosodic domains. The association of these entities to the text is governed by principles of prosodic organisation, according to which either prominent syllables or prosodic edges are possible anchors for the phonological events. There are three kinds of phonological events: the *pitch accents* which consist of local F0 movements that accompany prominent syllables (stressed syllables), the *phrase accents* that mark the end of an intermediate phrase and the *boundary tones* that signal the end of an intonational phrase. The tonal properties of pitch accents, phrase accents and boundary tones are transcribed as H and L, which stand for relatively high and relatively low F0 targets. The rhythmic properties are indicated by assigning an asterisk [*] following the tone that marks a pitch accent, a hyphen [-] after the tone for the phrase accent, and [%] after the tone for the boundary tone. Whereas phrase accents and boundary tones are only monotonal (H-, L-, H%, L%), pitch accents can be both monotonal (H*, L*) and bitonal (L*+H, L+H*, H*+L, H+L*). Bitonal accents can be left-headed or right-headed depending on whether the first or the second element of the accent is associated to the metrically strong syllable. As in monotonal pitch accents, the tone associated with the accented syllable is marked with an asterisk.

Several studies (Silverman and Pierrehumbert 1990, Prieto *et al.* 1994, 1995, among others) have shown that at the phonetic level the synchronisation between an F0 feature and a prominent syllable is not always perfect. Sometimes the F0 peak corresponding to an H* pitch accent is not realised within the accented syllable but aligned considerably later. Thus, studies have drawn a distinction between *association* and *alignment* (Ladd 1983, 1996). Whereas association is an abstract structural property, alignment is a phonetic property of the timing of F0 events and segmental events. Studies on the alignment of F0 contours in several languages have argued that the location of peaks in H* pitch accents depends on a number of factors, such as segmental duration, the presence of word or phrase boundaries, and stress clash contexts, among others. F0 peaks are more delayed as the duration of the accented syllable increases and retracted when adjacent to a word, an intermediate phrase or an intonation phrase boundary and in stress clash contexts (Steele and Altom 1986, and Silverman and Pierrehumbert 1990 for American English, Prieto *et al.* 1994, 1995 for Mexican Spanish).

1.2. Modelling prenuclear accents

Several studies have shown that in many languages prenuclear accents in neutral declarative structures involve a rising movement, whose peak tends to be aligned after the accented syllable. However, the phonological interpretation of such rises varies cross-linguistically and sometimes studies on the same language maintain competing views for the phonological description of such rises. Prenuclear rises, for example, have been widely studied in Greek, yet no conclusion on the best way to categorise them has been reached. Arvaniti and Ladd (1995) and also the Greek version of the ToBI system (Arvaniti and Baltazani 1999) propose the L*+H bitonal pitch accent to describe prenuclear rises. Arvaniti and Ladd argue for this accent

due to the stability in the alignment and in the scaling of the starred L. However, further research in Greek (Arvaniti *et al.* 1998, 2000) shows that even though to describe rising prenuclear movements in Greek a bitonal accent seems to be required (LH), there is no clear evidence of which of the two tones is aligned with the accented syllable and hence it is difficult to decide which is the starred tone. The L*+H accent type is now ruled out because H does not exhibit the stable alignment predicted by bitonality, where the trailing tone is expected to follow the starred tone by a fixed interval (Grice 1995), and also because in clash contexts, L* is more robust than H. Similarly, the option L+H* is discarded, since L does not precede H* by a fixed interval. A further possibility is investigated, namely, the idea that H is an edge tone that marks the end of the accented word. However, this option is also discarded since in words with antepenultimate stress the H is located relative to the accented syllable and not at the word edge. Finally, the possibility of using two starred tones (L*H*) is left open. Their proposal for two starred tones is based on the fact that both L and H are aligned relative to the stressed syllable despite being realised outside its boundaries.

Similar controversial views have been argued for Spanish prenuclear rises. Some studies on Spanish intonation (Prieto *et al.* 1994, 1995, and Nibert 2000), have classified prenuclear rises as H*. Phonetically, these accents present two characteristics: 1) a rise in F0 that takes place during the accented syllable and 2) a displaced peak where the F0 maximum of prenuclear H*s is not located within the accented syllable but after it. Prieto *et al.* have shown that the amount of peak delay is subject to factors such as segmental duration or an upcoming prosodic boundary. On the other hand, Sosa (1999) and Face (1999, 2001) have postulated a different interpretation for the rising movement of prenuclear accents in Spanish, namely, L*+H. This accent involves a low F0 within the accented syllable and a sharp rise after the accented syllable. More recently, Hualde (2002) finds that neither H* nor L*+H describe prenuclear rises in Spanish satisfactorily. He claims that H* fails to account for the fact that the tone is low at the onset of the stressed syllable. However, he discards L*+H on the basis that it is not contrastive with L+H*. He proposes, like Arvaniti *et al.* (2000) for Greek, a pitch accent where both tones are associated with the stressed syllable (L+H)*.

