

1 **31 Prosodic encoding of information structure: A typological perspective**

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3

4 **31.1 Introduction**

5 Information structure (IS) can be conceived of as a ‘cognitive domain’ that interacts with the
6 linguistic modules syntax, phonology, and morphology on the one hand, and, on the other
7 hand, with other cognitive capabilities that control, update and infer interlocutors’ common
8 beliefs (Zimmermann & Féry 2010). A speaker’s utterance can be subdivided according to its
9 IS, and the constituents of an utterance can be analysed as being *focused*, *given*, and/or
10 *topical*. Interlocutors use different linguistic means to achieve the goal of controlling,
11 updating and inferring their common beliefs. This chapter deals with the prosodic means that
12 speakers use to signal the IS of an utterance from a typological perspective.

13 At first sight, it may appear that languages vary widely as to which prosodic cues signal IS
14 (cf. Jun 2005b, 2014; Kügler 2011; Downing & Rialland 2016a). However, within prosody
15 and IS research, it has recurrently been proposed that this variation in the prosodic realization
16 of IS can be subsumed by underlying principles which point to common phonological
17 structures present cross-linguistically (Truckenbrodt 1995; Büring 2010; Féry 2013). Another
18 line of research concerns the debate whether there is a relationship between the prosodic
19 profile of a language and its prosodic means to express IS (cf. Burdin et al. 2015). This
20 chapter is organized around the different prosodic strategies to express IS found to date in the
21 languages of the world (section 31.3), including interactions between syntax, prosody and IS
22 (section 31.4); leading up to a discussion of commonalities between languages (section 31.5).
23 Section 31.2 introduces the basic concepts of IS, and section 31.6 presents an evaluative
24 outlook for future research.

25

26 **31.2 Basic concepts of information structure**

27 We adhere to the widely held view that the basic notions of IS are the cognitive categories
28 *focus*, *givenness* and *topic* that are rooted in a theory of communication (Krifka 2008). IS
29 refers to the division of an utterance in information packages (Chafe 1976) with the aim of a
30 continuous information update of the common ground of interlocutors. The category *focus* is
31 defined as an indication of ‘the presence of alternatives that are relevant for the interpretation
32 of linguistic expressions’ (Krifka 2008: 247). This abstract cognitive category can be
33 prosodically expressed in language-specific ways. Consider the mini-dialogue in (1). Speaker
34 Q’s WH-question is a request to update the common ground with the referent of the WH-word.
35 Speaker A responds by selecting the referent *Peter* as the relevant one of the possible
36 alternatives in the context. This constituent is the focus and receives a pitch accent in
37 languages like English, whereby the location of the pitch accent is given in upper case. The
38 rest of the utterance is the *background*. The focused constituent in the answer corresponds to
39 the WH-constituent in the question, thus creating a coherent discourse.

40 (1) Q: Who stole the cookie?

41 A: [PEter]_F stole the cookie. (Krifka 2008: 250)

42 A further use of focus is to correct or confirm information that an interlocutor puts under
43 discussion, as in (2). In this case, context (2C) contains a proposition containing potential focus
44 alternatives. In (2A), the speaker corrects (2C), while (2A') contains the identical proposition.

- 45 (2) C: Mary stole the cookie.
 46 A: (No,) [PEter]_F stole the cookie!
 47 A': Yes, [MAry]_F stole the cookie. (Krifka 2008: 252)

48 In (1), the focus is also new information in the context, and the background given. However,
 49 *givenness* is actually orthogonal to *focus* in that a focused constituent can either be *given* or
 50 *new*, which represent either ends of a givenness scale. *Givenness* refers to the information
 51 status of a constituent. A constituent is *given* if it is present in the immediate common ground
 52 (Krifka 2008: 262), or *new*, if it is not. A further, intermediate stage of the givenness scale is
 53 when the constituent is present in the common ground but may or may not be activated by the
 54 immediate discourse. In some languages, different degrees of saliency correlate with the
 55 degree of prosodic prominence a constituent is expressed with (see further section 31.3.1).
 56 The example dialogue in (3) for instance shows a case where speaker A mentions the *cookie*
 57 and speaker B repeats the same word in the answer. The givenness status of *the cookie* affects
 58 accent assignment rules in some languages (Gussenhoven 1983; Selkirk 1995). The
 59 deaccentuation of *cookie* in combination with a focus accent on the verb constitutes discourse
 60 coherence and illustrates that a given constituent is expressed with less prosodic prominence.

- 61 (3) A: I know that John stole a cookie. What did he do then?
 62 B: He [reTURNED [the cookie.]_{Given}]_{Focus} (Krifka 2008: 264)

63 Finally, the category *topic* refers to a constituent of an utterance that a speaker chooses to give
 64 further information about in the rest of the sentence, which is usually referred to as the
 65 *comment* (Krifka 2008: 264f). A topic in this sense is usually referred to as an *aboutness*
 66 *topic*. The division of a sentence into topic-comment opens a relationship between the
 67 information conveyed by the *topic* and the information given about the *topic*. Taking the
 68 answer of the cookie example (1) as a context-free sentence, (4) illustrates that *Peter*
 69 represents the *topic*, and the following information in the *comment* is about the topic
 70 constituent *Peter*.

- 71 (4) A: [Peter]_{Topic} [stole the cookie.]_{Comment}

72 The key IS categories are illustrated here in English, which relies heavily on prosodic cues to
 73 express IS. Note however that across languages linguistic devices other than prosodic means
 74 are used to express these information structural categories (Zimmermann & Féry 2010; Féry
 75 & Ishihara 2016). By far the prosodic expression of *focus* is most studied, but we discuss the
 76 expression of *givenness* and *topic* when possible. In many studies, the category of
 77 *focus/background* is conflated with referential status of *new/given*. We comment on work that
 78 separates these when relevant.

79

80 31.3 A typology of prosodic encoding of information structure

81 31.3.1 Stress or pitch accent-based cues

82 Stress-based systems are the most well-studied type of prosodic encoding of IS, with decades
 83 of research, predominately on English. The basic pattern is that the focused word in an
 84 utterance is the most prosodically prominent (e.g. Selkirk 1995; Ladd 2008; Büring 2010,
 85 2016; Calhoun 2010). Stress-based prominence is marked by phonetic and phonological cues
 86 which increase the prominence of a word relative to others in the utterance. Phonetic cues
 87 include higher fundamental frequency (f₀), greater f₀ movement, lengthening, increased
 88 intensity and higher spectral tilt on the word, as well as a drop in f₀ after it (see summaries in
 89 Ladd 2008; Breen et al. 2010; Fletcher 2010; Turk 2011). Of these, f₀ cues are the best
 90 studied and are perceptually important (see review in Cole 2015, and references therein).

