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Intonation and Prosodic Structure

This book provides state-of-the-art coverage of intonation and prosodic structure from a phonological (i.e., *grammatical*) perspective. Written for linguists, it shows how morpho-syntactic constituents are mapped to prosodic constituents using syntax-prosody algorithms and well-formedness conditions. A compositional version of the tone-sequence model of intonation is used to let melodies arise from the individual tones and the way they combine. As semantics–intonation interface, information structure affects intonation in several ways, and tones and melodies are shown to be 'meaningful' in the sense that they add a pragmatic component beyond information structure. Despite a superficial similarity, languages differ in how their tonal patterns arise from tone concatenation. Lexical tones, stress, phrasal tones and boundary tones are assigned differently in different languages, and the result is a large variation of intonational grammar, both at the lexical and sentential levels. The last chapter of the book is dedicated to experimental studies of processing of prosody.

CAROLINE FÉRY was educated in Brussels, her native town, and in Konstanz. From 1999, she was Professor of Theory of Grammar and Phonology at the University of Potsdam, where she founded and directed the Research Center on Information Structure funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). Since 2009, she has been Professor of Phonology at the University of Frankfurt, where she is the director of a graduate school on nominal modification. Her interests lie in phonology, in the prosodic and tonal structure of languages, in the interface between syntax and intonation as well as in the theory of grammar. She is the author of articles in journals such as *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory, Lingua*, *Phonology* and *The Linguistic Review*, and is coeditor, with Shin Ishihara, of *The Handbook of Information Structure*.

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'Key Topics in Phonology' focuses on the main topics of study in phonology today. It consists of accessible yet challenging accounts of the most important issues, concepts and phenomena to consider when examining the sound structure of language. Some topics have been the subject of phonological study for many years, and are re-examined in this series in light of new developments in the field; others are issues of growing importance that have not so far been given a sustained treatment. Written by leading experts and designed to bridge the gap between textbooks and primary literature, the books in this series can either be used on courses and seminars, or as one-stop, succinct guides to a particular topic for individual students and researchers. Each book includes useful suggestions for further reading, discussion questions, and a helpful glossary.

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CAROLINE FÉRY
Institute of Linguistics, University of Frankfurt

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Preface

This book has been written for linguists and advanced students of linguistics, especially for those interested in phonology and in the grammar of intonation. It is not aimed at beginners; rather, readers should have some solid background knowledge in several fields of linguistics, and in phonology in particular. It focuses on the role of intonation in different parts of grammar, for example, syntax, semantics and pragmatics, and it also provides some insights into the role of intonation in language processing. The study of intonation is a relatively young branch of linguistics, and it has profited immensely from recent technological developments. Thanks to these advances, researchers only need a laptop to study sound waves, generate F0 contours and calculate changes in duration and intensity over the time course of a sentence. However, these acoustic correlates should not let us forget that intonation is also part of grammar, and that we need to explore the system behind tones if we want intonation to help us understand the nature of language. In writing this book, I hope to contribute to this endeavour and to provide future researchers in intonation with tools to understand better what it means for a language to have certain kinds of tones.

After Helen Barton asked me to contribute to the then-new series Key Topics in Phonology, it took me several years to write the book. I started slowly and increased the speed progressively, spending most of my spare time in 2014 and the beginning of 2015 completing this task. Over the course of these years I offered classes in Frankfurt and in Potsdam on specific themes of this book, such as information structure and intonation, the processing of prosody, lexical prominence and the typology of intonation. I also gave classes on the syntax–prosody interface at the Linguistic Society of America (LSA) Summer Institute in Chicago in 2015 and at the ACTL School in London in June 2016. These courses were helpful in creating a coherent picture of the special topics discussed in the following chapters.

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