In this paper, we will analyse prenuclear accents in Central Catalan neutral declaratives. Particular attention will be devoted to identifying the types of phonological entities and their phonetic realisations. The data will show that neither a monotonal accent nor a bitonal one will suffice to describe the F0 movements on prenuclear rises and that two tonal entities (a pitch accent and a word edge tone) are required.

2. Data

The data consisted of 64 Subject-Verb-Object positive declarative sentences produced with a neutral intonation. The number of stresses per sentence varied between 3 and 5. 6 female speakers of the Central variety of Catalan were asked to read the sentences. The informants were between 24 and 32 years old at the

time of the recordings and had similar educational, social and geographical backgrounds. In this paper, the informants are identified as DV, CP, ER, MC, NG, and NM. In order to obtain a neutral intonation, the informants were asked to read the list of sentences as if they were replies to a «what happens?» question type. Overall, 384 utterances were gathered. The list of sentences is included in the Appendix.

The recordings included two simultaneous but separate signals: *speech* and *laryngeal* (Lx) signals. For the speech signal, a Marantz Superscope/CD 330 tape recorder and a Beyer Dynamic microphone were used. For the laryngeal signal, a portable laryngograph LX 12 with two electrodes was used. A Thandar portable DRO 26 oscilloscope was also used to check the activity of the vocal folds. The recordings were conducted in a soundproof room of a private recording studio in Ripoll.

Auditory and acoustic analyses of the data were performed. The acoustic analysis was carried out by means of the Speech Filing System (SFS) program, which allowed us to obtain F0 traces from the laryngeal signal and perform a time-aligned inspection of the speech waveform and the F0 trace.

3. Results

The F0 traces for Central Catalan neutral declaratives present the following characteristics. Every time prenuclear stresses become accented, a rising movement is observed in the vicinity of the accented syllable. A progressively falling F0 movement is identified after the last prenuclear accent till the end of the sentence. An example of a neutral declarative F0 trace in Central Catalan is presented in Figure 1 for the sentence *Les nenes haurien de donar l'enhora bona* 'The girls should send their congratulations' where stressed syllables are under-

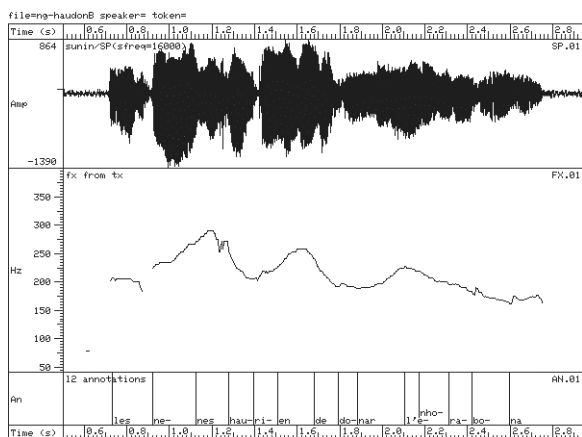


Figure 1. *Les nenes haurien de donar l'enhora bona* (speaker NG).

lined. The top screen displays the speech waveform and the middle one the F0 trace. Finally, the bottom screen annotates the beginning of each syllable allowing us to observe the synchronisation between the segmental level and the F0 movements. For each prenuclear accented syllable, the F0 rise seems to start within the limits of the syllable but it is unclear the location of the peak. In some cases, as in *nenes* and *haurien*, the peak is located after the accented syllable. In other cases, as in *donar*, the peak is anchored at the end of the accented syllable.

4. Interpretation

Previous studies on Central Catalan declarative intonation have shown heterogeneity of interpretations as far as prenuclear rises are concerned. For example, Prieto (1995, 1997) classifies those rises as H* (with a delayed peak) on an acoustic basis, since the start of the rise takes place within the accented syllable. Bonet (1984), on the other hand, interprets prenuclear accents as low tones associated to the accented syllable since she perceives the peak of the rise after the offset of the stressed syllable. In this paper, prenuclear rises in Central Catalan declaratives are examined in detail. Three possible analyses are taken into consideration: 1) an H* pitch accent with peak delay (as in Prieto 1995, 1997), 2) a bitonal accent (L*+H), and 3) an L* pitch accent followed by an H word edge tone. The option L+H* will not be examined because we assume that, with respect to the properties of the starred tone (i.e. with respect to the location of the peak and the onset of the rise), the same behaviour is expected for H* and L+H*. Also the possibility of using two starred tones (L*H*) is not considered because the data will provide evidence for one of the aforementioned analyses. First, the option L*+H vs. H* is examined and finally the L*H analysis is considered.