91 Intensity and lengthening are also perceptually important, at least in English (Turk &
92 Sawusch 1996; Kochanski et al. 2005; Breen et al. 2010).

93

94 <insert Figure 31.1 here>

95 Figure 31.1: Typical realisations of (1) and (4), showing how focus position affects prosodic
96 realisation. A schematic pitch realization is given, along with the prosodic phrasing,
97 intonational tune, and text, where capitals indicate the pitch accented syllable. See text for
98 further details.

99

100 Phonologically, a word is the most prominent in an utterance because its main stressed
101 syllable is the head of the largest prosodic phrase that it is part of (usually the intonation
102 phrase, ι) (Ladd 2008). The head of the ι -phrase carries a nuclear pitch accent. Therefore, as
103 established by work in the Autosegmental-Metrical (AM) framework, focus is not marked
104 directly by phonetic cues, but rather indirectly: these cues primarily mark (nuclear) pitch
105 accents, which mark focus (Selkirk 1995; Ladd 2008; Büring 2010, 2016; Calhoun 2010, inter
106 alia). This is opposed to a *direct* view, where focus is taken to be marked directly by phonetic
107 prominence (Eady et al. 1986; Xu & Xu 2005; Breen et al. 2010). Figure 31.1 illustrates
108 typical realisations of (1) and (4). Each utterance has a prosodic phrase structure
109 (phonological phrases, ϕ , and ι -phrases, shown), and an intonational tune (according to the
110 AM-ToBI scheme, see chapter 4 this volume). The nuclear accent is, by default, the final
111 pitch accent in the ι -phrase, hence on the focus *Peter* in Figure 31.1a, and *cookie* in Figure
112 31.1b. This is supported by perception studies, which show that listeners expect the nuclear
113 accent, and therefore the focus, will be final, and that a final nuclear accent is compatible with
114 variable focus scope (Ayers 1996; Terken & Hermes 2000; Carlson et al. 2009; Bishop 2012,
115 2017).

116 Pre-nuclear pitch accents may or may not mark additional foci in the sentence (Féry &
117 Samek-Lodovici 2006; Calhoun 2010), e.g. the H* accent on *Peter* in Figure 31.1b does not.
118 The prominence of pre-nuclear accents can also signal the distinction between broad and
119 narrow focus; although there is substantial overlap between realisations compatible with each
120 (Rump & Collier 1996; Ladd 2008: Ch. 7; Breen et al. 2010). Post-nuclear phonological heads
121 are either not associated with pitch accents, i.e. they are ‘de-accented’, or if there are accents
122 they appear in a compressed pitch register (Kügler & Féry 2017). Fully-fledged post-nuclear
123 accents mark focus only in constrained discourse contexts such as second occurrence focus
124 (see Beaver et al. 2007; Baumann 2016).

125 Stress-based marking of focus appears to be widespread amongst the world’s languages. It is
126 ubiquitous amongst Germanic languages (Fanselow 2016), e.g. English, German (e.g. Féry &
127 Kügler 2008), Dutch (e.g. Gussenhoven 2004) and Swedish (e.g. Bruce 1977; Myrberg &
128 Riad 2016). Stress-based marking is also commonly found in Slavic languages (Jasinskaja
129 2016), including Russian (Luchkina & Cole 2016), and other Eastern European languages
130 including Romanian (Manolescu et al. 2009), Greek (Baltazani & Jun 1999; Skopeteas 2016),
131 Romani (Arvaniti & Adamou 2011) and Estonian (Ots 2017). Stress-based focus marking is
132 also reported for Persian (Sadat-Tehrani 2007; Hosseini 2014), the Oceanic language Torau
133 (Jepson 2014) and Paraguayan Guaraní (Clopper & Tonhauser 2013).

134

135 <insert Figure 31.2 here>

136 Figure 31.2: Lebanese Arabic (a) and Egyptian Arabic (b) realisation of narrow focus on the
137 initial subject, from Chahal & Hellmuth (2014). As can be seen, post-focal words are
138 deaccented in Lebanese Arabic, but not Egyptian Arabic.

139

140 There are differences in the extent of stress-based marking of focus, however, even between
141 closely related languages, or varieties of one language. For example, Chahal & Hellmuth
142 (2014) report differences between Lebanese and Egyptian Arabic (see also Caron et al. 2015,
143 and El Zarka 2017 for an overview of varieties of Arabic). In Lebanese Arabic, a narrowly
144 focused word is nuclear accented, and any post-nuclear material deaccented (see Figure
145 31.2a); similar to English (see Figure 31.1). In Egyptian Arabic, every prosodic word (ω) is
146 pitch accented, and there is no post-nuclear deaccentuation, although the pitch range of the
147 focal accent is expanded (see Figure 31.2b). Romance languages are similar: some, including
148 European Portuguese and Mexican, Argentinian, Basque and Canarian varieties of Spanish
149 follow the standard stress-based pattern; whereas others including Madrid Spanish, Catalan
150 and Italian only use *in situ* stress-based marking in some discourse contexts, e.g. contrastive
151 focus, and post-nuclear accents are not deleted (Frota & Prieto 2015b; del Mar Vanrell &
152 Fernández-Soriano 2018); see further sections 31.3.3 and 31.4. Along with stress-based
153 marking, focus can usually also be signalled by word order, and this interacts with prosodic
154 cues to focus (see section 31.4.). However, in the standard case, *in situ* stress-based marking,
155 i.e. the nuclear accent can be in any position in the utterance, is an available, if not the
156 preferred, means of marking focus (cf. Skopeteas & Fanselow 2010).

157 As discussed in section 2, referential givenness is orthogonal to focus; although focus and
158 newness are correlated. In studies which separate focus and givenness, givenness is generally
159 associated with lower stress-based prominence and/or deaccenting, both inside and out of
160 focused constituents (e.g. Cutler et al. 1997; Baumann 2006; Féry & Kügler 2008; Baumann
161 & Riester 2012; Cole et al. 2010; Baumann & Kügler 2015). As shown in (4), in English and
162 other Germanic languages, within a multi-word focus, if the final word is highly contextually
163 salient, it is usually deaccented (Wagner 2005; Ladd 2008; Riester & Piontek 2015).
164 Similarly, given words in the *background* (non-focus) of an utterance are more likely to be
165 unaccented than new words (Gussenhoven 1983; Selkirk 1995; Féry & Kügler 2008).
166 Listeners typically find it harder to process discourses in which given items are accented, and
167 new items unaccented (Cutler et al. 1997; Baumann & Schumacher 2012). Most of the
168 empirical work in this area has been on Germanic languages, so it is unclear how widespread
169 these patterns are. The tendency to deaccent given words within a focus, e.g. (4), is found for
170 Slavic languages (Jasinskaja 2016) and Paraguayan Guaraní (Burdin et al. 2015), but not in
171 Romance languages (Ladd 2008; Swerts et al. 2002), or ‘outer circle’ varieties of English
172 including Indian English and Caribbean English (Ladd 2008). Given words have lower
173 prominence than new in unfocused positions in Hungarian (Genzel et al. 2015), but not
174 Egyptian Arabic (Hellmuth 2011).

