

Chapters 14 & 15

Stress and feet

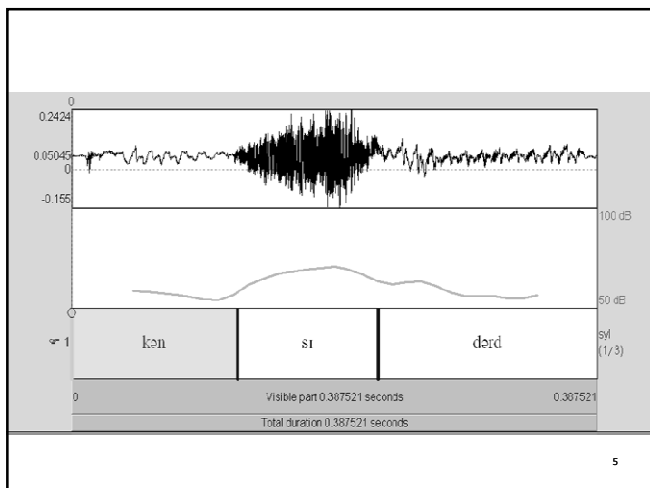
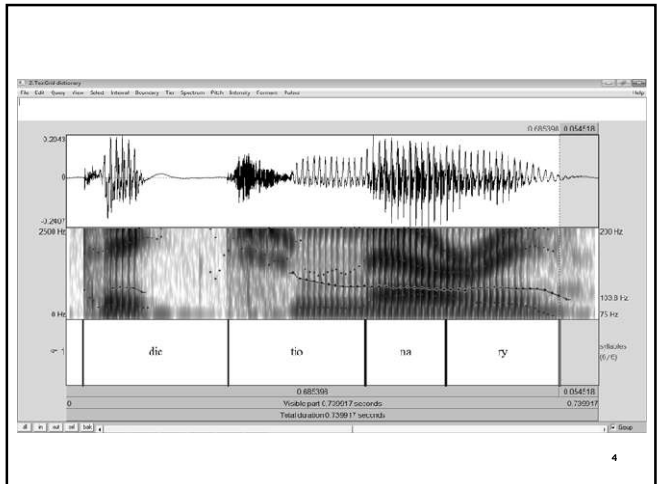


Introduction

- Stress: a property of syllables
 - in languages like English
- Stressed syllables are louder and longer than unstressed ones
 - and stressed vowels have higher pitch (or a noticeable pitch change)
- Degrees of stress: primary, secondary

Feet

- Syllables not the highest level of organization
- Syllables organized into feet
- AmE ('dic tio) (,na ry) : **two feet**
 - primary and secondary stress (rhythm)
 - pitch pattern: visible in Praat



Stress in English

- Is it possible to predict where stress falls in English words?
- Difference between nouns and verbs!
 - nouns almost never have final stress, e.g. **radio**, **broccoli**, **asterisk**
 - verbs can have final stress: **collapse**, **maintain**, but: **promise**
- adjectives are in between:
 - **honest** vs. **robust**

English foot

- English foot is a trochee: a combination of two syllables of which the first one is strong and the second one is weak: (s w)
 - in nouns: "skipping" the final syllable
 - unless it's heavy: comPUter, veRANda
 - in verbs: on the last two syllables
- Other important foot type: iamb (w s), e.g. French

7

Other feet in poetry, songs

- Dactyl (s w w)

Lucy in the sky with diamonds

Picture yourself in a boat on a river

⊗ - - x - - x - - x ⊖

With tangerine trees and marmalade skies

- x - - x - x - - x

Somebody calls you, you answer quite slowly

x - - x - - x - - x ⊖

A girl with kaleidoscope eyes

- x - - x - - ⊗

music

8

Other metrical feet

- Anapest (w w s)

'Twas the night before Christmas, (1823)

- - x - - x -

when all through the house

- x - - x

Not a creature was stirring,

- - x - - x -

not even a mouse;

- x - - x

video

9

Other metrical feet

- Spondaic: *both* syllables are stressed, in a disyllabic foot

From John Milton's *Paradise Lost* (1667):

ROCKS, CAVES | LAKES, FENS |

BOGS, DENS |

and SHADES | of DEATH

audio (21:40)

10

--the lip of TANTALUS. Thus roving on
In confus'd march forlorn, th' adventrous Bands
With shuddring horror pale, and eyes agast
View'd first thir lamentable lot, and found
No rest: through many a dark and drearie Vaile
They pass'd, and many a Region dolorous,
O're many a Frozen, many a Fierie Alpe,
**Rocks, Caves, Lakes, Fens, Bogs, Dens, and
shades of death,**

A Universe of death, which God by curse
Created evil, for evil only good,
Where all life dies, death lives, and nature
breeds,

Perverse, all monstrous, all prodigious things,
Abominable, inutterable, and worse
Then Fables yet have feign'd, or fear conceiv'd,
GORGONS and HYDRA'S, and CHIMERA'S dire.

11

Poetry and language

- The trochee and the iamb are often used in stress systems in languages
- E.g. French: final iamb (w s)
- Exercises: analyse different systems
 - what foot type? L/R of the word?
 - role of syllable quantity
- Other (poetic) foot types not used
 - why?
 - cross-linguistic study of poetic feet?

12

Extrametricality

- Antepenultimate stress in Macedonian:
 - last syllable doesn't count

(s w) -
be se da ta 'the lecture'

- Just like nouns in English

13

Conclusion

- Stress: relation between syllables
- Important to organize words into structure
 - processing, psycholinguistics
- Main foot types: trochee, iamb
 - poetic feet (English, other languages?)
 - primary and secondary stress

14

Homework

- Read chapter 14 carefully. Chapter 15 is optional
- Think carefully about English stress, collecting as many examples as you can
 - what are the rules?
 - what are the exceptions?
- Do exercises Qs 129, 131, 132 (others up to 142 are optional)
- Thank you

15