Theoretically, L*+H differs from H* with a peak delay in two aspects: 1) the location of the onset of the rise, and 2) the location of the peak. Whereas in H* accents the F0 rise starts at the onset of the accented syllable, in L*+H the F0 is «low for a good portion of the accented syllable, and then rises sharply, often into the following syllable if there is one» (Ladd, 1996). The second aspect that differentiates H* with peak delay and L*+H is the location of the peak. In H* the placement of the peak is partly predicted as a function of the segmental duration of the rhyme or syllable (Steele and Altom 1986, Silverman and Pierrehumbert 1990, Prieto *et al.* 1995) among other factors. In the bitonal accent, on the other hand, the trailing tone is expected to be located at a fixed distance with respect to the starred tone (Grice 1995, Arvaniti *et al.* 2000). Our data suggested that: 1) there is variation in the location of the start of the rise, and 2) the location of the peak seems to be neither dependent on the syllable duration nor placed at a fixed distance with respect to the accented syllable. In fact, the peak seems to be located near the end of the word. These two aspects are examined in more detail in the following sections.

4.1. Start of the rise

For all observations, the only aspect that presents regularity among speakers is the low F0 at the onset of the accented syllable. However, the location of the rise with respect to this low onset shows inter- and intra-speaker variability. Whereas sometimes the rise takes place within the accented syllable, at other times the accented syllable is low and the rise occurs over the post-accented syllable. This is illustrated in Figure 2, which presents the mean F0 value at the onset and offset of the accented syllable and at the peak for all speakers. The graphs show that whereas for speakers CP and NM the rise starts after the syllable offset, for the other speakers the F0 starts to rise during the accented syllable.

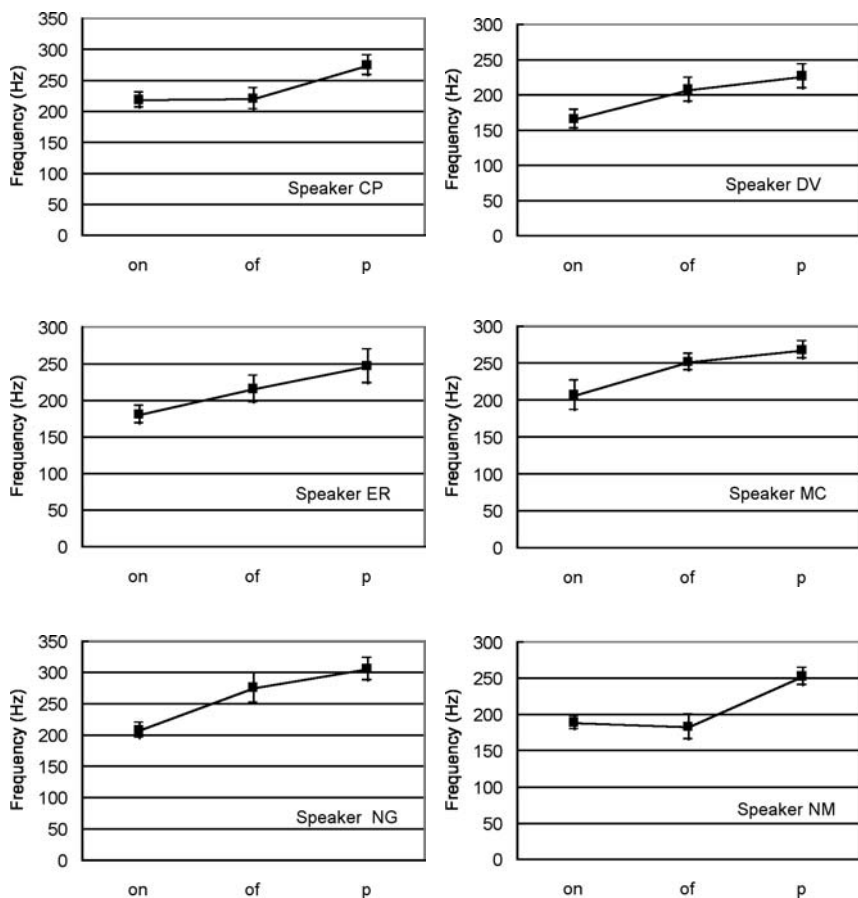


Figure 2. Mean F0 values at the onset (on) and offset (of) of pre-nuclear accented syllables and at the peak (p) for all speakers. The lines below and above the squares indicate the mean values minus and plus the standard deviation respectively.

The question that arises from these observations is whether the two phonetic patterns correspond to two phonologically contrastive units (as H* and L*+H respectively) or whether they can be interpreted as allotonic variations of the same category. In languages, such as English (Pierrehumbert 1980), Dutch (Ladd 1992) and Portuguese (Frota 2000) contrastive differences between prenuclear H* and L*+H have been observed. However, a perception test performed on two Central Catalan speakers showed that the phonetic differences observed between these two patterns were not perceived as contrastive in Catalan. Thus, both patterns can be classified as phonetic realisations of the same phonological entity (see Estebas-Vilaplana 2000 for more details on the perception test).