175

176 **Types of nuclear accent or tune**

177 Along with the placement of the nuclear accent, the pitch accent and/or boundary tone type is
178 argued to play an important role in encoding IS in a variety of languages, particularly aspects
179 of IS beyond focus, principally contrast and topic status.

180 One well-studied case is Romance languages, where there is widespread consensus that the
181 nuclear accent + boundary tone configuration signals broad versus narrow/contrastive focus
182 (see Frota & Prieto 2015b for overview); with the exception of French (see section 31.3.2.). A
183 typical example is Sardinian (del Mar Vanrell et al. 2015). In broad focus, the nuclear accent

184 is usually H+L* (Figure 31.3a), while in narrow focus it is H*+L (Figure 31.3b), both
185 followed by a low boundary L%. That is, the nuclear accent peak is aligned earlier in broad
186 focus. In these languages, pre-nuclear accents are generally of one tonal type (L+H* in Figure
187 31.3), while nuclear accent (and following boundary tone) types vary and signal IS and other
188 pragmatic meanings.

189

190 <insert Figure 31.3 here>

191 Figure 31.3: Broad focus (a) and contrastive focus (b) in Sardinian, from del Mar Vanrell et
192 al. (2015).

193

194 Relatedly, in English and other Germanic languages, it is widely claimed that contrastive foci
195 are typically marked by L+H* accents, with H* for non-contrastive focus (e.g. Pierrehumbert
196 & Hirschberg 1990; Ito & Speer 2008; Watson et al. 2008). The L+H* and H* distinction,
197 has, however always been problematic, as it is difficult for annotators to make, and is the only
198 accent type distinction not based on the association of L and H tones. The most reliable cue to
199 the distinction is peak height (Ladd & Schepman 2003; Dilley 2005; Ladd 2008; Calhoun
200 2012; Repp 2016), which is experimentally confirmed for English (e.g. Welby 2003; Breen et
201 al. 2010; Katz & Selkirk 2011), Dutch (Krahmer & Swerts 2001) and German (Braun 2006;
202 Kügler & Gollrad 2015); suggesting this is better construed as a stress-based distinction.
203 Similar arguments have been made about Romance languages, i.e. the later peaks for narrow
204 focus are also often higher (e.g. see Figure 31.3), so peak alignment may be a partial proxy for
205 peak height (Gussenhoven 2004; Ladd 2008: Ch. 5; del Mar Vanrell et al. 2013; Borràs-
206 Comes et al. 2014; Repp 2016). It remains unsettled whether distinctions based on peak
207 scaling are gradient or categorical (e.g. Gussenhoven 2004; Ladd 2008: Ch. 5; Borràs-Comes
208 et al. 2014).

209 A connected issue is lack of consistency between studies as to what constitutes *contrastive*
210 *focus*: narrow focus (focus on a single word); contrastive (involving contextually identifiable
211 alternatives); or corrective (cf. (2)) (e.g. Repp 2016). It seems unlikely that any one language
212 systematically distinguishes all of these prosodically. Rather, it may be that speakers use
213 increased phonetic prominence to draw attention to foci that are contextually salient, e.g.
214 explicit contrast or corrections (Baumann et al. 2006; Calhoun 2009; Féry 2013).

215 In a number of languages, topics and foci are associated with different accent types: rising
216 accents (L+H*/L*+H) for topics and falling for foci (H*+L/L-), e.g. German (e.g. Braun
217 2006; Repp & Drenhaus 2015), English (Büring 2003; Steedman 2014), Russian (Alter &
218 Junghanns 2002), and Arabic (El Zarka 2017). This is linked to sentence position, with topics
219 typically preceding foci. Calhoun (2012) claims for English the distinction is better construed
220 as one of relative prominence, with topics less relatively prominent than foci (see also Féry
221 2007).

222 Some proposals link a greater range of tonal event types with more detailed IS frameworks
223 (see also chapter 29, this volume). For example in English, Steedman (2000; 2014) proposes
224 four orthogonal dimensions of IS, signalled by combinations of pitch accent and boundary
225 tones: background/contrast (our focus), theme-rheme (roughly topic-comment), added/not
226 added to the common ground, speaker/hearer claimed (see also Brazil 1985; Pierrehumbert &
227 Hirschberg 1990; Gussenhoven 2004; Féry 1993 and Grice et al. 2005 for German; and Prieto
228 2015 for related work on Romance). It is unlikely, however, that there is a one-to-one
229 correspondence between phonological tune types and IS expression (e.g. Féry 2008; Féry &
230 Ishihara 2016; Hirschberg et al. 2007; Zimmermann & Féry 2010).

231 The role of accent and boundary tone type in signalling IS has predominately been researched
 232 in languages with post-lexical pitch accents. However, they may have a role in other
 233 languages. For example, in Mandarin Chinese boundary tones on sentence final particles can
 234 signal meanings such as presupposition, which are part of IS (e.g. Peng et al. 2005, and
 235 references therein).

236

237 31.3.2 Phrase-based cues

238 The expression of focus by phrase-based cues first received more attention when research
 239 beyond well-studied languages like English contributed to the field. The basic insight is that
 240 the word-prosodic system of these languages predominantly does not have lexical prominence
 241 and hence focus cannot be expressed by pitch accenting as in languages with stress-based
 242 cues. The principal intonation units are phrase tones, and prosodic phrasing is the major
 243 component of intonation. The languages differ with respect to the domain that prosodic phrase
 244 markings indicate, e.g. a ω , a ϕ -phrase or an ι -phrase, but the general commonality of these
 245 languages is that focus induces additional phrase boundaries. Hence, the highlighting function
 246 of focus is expressed by separating the focused constituent from other constituents; at the
 247 same time, post-focal constituents may be integrated into the same phrase as the focussed
 248 constituent.

