

**The transcription of intonation as an interactive research tool and learning module  
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### **Terminology**

During the first part of the workshop, some terminology on prosodic phenomena will be defined that is necessary for the experimental-phonetic study of intonation. Prosodic phenomena are all those suprasegmental phenomena that cannot be derived from the segmental structure of words, that is, from linear sequences of vowels and consonants. Prosody includes word prosody such as tone and wordstress, utterance prosody such as intonation, prominence (which word is highlighted?), boundary marking (which words belong together?), temporal organization. All these phenomena together with lexical, morphological, syntactic aspects and other non-prosodic phenomena like gestures, facial expressions and situation are linguistically relevant and contribute to the overall understanding of spoken messages in the interaction between speaker and hearer.

This workshop will focus on the form of intonation (pitch accents and pitch movements connecting them), on communicative functions of intonation in terms of sentence types like declarative, interrogative, continuation, turn-taking, expression of emotions and attitude, on intonational phrasing (prosodic grouping of words) and on prosodic boundary marking (pause, hesitation, silence, jumps up and down in the fundamental frequency). All these terms will be explained and illustrated with examples.

### **Analysis and description**

During the second part of the workshop it will be demonstrated how pitch phenomena can be analysed, experimentally verified and described with phonetic specifications by means of a sophisticated software package "PRAAT" for speech analysis, a programme developed by Paul Boersma and David Weenink running free of charge on any type of computer ([www.fon.hum.uva.nl](http://www.fon.hum.uva.nl)).

Using only the relevant tools of PRAAT, I will show how to record speech, how to analyse observations, how to experimentally verify results and conclusions of the analysis with native speakers, and how to describe and transcribe pitch phenomena. Also, some more advantages of PRAAT will be shown, like a help for transcribing spoken texts, analysing striking observations in recordings and finding its phonetic correlates.

### **Transcription and imitation**

An existing transcription system called ToDI (transcription of Dutch intonation) and a manual transcription system under development, called ToRI (Transcription of Russian Intonation), will be discussed. ToRI is a system using symbols for transcription in which experimentally verified forms with an indication of contextual functions are expressed in symbols. ToRI will be designed in such a way that it can be used as a learnable system for linguists and advanced students, as a research tool for (field)work on Russian dialects and intonational contact phenomena of Russian dialects with local languages in Russia, for comparative and language typology studies. ToRI might also be useful for the development of speech synthesis and, possibly, speech recognition.



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Cecilia Odé, 15 June 2006, 13.30-14.30, room Th 103**