Unit 15

Intonation (3):

the secondary tones of English and their meaning

Slides for the session of
Phonetics with Listening Practice (British)
held on
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Robert Spence
{ English Department | LangSciTech }
Saarland University

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Intonation (3):

Outline

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

English Phonetics: Unit 15:
[ˈɪŋ.glɪʃ fə.ˈnɛt.ɪks ˈjṳːn.ɪt fɪf.ˈtʰiːn]

Intonation (3)
[ˌɪn.tə.ˈneɪʃn̩ ˈθɾiː]

the secondary tones of English and their meaning
[ðə ˈsɛk.n̩d̠ɹ.i ˈtʰə̯ʊnz‿əv‿ˈɪŋ.glɪʃ‿ən̩ ðẹə̯ ˈmiːn.ɪŋ]

Robert Spence
[ˈɹɒb.ət ˈspɛns]

based on material by M. A. K. Halliday
[ˈbeɪst‿ɒn mə.ˈtʰɪə̯ɹ.i.əɫ baɪ̯ʲ‿ˈɛm‿eɪ̯ kʰeɪ̯ ˈhæl.ɪd.eɪ̯]

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Intonation (3):

Outline

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

15.2

1 **Tone 1**
   tonic
   pretonic

2 **Tone 2**
   tonic
   pretonic

3 **Tone 3**
   pretonic

4 **Tone 4**
   tonic

5 **Tone 5**
   tonic

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Intonation (3):

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')

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Outline
Tone 1
  tonic
  pretonic
Tone 2
  tonic
  pretonic
Tone 3
  pretonic
Tone 4
  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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Intonation (3):

Outline

Tone 1
tonic
pretonic
Tone 2
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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Intonation (3):

Outline

Tone 1
  tonic
  pretonic

Tone 2
  tonic
  pretonic

Tone 3
  pretonic

Tone 4
  tonic

Tone 5
  tonic

Secondary tones of Tone 2 (pretonic)

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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 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 (surprise / 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):

Outline

Tone 1
  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):

Outline
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)

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