

10 Study Guide

Prosody: The Music of Speech

Terminology

You should be able to simply define or explain the following terms and concepts.

Creaky voice

Fundamental Frequency

Given information

Harsh voice

Intensity

Intonation

Intonation unit

New information

Phrasal accent

Pitch

Prosodic style

Prosody

Regulatory intonation unit

Segmental properties

Substantive intonation unit

Suprasegmental properties

Terminal pitch contour

Timing

Voice quality

Wave form

Important Points and Concepts

- Prosody is a cover term for variations in pitch, loudness, timing, and voice quality; these can be partially transcribed
- Prosody functions to delimit units of speech, mark the relation between them, mark some elements as prominent with respect to others, and convey emotion
- Spoken language is produced in intonation units, which can be regulatory or substantive
- Marking of prominence reflects the structure of discourse, such as the activation cost of referents, and can direct listener's attention to what the speaker deems important
- Prosody can be used to convey emotion and attitude, and can be used for significant rhetorical effect

Skills

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- Divide stretches of spoken discourse into intonation units
- Identify and transcribe terminal pitch contours
- Mark pauses, prominent syllables, and lengthening of vowels or consonants in a prosodic transcription
- State the phonetic features that characterize prominent syllables
- Distinguish substantive from regulatory IUs
- State how different voice qualities are produced
- Discuss how prosody is used to convey emotion or evaluation in a given stretch of speech