

Linguistic Society of America

Review

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Source: *Language*, Vol. 66, No. 2 (Jun., 1990), p. 409

Published by: [Linguistic Society of America](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/414902>

Accessed: 06-03-2015 23:02 UTC

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BOOK NOTICES

Prosodic patterns in spoken English:

Studies in the correlation between prosody and grammar for text-to-speech conversion. By BENGT ALTENBERG. (Lund studies in English, 76.) Lund: Lund University Press, 1987. Pp. 225. Kr. 178.00.

The establishment of relationships between prosody and grammar is important not only for use in incorporating prosody into synthesized speech, but also for our understanding of the functions of intonation. In this series of six studies directed at predicting the presence of prosodic features from grammatical features, Altenberg shows that some perceptual prosodic features can be predicted from grammatical features with a large degree of accuracy.

The grammatical features studied are syntactic units and their relation to tone-unit boundaries, and word classes and their relation to the distribution of prosodic features inside the tone unit. The studies are based on data from the London-Lund Corpus of spoken (British) English, which is marked prosodically with tone-unit notation.

The first study, 'Speech rate and tone-unit length' (Ch. 2, 16–28), describes the relationships found between speech rate and tone-unit length. It is based on ten texts from the corpus, of various different situational characteristics. The remaining studies are based on a single prepared monologue of 5000 words.

In Ch. 3, 'Prosodic patterns in a prepared monologue' (29–45), Altenberg examines the distributions of prosodic phenomena of the tone unit, namely stress, onset, booster, and nucleus, and their locations in the tone unit.

Ch. 4, 'Predicting text segmentation into tone units' (46–124), is concerned with the relation of grammatical segmentation of the text to tone units. Altenberg compares tone-unit boundaries with an adaptation of Crystal's model of syntactic segmentation designed for assigning tone units in conversation. He derives probabilistic rules for predicting tone-unit boundaries in the monologue based on sentence, clause, and phrase boundaries, with results of from 80% to 95% accuracy.

In Chs. 5 and 6 Altenberg considers the relation of prosodic features to word classes. In Ch. 5, 'Correlation between prosodic features

and word classes' (125–47), he reports on the possibility of predicting stress, nucleus, and booster from word class. In Ch. 6, 'Towards a probabilistic onset rule' (148–59), he investigates prediction of onset locations by word class.

In Ch. 7, 'Tonicity' (160–92), he devises a method for predicting nucleus placement in the tone unit with as high as 90% accuracy. The predictive rule is based on his distributional data combined with the prosodic potential of word categories, an assignment he makes on the basis of the data of the earlier chapters to replace the lexical word-class criterion.

The studies were carefully done and the book is clearly written. It should provide a valuable source for anyone interested in intonation. [MARIAN SHAPLEY, *Pacific Palisades, CA.*]

FUCUS: A Semitic/Afrasian Gathering in Remembrance of Albert Ehrman.

Ed. by YOËL L. ARBEITMAN. (Current issues in linguistic theory, 58.) Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 1988. Pp. xvi, 530.

This volume is a Gedenkschrift for Dr. Albert Ehrman, a scholar of Semitic languages and Judaic studies. Yoël Arbeitman's dedication commemorates Dr. Ehrman as a true 'philologist' of Semitics and as a worthy colleague who was taken from his life and work at a tragically young age. Dr. Ehrman had a fascination for the Semitic root *sqr*, found in Jewish Aramaic as *siqrā* 'red dye, red paint' (from which root also are derived the English words *maskara*, *masquerade*, *scarlet*, and (Judas) *Ischariot*). This red dye was obtained from a certain rock lichen whose Latin name, *fucus*, was chosen for the title of Gedenkschrift. Section II (519–30) of this volume contains three articles by Dr. Ehrman on the Semitic root *sqr*, along with a response by Arbeitman on the suffix of the name *Ischariot*.

Section I (1–517) contains twenty-eight articles on Semitic and Afrasian languages, literature, and civilization. Contributors include Yoël Arbeitman, ARON DOLGOPOLSKY, ALICE FABER, CYRUS H. GORDON, ALAN KAYE, SAUL LEVIN, EDWARD LIPINSKI, CHAIM RABIN, and RAINER VOIGT. The wide range of subject matter is seen in the following sampling of titles: ALLAN R.