249 Consider Korean which neither has lexical pitch accent nor lexical stress (cf. Jun 2005a).
 250 Korean distinguishes two levels of phrasing. The ι -phrase dominates at least one accentual
 251 phrase (α), and an α consists of at least one ω . Each α is tonally marked by two rising pitch
 252 patterns. The first one is associated with the initial two moras of the α and the last one with
 253 the α -final moras (5b). There is some variation as to the initial rise: if the α -initial consonant
 254 is tense or aspirated the α -initial tone is H (Jun 1998, 2005a). Phrase-final lengthening in
 255 combination with a low boundary tone demarcates the ι -phrase, whereas the α shows no final
 256 lengthening.

257 A prosodic boundary is consistently inserted before a focused constituent (Jeon & Nolan
 258 2017; Jun & Kim 2007; Jun & Lee 1998; Yang 2017), while following words tend to be in the
 259 same ϕ as the focused constituent (5c). Jeon & Nolan also observe a tendency for the focused
 260 constituent to be more likely realized as an ι -phrase. In addition, all researchers showed that
 261 the focused constituent was realized with higher phrase-initial pitch, longer duration, and
 262 higher intensity. In this sense, Korean overlaps with languages that use stress-based cues to
 263 mark focus (see section 31.3.1). However, one may interpret these cues as a phonetic effect
 264 while focus phrasing may be phonological (cf. Jun & Lee 1998).

- 265 (5) a. miraneka neil tʃɔnjəke bananaril məkninte
 266 mira.family.GEN tomorrow night banana.PL eat.PROG
 267 ‘Mira’s family is eating bananas tomorrow night.’
 268 b. phrasing in broad focus
 269 ((LH LH) ϕ (LH LH) ϕ (LH LH) ϕ (LH LH) ϕ (LH L) ϕ L%) ι
 270 c. phrasing in narrow focus, e.g. focus on second ϕ -phrase
 271 ((LH LH) ϕ (LH L) ϕ L%) ι

272 (Korean, Jun & Lee 1998; prosodic phrasing is our own)

273 For the Bantu language Chichewa, Kanerva (1990) analyses the effect of focus as an insertion
 274 of a prosodic boundary at the right edge of a focused constituent. Bantu languages are known
 275 for phrase-penultimate vowel lengthening. In (6a), the penultimate vowel of the phrase-final
 276 noun *mwála* ‘rock’ undergoes lengthening. In (6), focus within a VP takes the verb as the left
 277 edge of the prosodic phrase until the right edge of the focused constituent (Kanerva 1990:

278 157). Any following unfocused constituents form each their own prosodic phrasal domain
279 (7c/d). For a more complex analysis of the interaction of focus and prosodic phrasing in
280 Chichewa see Downing et al. (2004) and Downing & Pompino-Marschall (2013), who
281 however base their analysis on speakers of a different variety of Chichewa.

- 282 (6) a. VP focus: What did he do?
283 (Anaményá nyumbá ndí mwáála)φ
284 he hit the house with a rock
285 ‘He hit the house with a rock.’
286 b. PP focus: What did he hit the house with?
287 (Anaményá nyumbá ndí mwáála)φ
288 c. Object focus: What did he hit with the rock?
289 (Anaményá nyuúmba)φ (ndí mwáála)φ
290 d. Verb focus: What did he do to the house with the rock?
291 (Anaméénya)φ (nyuúmba)φ (ndí mwáála)φ
292 (Chichewa, adapted from Kanerva 1990: 156)

293 Languages thus differ as to where a phrase boundary is inserted: While in Korean a boundary
294 left of the focus is inserted, in Chichewa it is at the right of the focus. Further languages
295 which show similar phrasing patterns under focus are French (Féry 2001; Jun & Fougeron
296 1995, 2000), Japanese (Beckman & Pierrehumbert 1986; Venditti et al. 2008), Georgian
297 (Skopeteas & Féry submitted), Shingazidja (Patin 2016), and Xhosa (Jokweni 1995; Zerbian
298 2004).

299 31.3.3 Register-based cues

300 Another strategy in a number of languages is that IS affects the pitch register. Pitch register
301 defines reference lines relative to which local tonal targets are scaled (Clements 1979; Ladd
302 2008). This type of cue is similar to stress-based cues in that it involves increasing the
303 prominence, particularly pitch scaling, of the focused element, and/or it involves the reduction
304 of prominence by compressing the post-focal pitch register; however, this is not achieved
305 through pitch accenting, as these languages generally do not have post-lexical pitch accents. It
306 is also similar to phrase-based cues, in that they also frequently involve pitch scaling,
307 however, in the case of the languages discussed in this section, this is not straight-forwardly
308 related to phrasing (though see further section 31.5).

309 In Mandarin, the pitch register effects under focus are well-studied (Xu 1999; Chen et al.
310 2016). Two prosodic effects occur, both of which preserve its lexical tones. First, the focused
311 word exhibits a change in f_0 that depends on the lexical tone: compared to broad focus,
312 maximum f_0 for H tones is raised, including the beginning of HL and the end of LH; while
313 minimum f_0 is lowered for L tones, including the end of HL and the beginning of LH. That is,
314 there is a register expansion affecting both the top-line and the bottom-line of the register (Xu
315 1999:69), in addition to an increasing duration (Chen 2006; Chen & Braun 2006). Second, the
316 f_0 after the focused word is lowered, named post-focus compression (PFC) (Xu 1999; 2011;
317 Xu et al. 2012).

318 Hindi likewise is best characterised as using register-based cues to mark focus prosodically.
319 In this case, there is minimal effect of focal raising, but clear post-focal compression (Patil et
320 al. 2008). In Figure 31.4 compression can be seen on the object in SOV order and the subject
321 in OSV order, with only a small raising on the focused subject in SOV order. The register
322 effect thus appears post-focally and correlates with givenness in Patil et al. (2008). Post-focal
323 compression also functions as a cue to focus perception (Kügler submitted). Other languages
324 that seem best described as register-based are West Greenlandic (Arnhold 2014), Georgian
325 (Skopeteas & Féry submitted), Jaminjung (Simard 2010: 214ff), Serbo-Croatian (with post-

326 focal compression similar to Hindi) (Godjevac 2005), and Akan, with a general register
327 lowering effect of focus, even for lexical H tones (Kügler & Genzel 2012).

328

329 <insert Figure 31.4 here>

330 Figure 31.4: Time-normalized pitch tracks in different focus conditions in Hindi, based on
331 five measuring points per constituent, showing the mean across 20 speakers. SOV (left) and
332 OSV word order (right). The comparisons of interest are subject focus (dotted line) and object
333 focus (dashed line) with respect to broad focus (solid line); from Patil et al. (2008: 61).

334

335 As for topics, a thorough study on the effects of focus and topic in Mandarin revealed that
336 while topic raises the f₀ register at the beginning of the sentence, after the topic f₀ drops
337 gradually (Wang & Xu 2011). Hence there is no post-topic compression unlike for foci. The
338 amount of topic raising differs from that of focal raising.

