Stress and feet

A. Overview

(1) Outline:
   a. a game;
   b. phonetics;
   c. general typology;
   d. metrical theory: feet;
   e. metrical theory: the rest

B. A game

(2) The “name game” is a language game of English that is sensitive to stress (Hammond, 1990). There are all sorts of interesting properties related to syllable structure as well, but those are not relevant here.

(3) Mike, Mike bo-bike
    Banana-fana fo-fike
    Me my mo-mike
    Mi–ike

(4) Names that “work” must have a single stress on the first syllable and be one or two syllables long. For some speakers, three-syllabled names are also acceptable.

(5) Some questions:
    a. why this pattern?;
    b. why is three syllables not clear?;
    c. can names be altered?

C. Phonetics

(6) The classic reference for the phonetics of suprasegmentals is Lehiste (1970).

(8) There is no universal cue for stress. For some of these, there isn’t even a universal direction for which end of the scale marks stress.

(9) In English, stressed syllables tend to be longer, louder, and higher, but this is not always the case.

(10) Is stress a more general cognitive category of prominence? If so, are the phonetics irrelevant? Alternatively, do the different phonetic manifestations of stress bear on its phonology?

D. General Typology

(11) Not all languages have stress. For example, Hausa is claimed to not have stress.


(13) There are at least four basic kinds of stress systems:
   a. morphological;
   b. quantitative;
   c. periodic;
   d. demarcative

(14) Morphological, e.g. Russian, Sanskrit, etc. Morphemes can be marked as stressed or stressless and as dominant or recessive.

(15) Quantitative, e.g. E. Cheremis, Khalkha, etc. Stress is attracted to a heavy syllable of some sort. What can contribute to heaviness is a huge debate.

(16) Periodic, e.g. Maranunngku, Warao, etc. Stress occurs every two or three syllables counting from one edge or the other.

(17) Demarcative, e.g. French, Czech, etc. Stress occurs at the periphery of a word, phrase, morpheme.

E. Metrical Theory: Feet

(18) Four general theories:
   a. linear: Chomsky and Halle (1968);
   b. parametric: Hayes (1981);
   c. asymmetric: Hayes (1987); McCarthy and Prince (1993); Hayes (1995);
   d. bracketed grid: Idsardi (1992)
(19) Linear:
   a. Stress Subordination Convention;
   b. \( n \)-ary stress feature;
   c. abstractness and the cycle

(20) Parametric:
   a. hierarchical structure;
   b. symmetric inventory;
   c. cross-cutting parameters

(21) Asymmetric:
   a. iamb, syllabic trochee, moraic trochee;
   b. no parameters;
   c. related overtly to length

(22) Bracketed grid:
   a. parametric operations of grid construction;
   b. asymmetric edgedness;
   c. rules

(23) Some other systems:
   a. Prince (1983);
   b. Hammond (1988, 1987a);
   c. Burzio (1994)

F. **Metrical Theory: The Rest**

(24) There are lots of other issues that are relevant that come out of stress theory.

(25) Superfeet/cola/metra. Binary or ternary units that group feet together (Hammond, 1987b).

(26) Not all stresses are created equally, e.g. main stress, stress at the right edge, stress adjacent to another stress, etc.

(27) What role does tone/pitch play, either when it’s an autonomous system or when it is assigned to a stress structure.
G. References


