

# Prosody and language design

Course outline, 'Wahlpflichtveranstaltung' DPL, University of Zurich, autumn 2014  
Prof. Bob Ladd, University of Edinburgh (Emeritus)

## General

The aim of the course will be to discuss a variety of topics often considered under the heading of "prosody", not just for their own interest, but also with the broader aim of understanding what (if anything) "prosody" actually means, and what prosody can tell us about the design of language. I plan to meet two mornings a week. At least for the first few weeks I'll begin each session in something like a lecture format, followed by a break and an extended discussion. Later on I hope to have at least some sessions based only on discussion of readings, and/or on student presentations. Students who want to take the course for credit will be expected to write a paper (in English, German, French, or Italian) on a relevant topic. There will be considerable intersection between the topics I discuss and some current research in Zurich, notably the projects of Volker Dellwo and Mathias Jenny, and to a lesser extent those of Stephan Schmid, Lena Zipp and Balthasar Bickel.

## Dates and rough outline

### ◦ Monday 29 Sept., Thursday 2 Oct., Monday 6 Oct.

Topics in the description of intonation and stress (substantially based on my 2008 book *Intonational Phonology*), including at least (i) analysis of pitch melodies in the European languages (e.g. ToBI and related systems), (ii) stress and phrasal phonology ("metrical" and "prosodic" phonology), and (iii) introduction to the phonetics of stress and pitch.

> [Thursday 2 Oct., 16.15 h: Research Colloquium: "What is prosody, anyway?"]

### ◦ Thursday 16 Oct., Monday 20 Oct., Thursday 23 Oct.

Topics in the description of tone languages, including at least (i) basic introduction to tonal phenomena and to typological issues of "tone" and "pitch accent", (ii) my current research on singing in tone languages, and (iii) relevance of tone to phonology in general, in particular the notions of "feature" and "autosegment", and the idea of "duality of patterning" or "double articulation". Various readings will be assigned, including several classic papers on tone and accent, a new paper on clicks by Julian Bradfield, and chapters 1, 2 and 5 of my new book *Simultaneous Structure in Phonology*.

### ◦ [Monday 27 Oct.\*,] Thursday 30 Oct., Monday 3 Nov., Thursday 6 Nov.

To be decided. These classes will certainly include some student presentations on various topics, as well as some discussion of "paralinguistic" signals and "indexical" uses of language, based in part on chapter 4 of *Simultaneous Structure in Phonology*.

[\*I may be out of town on Monday 27 Oct.]

## Literature

- D. Robert Ladd. 2008. *Intonational Phonology*. Cambridge Studies in Linguistics 119. Second edition. Cambridge: CUP.
- D. Robert Ladd. 2014. *Simultaneous Structure in Phonology*. Oxford: OUP.