339

340 **31.4 Syntax-prosody interaction and non-prosodic marking systems**

341 In many languages, syntax is an essential means to encode IS, affecting word ordering and the
342 choice of syntactic construction (see Féry & Ishihara 2016). In many of these languages, there
343 are alignments between prosodic and syntactic encoding of IS, leading to proposals that
344 syntactic encoding of IS is often prosodically motivated. Languages may use a syntactic *focus*
345 *position*, most commonly either sentence-initial or -final (e.g. see Rebuschi & Tuller 1999;
346 Drubig & Schaffar 2001; Neeleman et al. 2009; Féry & Ishihara 2016). Sentence-initially,
347 often a specific construction such as a cleft is used (e.g. Lambrecht 2001; Hedberg 2013;
348 Cesare 2014), where the focus in the cleft generally represents the highest prosodic
349 prominence, while the post-focal main clause has reduced prominence (Lambrecht 2001; del
350 Mar Vanrell & Fernández-Soriano 2018).

351 Word order type of the language and the syntactic focus position appear to covary. In verb-
352 initial languages, an initial focus position seems to be common, and often coincides with the
353 position of nuclear prominence (Herring 1990; Longacre 1995; Simard & Wegener 2017). For
354 example, in Hungarian, narrowly focused items obligatorily appear immediately before the
355 (finite) verb, i.e. initial apart from any preverbal topics (e.g. Kiss 2002; Szendroi 2003). The
356 preverbal position is also the position of the nuclear accent in Hungarian, so the focus must be
357 placed here to align with the nuclear prominence. Narrow focus in Hungarian is marked by
358 increased prosodic prominence on the focused word and/or lowering of accent peaks and
359 deaccenting in the post-focal region, and corrective (exclusive) focus is marked by increasing
360 the relative prominence of the focus compared to the post-focal region (Genzel et al. 2015).
361 Other verb-initial languages reported to have an initial focus position that coincides with the
362 nuclear prominence include Māori (Bauer 1997), Samoan (Calhoun 2015) and probably other
363 Polynesian languages (e.g. Clemens 2014), the Oceanic language Gela (Simard & Wegener
364 2017), the Berber language Tamasheq (Caron et al. 2015), and the Australian language
365 Dalabon (Fletcher 2014); though see later in this section for counter cases.

366 Sentence-final focus is common for SVO languages, where the default nuclear prominence
367 position is final, e.g. most Romance languages (Zubizarreta 1998; Ladd 2008; Frota & Prieto
368 2015a; Büring 2010). For example, in Madrid Spanish foci must be nuclear accented, and the
369 nuclear accent must occur in phrase-final position. The prosodic marking of focus in Madrid
370 Spanish is effectively the same as a standard stress-based system (see section 31.3.1), except
371 that the tendency that the nuclear accent should appear in phrase-final position is weaker than

372 a tendency against non-canonical word order. Note that there is considerable variation within
373 Romance languages, including between varieties of Spanish, in the extent to which they show
374 *in situ* stress-based focus marking (Frota & Prieto 2015b; del Mar Vanrell & Fernández-
375 Soriano 2018).

376 In verb-final languages, the focus position is often immediately before the verb, which
377 correlates with nuclear prominence, with the verb consistently produced with lower pitch, e.g.
378 Hindi (Patil et al. 2008; Féry et al. 2016), Bengali (Hayes & Lahiri 1991), Turkish (Vallduví
379 & Engdahl 1996; Kamali 2011) and Basque (Elordieta & Hualde 2014).

380 There are a growing number of languages, however, where morphological and/or syntactic
381 focus marking has not been found to correlate with any distinct prosodic marking. For
382 instance, like other Mayan languages the tone language Yucatec Maya has a preverbal focus
383 position, syntactically analysed as a cleft construction (Kügler et al. 2007: 189; Verhoeven &
384 Skopeteas 2015: 3), and canonical word order is VOS. Kügler & Skopeteas (2006) show that
385 the prosody of preverbal focused words does not differ from comparable non-focused words
386 (cf. also Gussenhoven & Teeuw 2008). Moreover, Kügler & Skopeteas (2007) present
387 quantitative evidence that *in situ* focus on adjectives in an object NP does not affect the tonal
388 realisation either. Similar results as in Yucatec Maya are found for the intonation languages
389 Wolof (Rialland & Robert 2001) and Nleʔkepmxcin (Thompson River Salish) (Koch 2008),
390 and for other African tone languages like Sotho (Zerbian 2007a; Zerbian et al. 2010), Hausa
391 (Hartmann & Zimmermann 2007), Buli (Schwarz 2009), and further ones discussed in
392 Downing & Rialland (2016b), and the Athabaskan languages Beaver (Schwiertz 2009) and
393 Navajo (McDonough 2002) as well as in Malay and other varieties of Indonesian (e.g.
394 Maskikit-Essed & Gussenhoven 2016), for which it is shown that neither stress nor prosodic
395 focus is perceptually detected (Goedemans & van Zanten 2007; Roosman 2007).

396 The initial position is also associated with topics, with many languages placing topic
397 constituents initially which may or may not be integrated syntactically with the rest of the
398 clause (e.g. see Gundel & Fretheim 2004; Neeleman et al. 2009). A commonly found pattern
399 is that initial topics form their own ι -phrase, and unlike foci, are not accompanied by any
400 prominence reduction in post-topical material. Languages where this pattern is reported
401 include Hungarian (Surányi et al. 2012; Genzel et al. 2015), German (Féry 2011), Māori
402 (Bauer 1997), Gela (Simard & Wegener 2017), the West African language Zaar, Juba and
403 Tripoli Arabic (Caron et al. 2015), Russian (Alter & Junghanns 2002) and the Australian
404 language Jaminjung (Simard 2010).

405

406 **31.5 Unified accounts**

407 In this chapter, languages are grouped by the main type of prosodic cue each uses to encode
408 IS. However, rather than being independent strategies, it is frequently proposed that these are
409 different instantiations of a general principle of prosodic focus marking (e.g. Truckenbrodt
410 1995; Zubizarreta 1998; Gussenhoven 2008; Büring 2010; Féry 2013). All three types of cue
411 have been argued to encompass the other two: *focus as prominence*, *focus as alignment* and
412 *focus as register*.

