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Prosodic typology

Prosodic typology is a currently highly dynamic field (cp., for example, Jun 2005, 2014), capitalizing on the rise of the autosegmental-metrical framework for intonational phonology (Ladd 2008) and the development of comparatively easy to use software tools for acoustic analysis and synthesis (e.g. PRAAT).

The main topic of the course is phrase-level prosody (intonation) and its interaction with segmental and word-prosodic features. The focus is on systems and constellations that differ significantly from, on the one hand, European pitch accent systems, and, on the other hand, syllable tone systems as found, for example, in Sinitic. Major topics thus include intonation in languages with lexical pitch accents and intonational systems where tonal targets are organised exclusively with regard to phrase boundaries (i.e. phrase accents and initial or final boundary tones).