Prosodic Typology: Intonational tone types and functions

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Prosodic typology is typology of prosodic properties by which we can classify languages and capture similarities and differences across languages. Prosodic properties employed in languages can include properties that are relevant at the lexical level as well as the postlexical level. At the lexical level, languages differ whether a word is lexically specified with stress, or pitch, or both stress and pitch, or none of them (e.g., Beckman 1984, Jun 2005, 2014, Ladd 1996/2008; but see Hyman 2006). At the postlexical level, languages are more similar in that all languages have intonation but differ in the types of intonational tones they have and how the tones mark prosodic prominence and prosodic structure. Based on lexical prosody and intonational phonology of typologically diverse languages, Jun (2005, 2014) classified languages in three groups by the way they make a word prominent in both broad focus and narrow focus conditions; 1) Head-prominence: a word becomes prominent by marking the head of a word (by a pitch accent or tone), 2) Edge-prominence: a word becomes prominent by marking the edge of a word (by a boundary tone of a Prosodic Word or an Accentual Phrase (AP)), and 3) Head/Edge-prominence: a word becomes prominent by marking both the head and the edge of a word. Head-prominence languages were predicted to have lexical prosody but do not have an AP-like prosodic unit (e.g., English, German), while Edge-prominence languages were predicted to have no lexical prosody but have an AP-like prosodic unit (e.g., Korean, West Greenlandic), and Head/Edge-prominence languages were predicted to have both lexical prosody and an AP-like prosodic unit (e.g., Japanese, Bengali). In this talk, I will refine this typology further by examining intonational tone types and functions in the models of intonational phonology of new languages, especially Paraguayan Guarani, Farasani Arabic, and Tatar, and conclude with a discussion.