413 The most commonly proposed unifying principle is *prominence*, i.e. the smallest prosodic unit
414 (e.g. ω) containing the focus is the most prominent in the largest containing the focus (e.g. ι -
415 phrase) (e.g. Truckenbrodt 1995, Samek-Lodovici 2005, Büring 2010). This is consistent with
416 the pre-linguistic *effort code* (Gussenhoven 2002). Importantly, prominence is an abstract
417 property, so cues may differ between languages. For phrase-based systems, it is argued
418 prominence is at the phrasal level, which can be positional (Büring 2010). For example, as
419 was shown in Korean, ϕ -phrases to the right of the focus are deleted (section 31.3.2), making

420 the focused φ -phrase right-most in the ι -phrase, and hence the most prominent (cf. analysis in
421 Büring 2010). Consistent with this, the focused phrase is phonetically prominent. However,
422 not all such languages show clear correlates of phonetic prominence of the focus, e.g.
423 Chichewa (Downing & Pompino-Marschall 2013), weakening this claim. For register-based
424 systems, pitch range expansion can be argued to mark ι -level prominence. Consistent with
425 this, in Mandarin Chinese, lexical tones in focused words have more distinct f0 contours, and
426 less coarticulatory effects (Chen et al. 2016). Syntactic and non-marking languages fit the
427 principle where the syntactic focus position aligns with the default nuclear stress (see section
428 31.4). However, when there are no clear cues to nuclear stress, it is hard to see the theory-
429 external evidence these fit the principle.

430 Féry (2013) proposes an alternative principle of *alignment* (see also Koch 2008). She claims
431 cross-linguistically the strongest tendency is for focused constituents to be aligned with the
432 left or right edge of a phrase, usually the ι -phrase, or sometimes the φ -phrase; with
433 prominence being secondary, and separable from alignment. For stress-based systems, she
434 argues nuclear stress is also phrasal, as it marks a φ -phrase head, therefore, e.g. in Germanic
435 languages the nuclear accent is right-aligned as it is the right-most phrase head, cf. Figure
436 31.1, Büring (2010), and Truckenbrodt (1995). However, the phonetic cues to the assumed φ -
437 phrase boundaries are often weak, e.g. after *Peter* in Figure 31.1a, weakening this claim. For
438 syntactic and non-marking languages, similarly to the prominence-led approach, it is difficult
439 to see the theory-external evidence for alignment where this does not involve phonetic cues to
440 phrasing. Furthermore, it is not clear in this approach why alignment and prominence so often
441 co-occur, if they are independent.

442 To our knowledge a fully-fledged *focus as register* theory has not been advocated for.
443 However, in current approaches register reference lines are often assumed for languages with
444 stress-based systems, implying a view of prominence encompassing stress and phrase-based
445 systems (e.g. German Féry & Kügler 2008; Kügler & Féry 2017; Truckenbrodt 2002). Focal
446 prominence raises the pitch register line across a phrase: affecting pitch accent height in a
447 stress-based system, and the whole phrase in a phrase-based system. Féry & Ishihara (2010)
448 further propose focus raises the register while givenness lowers it; however languages differ
449 in the extent of raising/compression. For example, post-focal and givenness compression is
450 almost complete in English and German (Kügler & Féry 2017), but only partial in Mandarin
451 (Xu 1999) and Hindi (Patil et al. 2008), allowing tonal distinctions to be maintained in
452 Mandarin.

453 These unifying principle accounts are appealing and explanatory over a wide range of
454 languages, however, for all three there remain cases which fit awkwardly at best, especially
455 for languages without any clear prosodic cues to focus. Rather, these would appear to be
456 separate, though overlapping approaches. The details of where they overlap, and the extent to
457 which they do, need much more empirical investigation.

458

459 **31.6 Evaluation and considerations for future research**

460 From the discussion of the different languages in this chapter, it emerges that certain prosodic
461 characteristics of a language often entail certain types of prosodic encoding of IS. For
462 instance, if a language has stress it most likely uses stress-based cues, or if a language uses
463 predominantly phrase tones to mark intonation units it most likely uses phrase-based cues.
464 However, this is not without exceptions. Further, as discussed in the previous section, future
465 work in this area needs to provide more evidence to argue for a *prominence* view, a *phrasing*
466 view or a *register* view of the expression of focus.

467 One important topic which we have not had space to cover in this chapter is methodology.
468 Eliciting IS means to elicit both *mental states* of speakers and hearers and the *linguistic means*
469 used to convey these mental states. It is not clear that classical tests, i.e. mini-dialogues such
470 as question-answer pairs (cf. Krifka 2008; section 31.2) are sufficient to generate the
471 appropriate mental states; more interactive tasks may be preferred (e.g. *Questionnaire of*
472 *Information Structure* (QUIS), Skopeteas et al. 2006; Calhoun 2015; Genzel & Kügler 2010;
473 Kügler et al. 2007; Kügler & Genzel 2014; Chen 2018). Elicitation materials need to be
474 carefully constructed, and measured, to control for other effects such as tonal context and
475 segmental influences (cf. Calhoun 2015; Genzel et al. 2015; Wang & Xu 2011; Kügler &
476 Genzel 2012; Féry & Kügler 2008). Further, the majority of studies discussed rely on the
477 acoustic analysis of production data. Only a few studies examine whether listeners perceive
478 and process the prosodic cues according to their pragmatic IS manipulations (e.g. Baumann &
479 Schumacher 2012; Dilley & Heffner 2013; Kügler submitted; Kügler & Gollrad 2015; Ladd
480 & Morton 1997; Rump & Collier 1996; Zerbian 2007a). This is important, e.g. to determine if
481 prominence or phrasing cues are primary.
482