4.2. Location of the peak

One of the characteristics of Central Catalan prenuclear accents is that the peak of the rise is neither placed at a fixed distance after the starred tone, as it would be in the case of an L*+H pitch accent (Grice 1995, Arvaniti *et al.* 2000), nor dependent on the syllable duration, as expected in H* (Steele and Altom 1986, Silverman and Pierrehumbert 1990, Prieto *et al.* 1995). In order to confirm these claims empirically, the following measurements were obtained for all prenuclear accents of the six informants²: 1) the distance between the onset of the accented syllable and the location of the peak (on-peak), and 2) the distance between the onset and the offset of the accented syllable, i.e. duration of the accented syllable (on-of).

If Central Catalan prenuclear accents corresponded to L*+H, no correlation between the two variables would be expected, that is, L*+H would involve a fairly fixed «on-peak» distance indicating that the location of the peak is unchanging, no matter what the duration of the syllable is. Alternatively, if prenuclear accents were characterised as H* with a delayed peak, a strong correlation between the two variables would be expected. This would indicate that the location of the peak could be explained as a function of syllable duration, that is, the longer the duration of the accented syllable, the longer the delay of the peak.

In order to observe the relation between the two variables, correlations were performed for the measurements of all speakers. The results are presented in Figure 3. The graphs plot the distance between the onset of the accented syllable and the location of the peak (on-peak) against the duration of the syllable (on-of) in seconds for all prenuclear accents of all speakers. The regression lines summarise the correlation between the two variables. Correlation coefficients are displayed in each graph.

The results displayed in Figure 3 favour neither the interpretation of Central Catalan prenuclear accents as L*+H, nor that of H* with peak delay. On the one hand, the data show a low correlation between the location of the peak with respect to the onset of the accented syllable and the duration of the accented syllable. In

2. In this paper, we assume that the starred tone is located at the onset of the accented syllable.

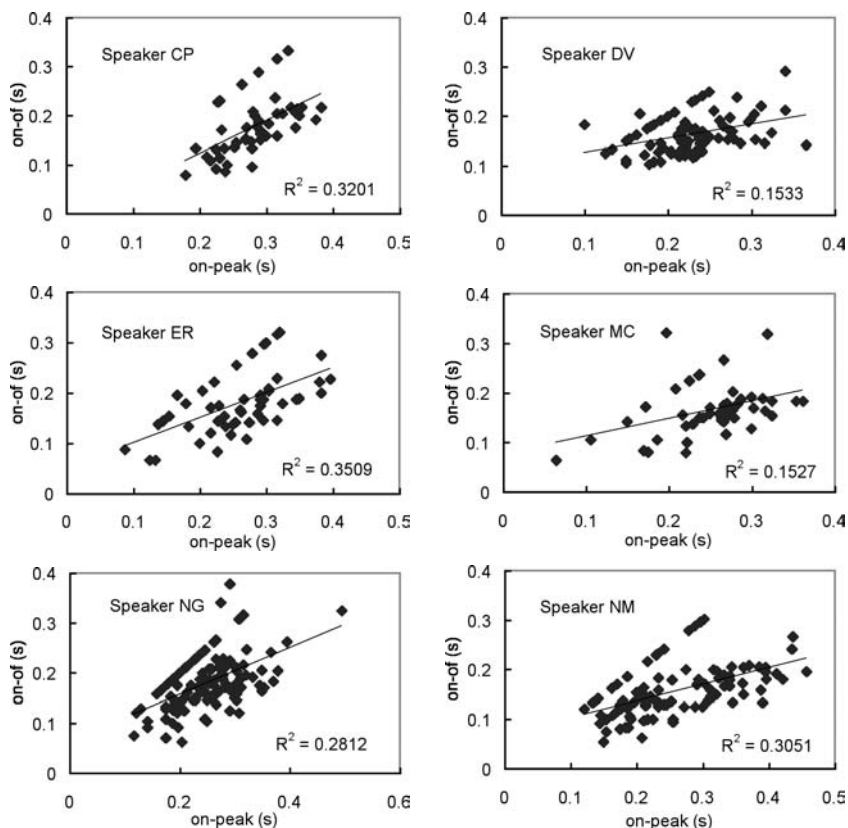


Figure 3. Distance between the onset of the accented syllable and the peak (on-peak) against distance between the onset and the offset of the accented syllable (on-of) in seconds for all prenuclear accents of all speakers.

all cases, R^2 values are very low, ranging from 0.15 to 0.35. This indicates that the placement of the peak cannot be explained as a function of syllable duration. Thus, the option of characterising prenuclear accents as H^* with peak delay is not supported by the evidence above. However, the alternative of describing prenuclear accents as L^*+H is not entirely sustained either, since the «on-peak» distance is not as fixed as it would be expected by the bitonal accent. In Figure 3, two clusters of points can be spotted in each graph. At the top of each representation, a well-defined line of dots is observed, indicating that sometimes the distances «on-of» and «on-peak» are clearly correlated. Looking at the F_0 contours in more detail, cases where a clear correlation between the two variables were observed corresponded to words with stress on the last syllable. This suggests that maybe the peak of the rise is anchored at a word boundary.

