Topics in Phonology

Prosodic Structures

The field of Phonology has recently been influenced by theoretical advances at the phonetics/phonology interface, Optimality Theory, and the growing realization that frequency effects play a role in morphological realization, sound change, and phonological processes more generally. These issues are highly relevant for understanding the nature of Prosodic Structures such as Syllables and Phonological Words, and are particularly relevant to acquisition and learnability issues as well. This course will examine recent literature on these topics, with a focus on the prosodic structures and acquisition of French and Spanish.

Prerequisite: CG 41 (Introduction to Linguistic Theory). CG 121 (Introduction to Phonological Theory) or other relevant phonology background is recommended.

Syllabus

Thursday Jan. 24th, 2pm. First meeting to arrange time – Metcalf Research Rm 233

Theoretical Preliminaries
Jan 28, Feb 4, Feb 1

English
Feb 18, Feb 25

French
March 4, March 11, March 18,

Spanish
April 1, April 8

Learnability
April 15, April 22 - Guest Speaker – Kai Zuraw - MIT

Final Project Presentations & Discussion
Apr 29, May 6 - Presentations; Final Projects Due
Readings

Theoretical Preliminaries (Phonetics, Frequency Effects, and Optimality Theory)


Phonetics and Frequency Effects


Optimality Theory


English


The Prosodic Structure and Acquisition of French


Sauvage, Jeremi. La stabilisation du système phonologique français: structuration métagphonologique et phonologique des Onsets, 30: University of Rouen.

The Prosodic Structure and Acquisition of Spanish

Statistics and Learnability