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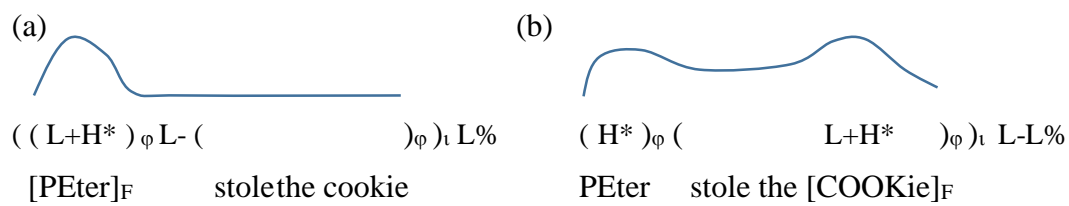
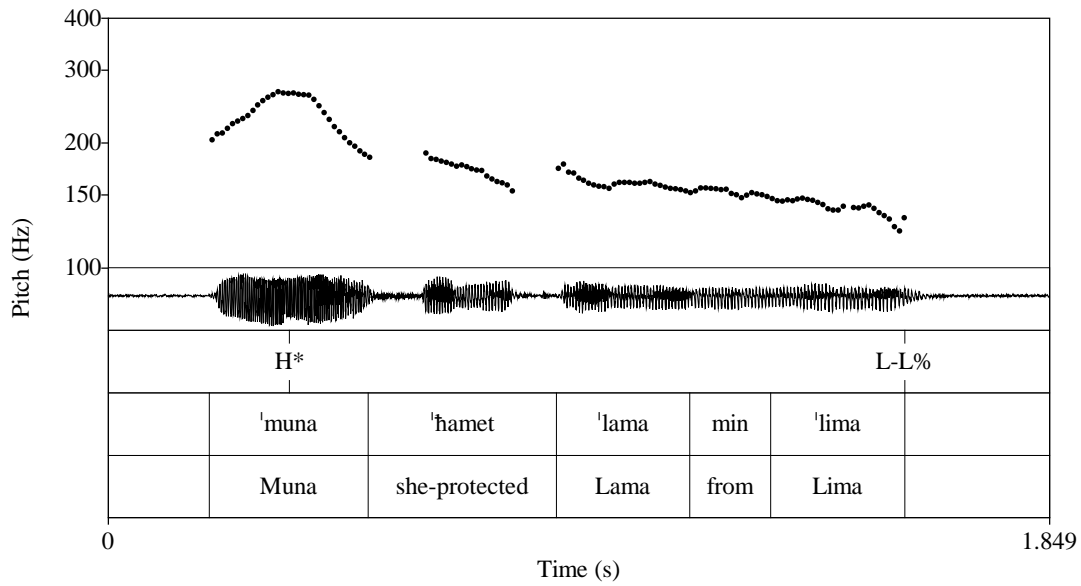


Figure 31.1: Typical realisations of (1) and (4), showing how focus position affects prosodic realisation. A schematic pitch realization is given, along with the prosodic phrasing, intonational tune, and text, where capitals indicate the pitch accented syllable. See text for further details.

(a)



(b)

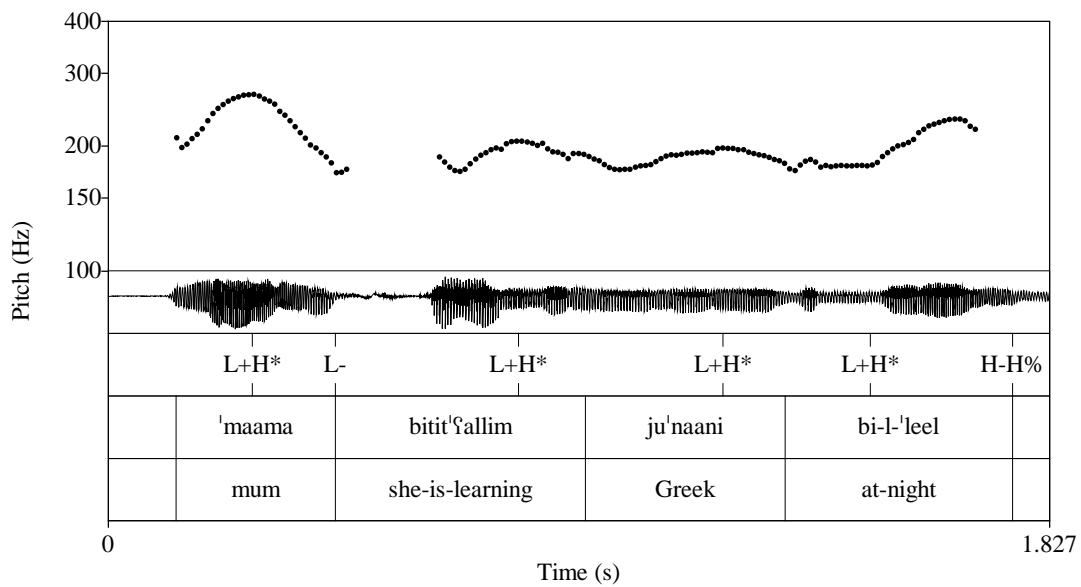
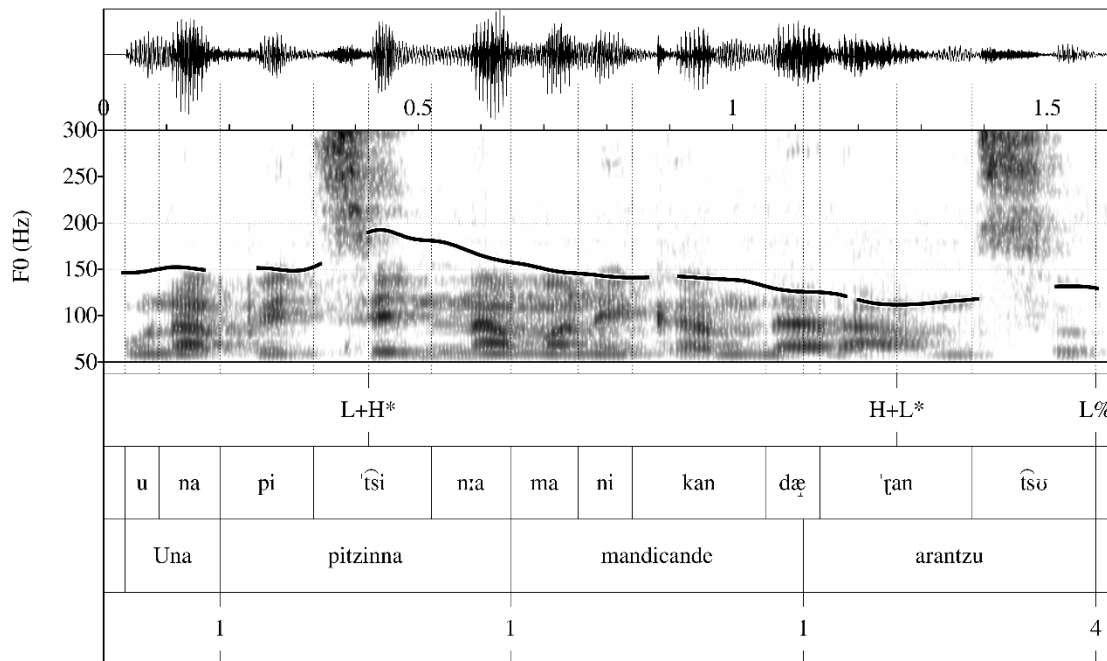


Figure 31.2: Lebanese Arabic (a) and Egyptian Arabic (b) realisation of narrow focus on the initial subject, from Chahal & Hellmuth (2014). As can be seen, post-focal words are deaccented in Lebanese Arabic, but not Egyptian Arabic.