This possibility is considered in more detail in the next paragraphs with the following predictions: if the H signals the right edge of words, the peak will be anchored at the end of the word no matter how many unstressed syllables appear after the accented syllable. In oxytones (words with stress on the last syllable), the peak coincides with the end of the accented syllable, which is the last syllable of the word. In paroxytones (words with stress on the penultimate syllable), the peak is located at the offset of the post-stressed syllable, and in proparoxytones (words with stress on the antepenultimate syllable) at the offset of the second post-stressed syllable.

The possibility that the H is located at the end of the word was tested empirically by taking the following measurements from all prenuclear accents: 1) Distance between the onset of the accented syllable and the location of the peak (on-peak), and 2) distance between the onset of the accented syllable and the end of the word (on-end).

Once the measurements for all prenuclear pitch accents were obtained, the results were divided into two groups according to the stress distribution of the words available in the initial corpus: i.e. oxytones and paroxytones. Since proparoxytones were not included in the corpus, a few sentences with proparoxytones were gathered later on for one speaker to confirm the findings on the other stress patterns. First, the results on paroxytones and oxytones will be presented for all speakers and then the results of proparoxytones will be analysed.

The results of the measurements are presented in Figures 4 and 5 for paroxytones and oxytones respectively. The graphs plot the distance between the onset of the accented syllable and the location of the peak (on-peak) against the distance between the onset of the accented syllable and the end of the word (on-end). The regression lines summarise the correlations observed between the two variables. R^2 values are included in each graph.

The results of Central Catalan prenuclear accents in neutral declaratives (Figures 4-5) show that for all speakers there is a strong correlation between the location of the peak with respect to the onset of the accented syllable and the distance between this onset and the end of the word. This is true for both paroxytones (R^2 values vary between 0.7 and 0.89) and oxytones (R^2 values vary between 0.63 and 1). This indicates that the placement of peaks in Central Catalan prenuclear rises seems to be anchored at the end of the word, irrespective of the number of post-stressed syllables. These results show that in Central Catalan the location of the peak in prenuclear rises can be predicted as a function of word boundary. These findings are different from the results reported in Face (2001) for Madrid Spanish. He shows that in this language word boundaries do not affect the alignment of the F0 peak since in oxytones the F0 maximum is always located on the post-stressed syllable. A cross-linguistic study using similar data and analysis procedures in the two languages would be necessary to provide more details on those differences.

Although the results presented so far for oxytones and paroxytones seem consistent enough to conclude that prenuclear peaks in Central Catalan are anchored at the end of the word, it was considered necessary to confirm these

PAROXYTONES

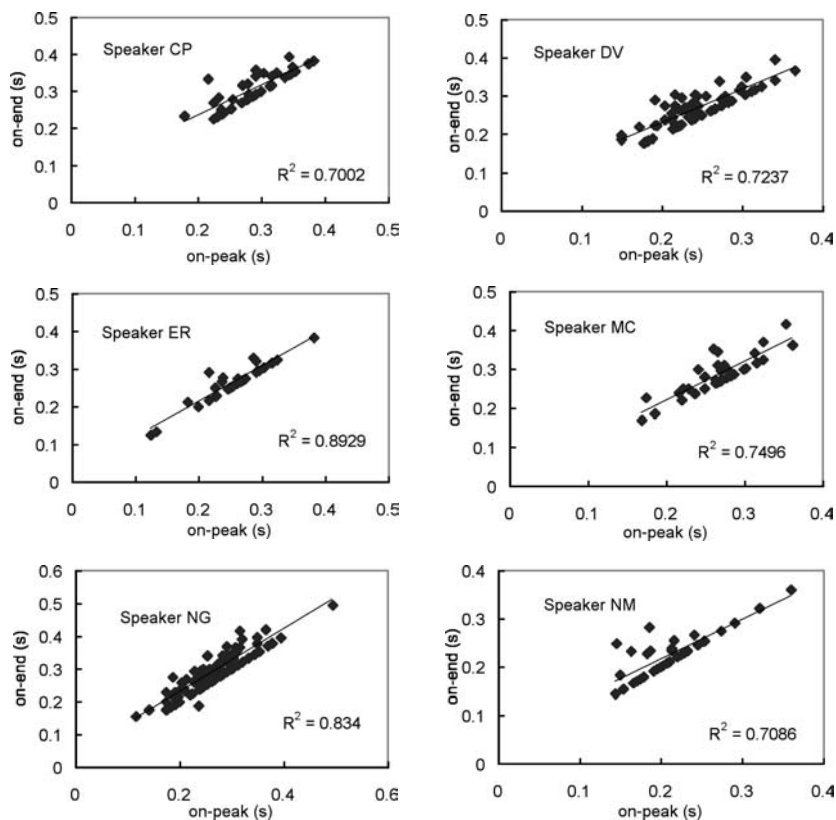


Figure 4. Distance between the onset of the accented syllable and the peak (on-peak) against distance between the onset of the accented syllable and the end of the word (on-end) in seconds for all speakers in paroxytones.

