Romance Intonation.
Introduction

I am pleased to present to you the second issue of *Catalan Journal of Linguistics* on Romance intonation. The papers collected in this volume are concerned with a wide range of topics which reflect the work that is being conducted at present in this field. They have been written by specialists who devote their current work to describing the intonational systems of Romance languages and to discussing some of the theoretical questions posed in intonational phonology. I trust the volume will contribute to broaden the empirical and theoretical studies of prosody within the Romance area and will spark further interest and inquiry into the area of intonational phonology.

Over the past few years, prosody, and specially intonation, have been very productively analysed within the phonetics and phonology disciplines, and notably within a new interdisciplinary area of research called «laboratory phonology». This collaboration has signified a substantial improvement on our understanding of intonational phenomena. Phonetic evidence is crucial to answer many phonological issues about the behavior and linguistic representation of intonation. Within the autosegmental approach, quantitative and phonetic analyses are especially important to describe the phonological properties and tonal contrasts present in a language. A good portion of the articles included in this volume use phonetic evidence from alignment and timing of F0 contours to examine the phonological properties of a given intonational event. Mariapaola D'Imperio's contribution «Tonal structure and pitch targets in Italian focus constituents» investigates the tonal structure of the focal accent in narrow focus statements of Neapolitan Italian. Tonal as well as timing evidence point to the existence of a medial low tonal target (L) which is closely related with the following H tone. This data support the hypothesis that the nuclear focal accent is a rising LH gesture that should be analyzed separately from the utterance-final tonal boundary event. Eva Estebas's article «The modelling of prenuclear accents in Central Catalan declaratives» argues that prenuclear rising accents in Catalan declarative sentences should be interpreted as a combination of an L* pitch accent and an H word edge tone, as her quantitative results show that the F0 peak is consistently 'anchored' at the end of the word regardless of the number of post-accented syllables. Gorka Elordieta's article «The Spanish intonation of speakers of a Basque pitch-accent dialect» describes the main intonation features of broad focus declaratives in the variety of Spanish spoken by native speakers of Northern Bizkaian Basque. Prenuclear accented syllables display a rise

in pitch which starts at the end of the preceding syllable and ends within the limits of the accented syllable. This H alignment pattern contrasts with that of Peninsular Spanish. On the basis of this quantitative data, Elordieta concludes that the most appropriate autosegmental label for this accent is L+H*, contrasting with the usual L*+H claimed for Peninsular Spanish. Sónia Frota offers a new phonological account of initial peaks of statements in European Portuguese in the article «The phonological status of initial peaks in European Portuguese.» She finds evidence for two types of phonologically distinct peaks: an accentual peak that is consistently aligned relative to the first stressed syllable; and a phrasal peak that is aligned relative to the left-edge of the intonational phrase and within the limits of the first prosodic word. These data support a proposal whereby the former is represented by an H* accent, whereas the latter is an H tone with a peripheral association to the left-edge of the intonational phrase and a secondary association with the first prosodic word.

The prosody of focus in Spanish has been analysed from different perspectives. In the article «The manifestation of intonational focus in Castilian Spanish», Mercedes Cabrera-Abreu and María Luisa García-Lecumberri present an analysis of intonational focus in Castilian Spanish within the single-tone model put forward by the first author within the Government Phonology framework. They propose that downstep is one of the intonational signallers of focus in this language and account for this phenomenon by assuming that the constituent licensing the focal item is preceded by an intonation group whose nuclear constituent is empty and shows toneless boundaries which are responsible for the observed downstep effect.

One of the converging points in intonational research nowadays is the view that the methodology of studying intonation has to enlarge its scope of study to spontaneous speech and unavoidably take pragmatic factors into consideration. More and more, experimental settings include tasks that require subjects to use spontaneous speech. At least four of the studies included in this volume use spontaneous speech as their main source of data, some of them revealing the urgent need to incorporate pragmatic analysis into the description of intonation. For example, Timothy Face's contribution «Intonation in Spanish Declaratives: Differences between lab speech and spontaneous speech» finds that there are notable differences between the intonation of broad focus declaratives in lab speech and spontaneous speech regarding intonational features such as F0 peak alignment, downstepping, final lowering and deaccenting. Martine Grice and Michelina Savino's article «Map Tasks in Italian: Asking Questions about Given, Accessible and New Information» demonstrates, by means of a map task corpus, that there is an intonational difference between information-seeking and confirmation-seeking questions in Bari Italian: questions about truly new information, where the speaker believes that the information is not shared, have a rising pitch accent (L+H*), whereas questions about truly given information, where the speaker believes that the information is mutually active, are expressed with a falling accent (H*+L in a more contrastive setting, and H+L* otherwise). This result confirms that intonation pitch contours explicitly signal information status. The article by Marta Payà, «Prosody

and Pragmatics in Parenthetical Insertions in Catalan» examines a set of parenthetical insertions coming from a corpus of spontaneous speech acts (Corpus Oral del Català) and proposes that the pitch contour of these parentheticals is related to politeness and discourse typology (in this case, narrative vs. dialogue): it is found that parentheticals usually end in a final fall when there is a high degree of confidence between interlocutors; by contrast, a final rising structure is found in interviews in which the degree of confidence between participants is smaller and their roles are unequal. Juan Manuel Sosa's contribution «Wh-Questions in Spanish: Meanings and Configuration Variability» describes the different tonal configurations found in wh-questions in several Latin American Spanish varieties and their pragmatic and interactional meanings, using both read and spontaneous speech. Even though the unmarked configuration is the descending one, some dialects have a preference for rising contours in read speech. Also, globally rising contours also occur in natural speech, being used as confirmation or reprise wh-questions.

Another important current issue in prosodic phonology is the interaction between prosody and syntax. In the article «Prosody and sentence disambiguation in European Portuguese», Marina Vigário examines several types of structural ambiguities in European Portuguese. She concludes that structural ambiguity is not always cued by prosody, and it may be resolved by prosodic means that are optional. Moreover, some phrasing options are only available under some specific interpretations. On the other hand, Lluïsa Astruc's «Sentence External Elements in Catalan» demonstrates that these elements show a remarkable degree of isomorphism between prosodic form and syntactic structure. She concludes that sentence-external elements are cued by a combination of prosodic factors which signal prosodic independence (final lengthening, tonal boundaries, pauses) and prosodic dependence (subordination to main phrase by means of contour reduplication).

Finally, José Ignacio Hualde's article «Remarks on the diachronic reconstruction of intonational patterns in Romance with special attention to Occitan as a bridge language» represents an interesting incursion into the analysis of the prosodic system of proto-Romance considered on the basis of some newly analyzed data from Occitan.

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