Unit 15

$$\varphi\omega\nu$$

Intonation (3):

the secondary tones of English and their meaning

Robert Spence, { English Department | LangSciTech } , Saarland University

English Phonetics: Unit 15:
[ˈɪŋ.ɡlɪʃ fəˈnɛt̯.ɪks ˈjṳːn.ɪt fɪf.ˈtʰiːn]

Intonation (3)
[ˌɪn.tə.ˈneɪʃ.n̩ ˈθɾiː]

the secondary tones of English and their meaning
[ðə ˈsɛk.n̩d̯ɹ.i ˈtʰəʊ̯nz‿əv‿ˈɪŋ.ɡlɪʃ‿ən̯ ðɛ̯ə̯ ˈmiːn.ɪŋ]

Robert Spence
[ˈɹɒb.ət ˈspɛ̯ns]

based on material by M. A. K. Halliday
[ˈbeɪst‿ɒn mə.ˈtʰɪ̯əɹ.i.əł baɹ̯ʲ‿ɛ̯m‿eɪ kʰeɪ̯ ˈhæl.ɪd.eɪ̯]

1 Tone 1

1.1 tonic

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

‖ ˌ1. John's de- / cided to be- / come a */ doctor ‖

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

‖ ˌ1+ ∧ it's the / only / place I've / ever */ lived in ‖

1

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

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

1.2   pretonic

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 //

2   Tone 2

2.1   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 //

2.2 pretonic

Secondary tones of Tone 2 (pretonic)
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 ‖

3 Tone 3

3.1 pretonic

Secondary tones of Tone 3 (pretonic)
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.

4   Tone 4

4.1   tonic

Secondary tones of Tone 4 (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')   15.8

5   Tone 5

5.1   tonic

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   15.9