observations with the analysis of proparoxytones, that is, words which have two post-stressed syllables. Arvaniti *et al.* (2000) found that proparoxytones behave differently from oxytones and paroxytones in Greek. In proparoxytones, the alignment of the H is relative to the accented syllable and not to the following word-edge. Thus, a few sentences were designed which included proparoxytones in non-final sentence position. Overall, 30 sentences were designed with proparoxytones in initial and in medial sentence positions (see the Appendix for the list of sentences). All utterances were produced by one speaker (DV), who was recorded following the same procedures as described in section 2. This informant was chosen due to the good quality of the F0 traces obtained in her previous recordings.

OXYTONES

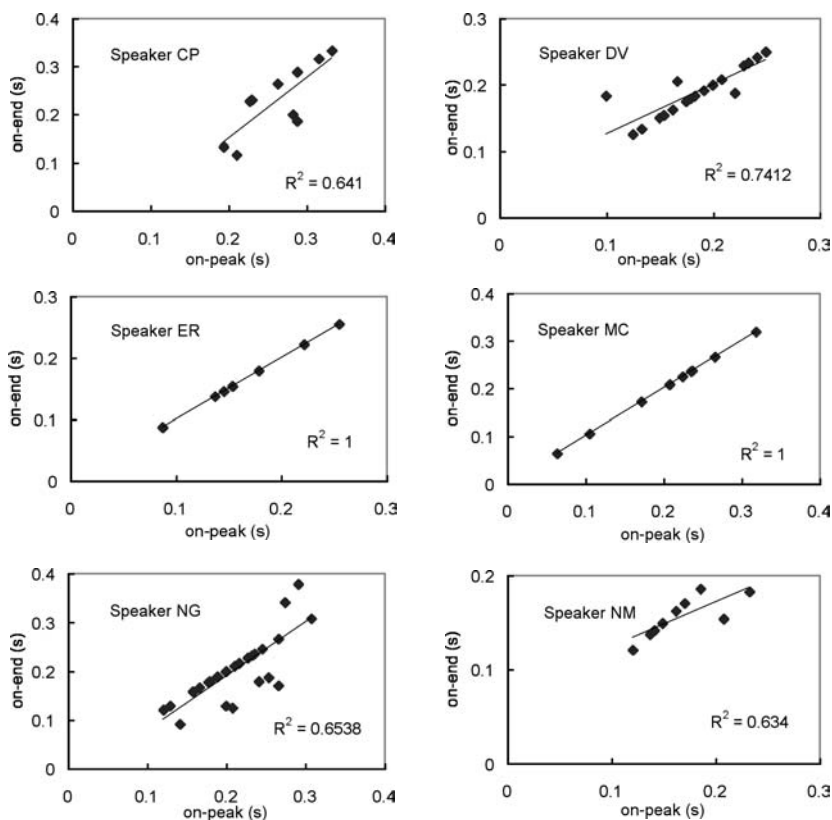


Figure 5. Distance between the onset of the accented syllable and the peak (on-peak) against distance between the onset of the accented syllable and the end of the word (on-end) in seconds for all speakers in oxytones.

The results of proparoxytones are presented in Figure 6. As before, the graph plots the distance between the onset of the accented syllable and the peak (on-peak) against the distance between the onset of the accented syllable and the end of the word (on-end) for speaker DV in proparoxytones.

Again the results show a strong correlation ($R^2 = 0.85$) between the location of the peak and the location of the word boundary in proparoxytones. These results confirm the initial observations that the peak of prenuclear rises is anchored towards the end of the word no matter how many syllables follow the accented one.

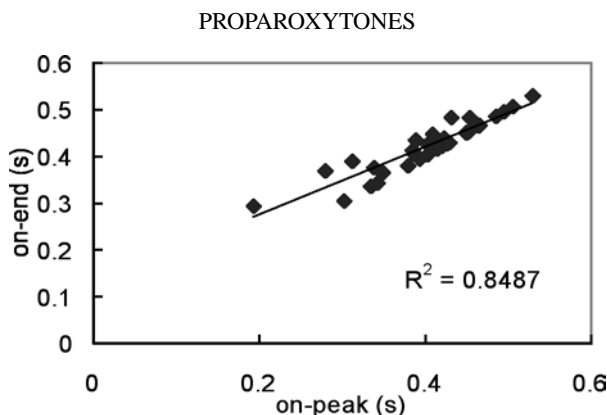


Figure 6. Distance between the onset of the accented syllable and the peak (on-peak) against distance between the onset of the accented syllable and the end of the word (on-end) in seconds for speaker DV in proparoxytones.

