

Prosodic Typology

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Room: H50.15

Sessions: 26/3 09.00-10.30, 27/3 09.00-10.30, 28/3 09.00-10.30, 16.00-17.30

Course Description:

Traditionally, phonological typology has been concerned with the cross-linguistic study of segmental inventories, syllable complexity, tonal contrasts and stress placement. Recent activity in prosodic typology additionally provides hypotheses about i) the clustering of prosodic, phonotactic and morphophonological properties in holistic language types and ii) the varying salience of prosodic domains such as the Prosodic Word or the Phonological Phrase across the languages of the world.

After recapitulating basic notions of phonological description and theorizing, this course will first discuss traditional approaches to phonological typology using the WALS data. We will then review and critically re-examine clusters of prosodic features which have been hypothesized to constitute the phonological basis for linguistic rhythm (stress- vs. syllable- vs. mora-based). Finally, the Prosodic Hierarchy as developed within Prosodic Phonology will be investigated on the basis of the cross-linguistic data collected in the Leipzig Word project.

Advance Reading Suggestions:

Bickel, Balthasar, Kristine A. Hildebrandt & René Schiering 2007. "The distribution of phonological word domains: A probabilistic typology." Ms., University of Leipzig & University of Manchester. [http://www.uni-leipzig.de/~schier/probable_words.pdf]

Schiering, René 2007. "The phonological basis of linguistic rhythm. Cross-linguistic data and diachronic interpretation." *Sprachtypologie und Universalienforschung* 60: 337-359. [http://www.uni-leipzig.de/~schier/Rhythm_STUF.pdf]