Unit 11

Intonation (3):

the secondary tones of English and their meaning

Slides for the session of
Phonetics with Listening Practice (British)
held on
30 nivôse / 2 pluviôse, an CCXXVIII de la République (20 / 22 January 2020)

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Intonation (3):

Outline
Tone 1
  tonic
  pretonic
Tone 2
  tonic
  pretonic
Tone 3
  pretonic
Tone 4
  tonic
Tone 5
  tonic

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Tone 4
  tonic

Tone 5
  tonic

English Phonetics: Unit 11:
[ˈɪŋ.glɪʃ fə.ˈnet.ɪks ˈjuːn.ɪt̯_ɪ.ˈlev.n̩]

Intonation (3)
[ˈɪnt.ə.ˈneɪ̯ʃ.(ə)n̩ ˈθɾiː]

the secondary tones of English and their meaning
[ðə ˈsek.n̩d.ɹ.i ˈtʰəʊ̯nz_əv_ˈɪŋ.glɪʃ_ən̯ ðeə̯ ˈmiːn.ɪŋ]

Robert Spence
[ˈɹɒbət ˈspens]

based on material by M. A. K. Halliday
[ˈbeɪ̯st_ɒn mə.ˈtʰɪə̯.ɹ.i.əł baɪ̯ _ˈʲem_eɪ̯ keɪ̯ ˈhæl.ɪd.eɪ̯]

❶ Tone 1
    tonic
    pretonic

❷ Tone 2
    tonic
    pretonic

❸ Tone 3
    pretonic

❹ Tone 4
    tonic

❺ Tone 5
    tonic

Secondary tones of Tone 1 (tonic)

Tone 1 medium
tonic fall starts at same height as last syllable of pretonic
(KEY: neutral)

// .1. John's de- / cided to be- / come a */ doctor //

Tone 1 wide
tonic fall starts higher than last syllable of pretonic
(KEY: strong / unexpected)

// .1+ ∧ it's the / only / place I've / ever */ lived in //

Tone 1 narrow
tonic fall starts lower than last syllable of pretonic
(KEY: mild / expected)

// .1- how can an / ashtray be */ vegetable //('20 Fragen')

$\varphi\omega\nu$

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  tonic
Tone 5
  tonic

Secondary tones of Tone 1 (pretonic)

Tone 1 level
each pretonic foot has level tone; pretonic feet at same height (before medium fall), stepping up (before wide fall), stepping down (before narrow fall)
(KEY (FORCE): neutral) (examples: previous slide)

Tone 1 bouncing
each pretonic foot 'bounces' (down and up)
often with 'wide' tonic
(KEY (FORCE): forceful)

// $_{-1+}$ why don't you / ask him to / give you your */ money back //

Tone 1 listing
pretonic resembles sequence of tone 3 + tone 3 (...)

// $_{...1.}$ ∧ a / pound of / apples / ∧ a / grapefruit / ∧ and / half a dozen */

oranges //

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  tonic
  pretonic

Tone 3
  pretonic

Tone 4
  tonic

Tone 5
  tonic

Secondary tones of Tone 2 (tonic)

Tone 2 rising
unmarked: 'normal question'

//₂. have you / seen their / new */ house //

Tone 2 falling-rising
tonic falls (focus) then rises (speech function), sharp change of direction
marked: 'specifying the point of the query'

//₂ have you / seen their / new */ house //

*//₂ couldn't we go / out / just for an / hour / Daphne //

*//₂ honestly //   *//₂ why //

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Tone 5
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Secondary tones of Tone 2 (pretonic)

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Intonation (3):

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Tone 1
  tonic
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  pretonic
Tone 3
  pretonic
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  tonic
Tone 5
  tonic

Tone 2 high
pretonic feet are high and level
KEY: neutral

// .2 have you / seen their / new */ house //

Tone 2 low
pretonic feet are low and level
KEY: intense (suprise / disapproval / concern)
(in U.S. English: neutral)

// -2. don't you / think you */ ought to / tell them //

Secondary tones of Tone 3 (pretonic)

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Intonation (3):

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  tonic
  pretonic

Tone 2
  tonic
  pretonic

Tone 3
  pretonic

Tone 4
  tonic

Tone 5
  tonic

Tone 3 mid
pretonic feet are mid and level
(KEY: confirmatory / reassuring)

//₃ ∧ I / don't sup- / pose it / really */ matters //

Tone 3 low
pretonic feet are low and level
(KEY: unconcerned / uncertain)

//₋₃ ∧ I / don't sup- / pose it / really */ matters //

Neither of these choices of pretonic is available before the 'tone 3' tonic segment of compound tones 13 and 53.

Secondary tones of Tone 4 (tonic)

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Intonation (3):

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Tone 1
  tonic
  pretonic
Tone 2
  tonic
  pretonic
Tone 3
  pretonic
Tone 4
  tonic
Tone 5
  tonic

Tone 4 high (preselects down-stepping pretonic)
each pretonic foot level, last syllable of pretonic falls slightly
(neutral: logical complication of some kind)

// .4 ∧ if he / had any / common */ sense //

Tone 4 low (preselects swinging pretonic)
each pretonic foot falls and rises, with main force of fall
(marked: exclusive / contrastive / expressing strong reservation)

// 4 ∧ but it / certainly / couldn't be */ animal //

(context: '20 Fragen')

Secondary tones of Tone 5 (tonic)

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Intonation (3):

Outline

Tone 1
  tonic
  pretonic

Tone 2
  tonic
  pretonic

Tone 3
  pretonic

Tone 4
  tonic

Tone 5
  tonic

Tone 5 high (preselects up-stepping pretonic)
each pretonic foot level; last syllable of pretonic rises slightly
(neutral, expressing strong assertion / override / surprise)

//₅. it's / simply / not */ true //

Tone 5 low (preselects swinging pretonic)
each pretonic foot rises and falls, with main force on rise
(intense, showing awe or disappointment)

//₅ look at that / lovely old */ steam engine //

Tone 5 low with breathy voice quality: awe
Tone 5 low with normal voice quality: sarcasm