5. Discussion

In this paper the phonetic and phonological properties of prenuclear accents in Central Catalan neutral declaratives have been examined. The results showed that prenuclear accents in Central Catalan involve an F₀ rise in the vicinity of the accented syllable that can neither be interpreted as an H* with peak delay nor as a bitonal accent (L*+H). Instead the results suggest a combination of two tones: a pitch accent (L*) and a word edge tone (H). This disagrees with the representations proposed in earlier studies on Central Catalan intonation, namely, Prieto (1995, 1997) and Bonet (1984).

According to the results presented in this paper, Prieto's interpretation of non-final rises as H* (with a peak delay) is thrown into doubt by the alignment of F₀ peaks. The peak of prenuclear rises was consistently anchored at the end of the word. This was confirmed for words with different stress distributions (i.e. oxytones, paroxytones and proparoxytones), where the peak of the rise was aligned at the right end of the word, irrespective of the number of unstressed syllables. This suggested that the phonological representation of Central Catalan prenuclear rises involves an L* pitch accent associated to the accented syllable and an H edge tone associated to the end of the word. The representation of prenuclear accents as L* is consistent with the perceptual interpretation of Bonet (1984) who postulates a low tone in similar types of utterances.

The possibility of analysing prenuclear rises as L*+H, as proposed in languages such as Greek (Arvaniti and Ladd 1995, Arvaniti and Baltazani 1999) or Spanish (Sosa 1999, Face 1999, 2001) was also taken into consideration. However, given the consistent location of H at the word boundary, the peak of prenuclear rises was considered to reflect some kind of prosodic domain rather than the trailing part of

a bitonal accent. Furthermore, the peak was not aligned at a fixed position with respect to the starred tone, as it would have been predicted by bitonality. The consistent alignment of peaks at the right edge of accented words seems to strengthen the idea proposed in recent research (Arvaniti *et al.* 1998, Ladd 1996) that turning points in the F0 contour, such as peaks or valleys, have to be relevant for phonological structure. This means that prenuclear peaks either stand for the trailing tone of the bitonal L*+H or represent the end of a prosodic domain, as observed in our data. This proposal questions the notion of peak delay, which involves the interpretation of F0 peaks as phonetic realisations of H*s.

Finally, the findings reported in this paper have an important implication for phonological theory, namely, that the word domain seems to be relevant in Central Catalan as an anchor for tonal entities. In other words, Central Catalan may have an intonationally-defined word level, marked with the presence of a right-hand word edge tone. Studies have shown that languages might differ in terms of the levels of prosodic phrasing. In Japanese (Beckman and Pierrehumbert 1986, Pierrehumbert and Beckman 1988, Venditti 1999), in Korean (Jun 1996) and in French (Jun and Fougeron, 2000) a lower domain in the prosodic tree, called the accentual phrase, has been postulated³. The accentual phrase is a tonally defined domain. Thus, for example, in Japanese, the accentual phrase has at most one High tone and is delimited by a Low boundary tone. Furthermore, in Japanese and Korean, the notion of accent is different from Catalan. In Catalan, as in English, Spanish, and Italian, among other languages, a pitch accent is associated to the stressed syllable of the word. In Japanese and Korean, the «accent» is distributed among the accentual phrase and functions to delimit prosodic groupings of words rather than to mark prominent syllables. The possibility that the H tone observed at the end of accented words in Central Catalan signals an accentual phrase domain is ruled out on two grounds: 1) Central Catalan pitch accents are associated with stressed syllables, rather than distributed among an accentual phrase, and 2) there is no specific tonal pattern that can be attributed to a particular domain. Instead H is anchored at the end of a word and its presence is linked to the presence of a pitch accent. The consistent location of H at the end of accented words suggest that this tone might signal the end of a word domain, which might correspond to a *phonological word* domain or maybe a *clitic group* domain, as proposed by Selkirk (1984) and Nespor and Vogel (1986) on phonological-syntactic grounds. Although more research is needed on this topic, Central Catalan may have an intonationally-defined word level, marked with the presence of a right-hand word edge tone. Thus, the phonological primitives used to describe Central Catalan intonation are: 1) pitch accents associated to metrically strong syllables at a post-lexical level; 2) word edge tones marking the end of an accented word; 3) phrase accents signalling an intermediate phrase boundary; and 4) boundary tones marking the presence of an intonation phrase⁴.

3. The idea of an accentual phrase in French is not supported by recent work on French intonation within the AM framework (Post 2000).

4. Evidence for the presence of the intermediate phrase and the intonation phrase can be found in Estebas-Vilaplana (2000) and Prieto (1995, 2002).