(a)



(b)

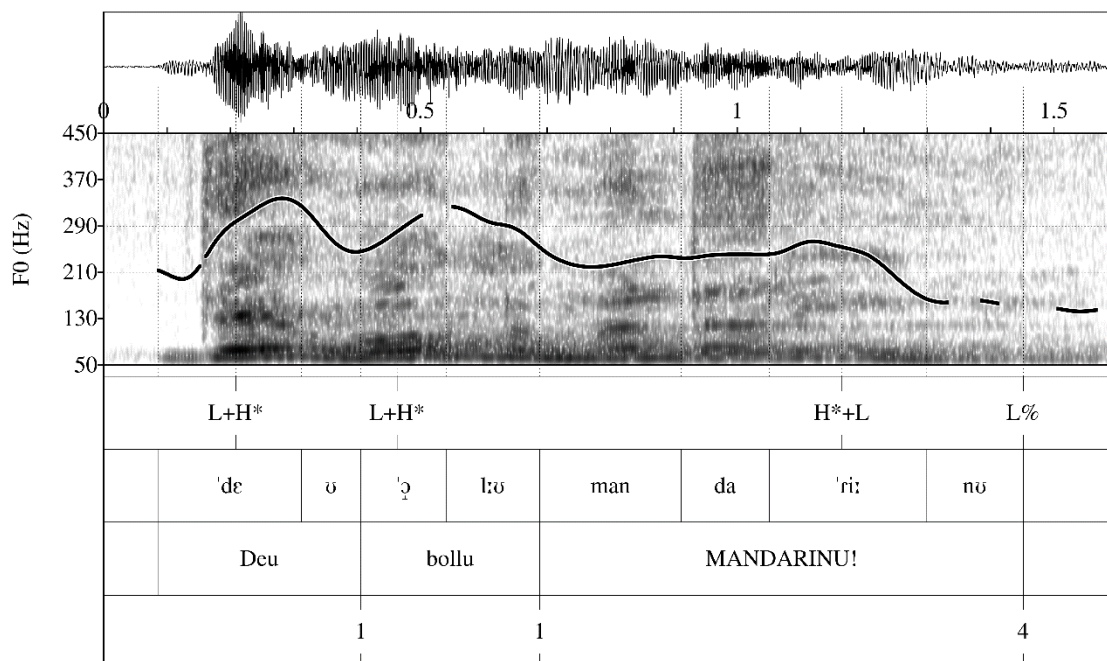


Figure 31.3: Broad focus (a) and contrastive focus (b) in Sardinian, from del Mar Vanrell et al. (2015).

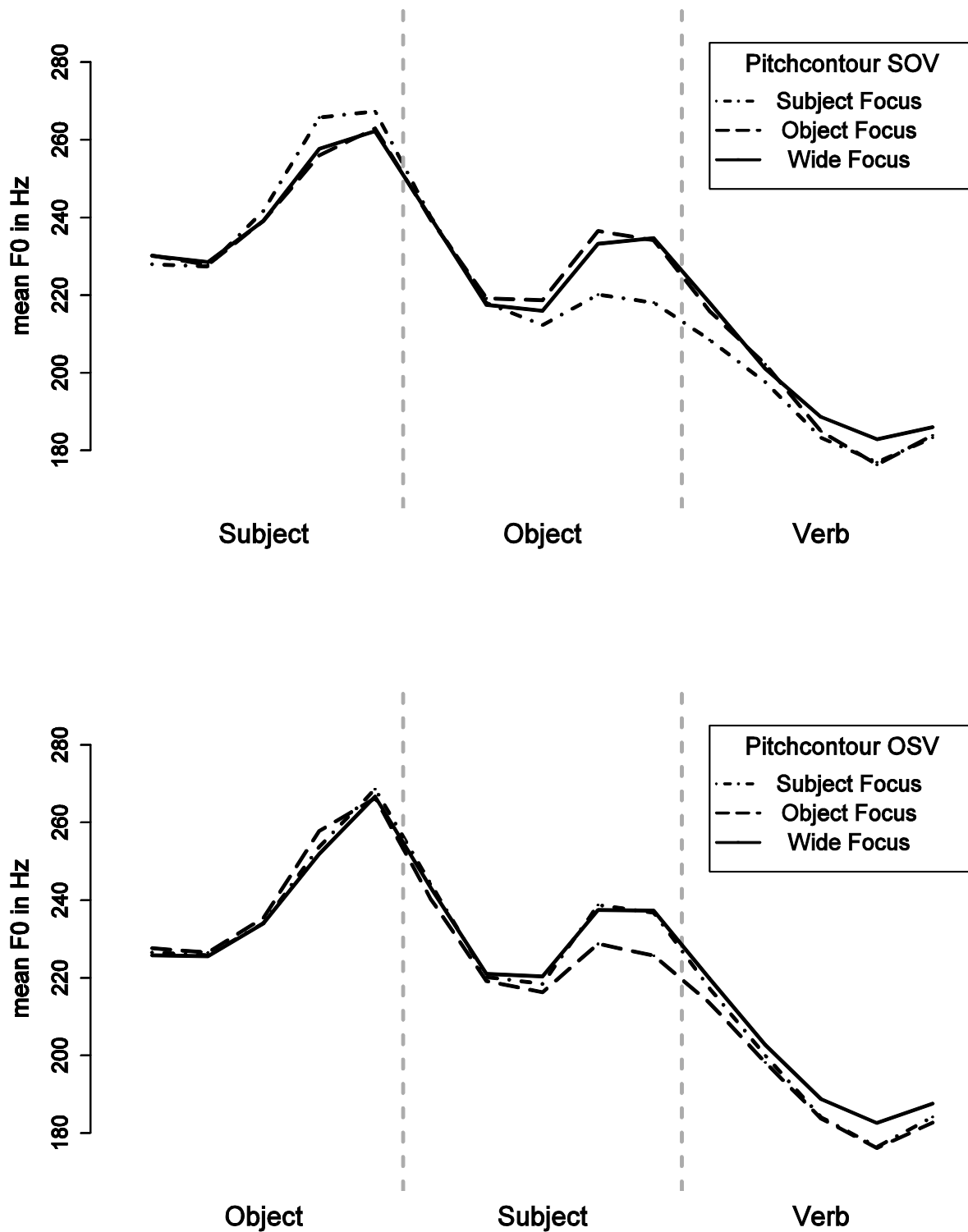


Figure 31.4: Time-normalized pitch tracks in different focus conditions in Hindi, based on five measuring points per constituent, showing the mean across 20 speakers. SOV (left) and OSV word order (right). The comparisons of interest are subject focus (dotted line) and object focus (dashed line) with respect to broad focus (solid line); from Patil et al. (2008: 61).