

Intonational Compliance Marking

A theory of English intonational meaning

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Warming up: some rising declaratives

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Westera (2017, 2018, in press): **Intonational Compliance Marking (ICM)**.

Outline

1. Rising declaratives (of the Quality-suspending kind)
2. The ICM theory in a bit more detail
3. List intonation
4. The rise-fall-rise contour
5. Intonation on interrogatives

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- ▶ most don't try to explain all three characteristics;
- ▶ those that do, end up assuming rather than explaining them.

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A: Guess!!!

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B: Fine. It's ~~raining~~?

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- ▶ the ICM theory predicts the various uses of rising declaratives;
- ▶ and we get more detailed predictions by considering when suspending a maxim is acceptable;
- ▶ e.g., only suspend Quality if its actual violation is deemed unlikely.

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Assumption 1 (Gussenhoven '04, slightly simplified):

$$\text{Intonation Phrase} = \left\{ \begin{matrix} H^* \\ L^* \end{matrix} \right\}^n$$

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Outline

1. Rising declaratives (of the Quality-suspending kind)
2. The ICM theory in a bit more detail
3. List intonation
4. The rise-fall-rise contour
5. Intonation on interrogatives

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- ▶ Let's focus on 'ordinary' lists: those which address a single QUD, and compliantly so.
- ▶ **Predictions of ICM theory:**
 - ▶ a./b. are “neutral” contours for ordinary lists;
 - ▶ whereas c./d./e. involve “something funny”.
 - ▶ (f./g. are unavailable for ‘ordinary’ lists, due to final H%).)

3.2. Normal/neutral contours for ‘ordinary’ lists

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By the way: what is the suspended maxim in (11b)?

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- ▶ **Quantity?**
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- ▶ **Quantity?** Not likely; this would require that the *intent* changes throughout the utterance.
- ▶ **Manner?** Yes; it's only the *content expressed* that changes.

3.3. Non-neutral contours for ‘ordinary’ lists

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 - d. H* % H* % H* %
 - e. L*H % L*H % H*L L%

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NB.: Many more contours (and predictions); also for “unordinary” lists.

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5. Intonation on interrogatives

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Challenge: Rise-fall-rise has many different uses, with no obvious common denominator.

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- ▶ [some empirical inadequacies].

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(Westera (in press). Rise-fall-rise as a marker of secondary QUDs.)

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- ▶ RFR provides a window on the pragmatics of QUDs.

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- ▶ in particular, they still (like assertions) **draw attention** to things.

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(Westera (2018). An attention-based explanation for some exhaustivity operators. *Proceedings of SuB*, Edinburgh.)

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(An A-Quality suspension/violation is not normally possible.)

Outline

1. Rising declaratives (of the Quality-suspending kind)
2. The ICM theory in a bit more detail
3. List intonation
4. The rise-fall-rise contour
5. Intonation on interrogatives

Conclusion

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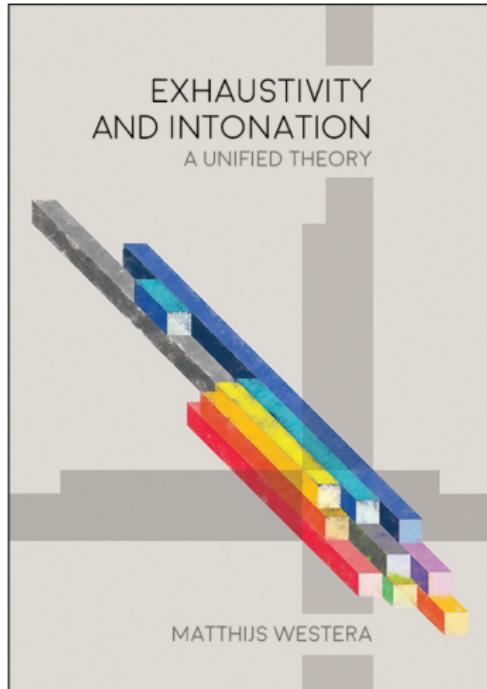
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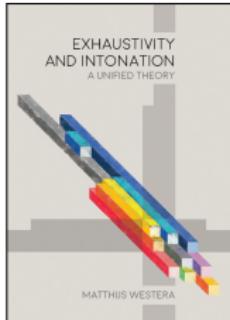
For more details...

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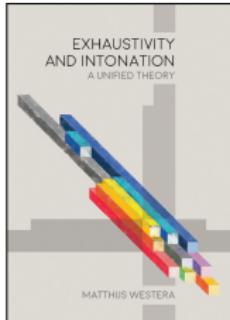
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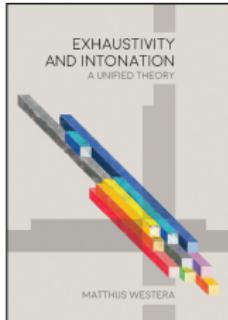


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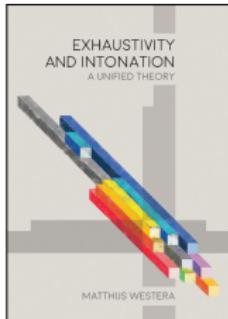


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- ▶ Westera, Goodhue & Gussenhoven (in press). The meanings of tones and tunes. To appear in Gussenhoven & Chen (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Language Prosody*.