The presence of word edge tones has been postulated in other languages, such as Serbo-Croatian (Godjevac 2001). In this language, the phonological word is defined by two tonal events: a pitch accent and a word boundary tone. However, in contrast with Central Catalan the Serbo-Croatian word tone appears to be in initial word position (%L). Despite differences in the location of word edge tones, both Central Catalan and Serbo-Croatian show that a word domain can be defined on intonational grounds.

6. Conclusions

In this paper, the phonetic and phonological properties of prenuclear accents in Central Catalan declaratives have been examined within the AM framework of intonational analysis. Three possible interpretations for the modelling of prenuclear rises in Central Catalan have been considered, namely, H* with peak delay, a bitonal accent (L*+H) and two different tones: a pitch accent L* and a word edge tone (H). The results on the alignment of tones on words with different stress distributions (oxytones, paroxytones and proparoxytones) have shown that the F0 peak is consistently aligned at the end of the word no matter the number of post-accented syllables. Thus, prenuclear rises in Central Catalan declaratives have to be interpreted as L*H, which involves an L* pitch accent associated to the accented syllable and an H tone associated to the end of the accented word. This shows evidence that the word domain in Catalan can be defined on intonational grounds.

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Appendix

Sentences with oxytones and paroxytones

Jo menjava melmelada
L'Eva guarda monedes romanès
La Rosa llegia llibres
La Núria vol una germana menuda
Males modes malmeten els joves
Vàries joies eren lluminoses
Algunes minyones guarden mala lluna
Les roses vermelles eren oloroses
L'ou bullia a l'olla
L'illa brillava amb la llum de l'albada
L'Isidre du una gavardina vermella
La mare menja arengades
L'olla negra guardava mongetes
Les meves amigues eren bones nenes
La nena morena venia nines noves
L'ala nova dóna al jardí
L'au venia de l'illa
L'home venia llimones madures
La Mari du una sivella daurada
L'Emília vol amanida
Noies joves ballen munyaires
Vàries nenes lligaven els globus
La meva germana balla balades vieneses
Algunes havaneres eren alegres
Ell anava a Girona
L'Anna vivia a Vilavella
La núvia rentava la faldilla
L'Amèlia duia robes negres
L'home magre menjava vedella

L'amo murri viu a Badalona
La minyona menuda netejava la nevera
La gallina rodona vivia a la granja
En Juli diu bajanades
La Mila nega la maionesa
Els homes llimaven l'armari
En Joan domina l'àlgebra
Les noies vénen de veure l'examen
Les ovelles volen jeure a l'herba
En Raimon volia arruïnar la germana
La Lluïsa havia d'arribar diumenge
La Glòria ve de Vilanova
La Rosa rega els geranis
En Joan anava al museu
La Mireia remena l'olla
Les noies volen rebre la reina
Les mares veuen riure les nenes
En Juli hauria de demanar l'hora
Les nenes haurien de donar l'enhonorabona
En Jaume mou la galleda
En Jordi mira les mones
La Neus anima els alumnes
En Jordi guardava medalles
Els joves volen viure la vida
L'àvia va a raure a la masia
La Laura volia dividir l'herència
La mare havia de menjar verdura
La Marina beu llimonada
L'Emili mana els obrers
La Remei mima les nenes
En Ramon olora la benzina
L'Elena mira de moure el mobiliari
Els homes volen beure aiguardent
L'Elena volia munyir l'ovella
La Ramona volia mullar la roba

Sentences with proparoxytones

Note: In Catalan there are not many verbs with stress on the antepenultimate syllable. Hence, only two kinds of structures have been included in the data: the subjunctive forms of *saber* (*sàpiga/sàpiguen*) and *cabre* (*càpiga/càpiguen*) and a few imperative forms followed by a pronoun (*li*).

La làmina lluirà amb el sol
La Melanie mira les novel·les

*El número resulta massa gran
La mínima baixarà demà
La nòmina no serà més alta
La bòveda donava al carrer
La màquina lligava l'herba
La Mònica menjava mongetes
La màniga no es podrà allargar
El nòmada menjava al carrer
La música sonava molt brillant
L'ànima demanava descans
L'òliba dormia vora l'arbre
L'Àngela manejava l'ordinador
L'àrbitre demanava l'hora
L'íntegre no es podrà calcular
L'àguila volava sobre el mar
L'àncora tenia un gran valor
(És necessari que) en Jaume sàpiga la veritat
(És necessari que) els llibres càpiguen a l'armari
(És necessari que) la noia sàpiga la solució
(És necessari que) la nena càpiga dins la vànova
(És necessari que) els homes sàpiguen el camí
(És necessari que) els jugadors càpiguen a l'estadi
Ella va dir digue-li la veritat
Ell contestà amaga-li la veritat
La nena suggerí mira-li la mà
La dona digué nega-li la mà
La mare ve dir mima-li la nena
L'home va dir dóna-li la mandarina*