
Syntactic integration of sentential intonation

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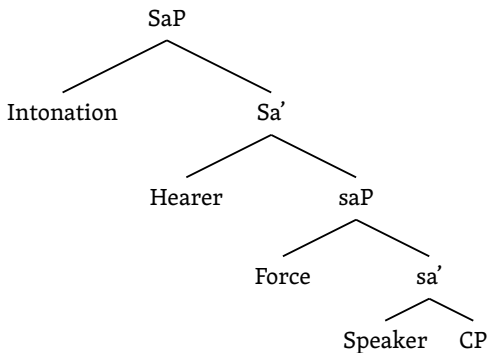
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This paper proposes a reorganization of the left periphery that situates force in a discourse-oriented, complex projection above CP to include prosodic information in the derivation of speech acts. This is necessary to arrive at different speech act (SA) interpretations among constructions of identical clause type and sentential intonation exemplified below:

- (1) a. It is raining. (↘) [*falling declarative*, SA: assertion]
 b. It is raining? (↗) [*rising declarative*, SA: question]
 c. It is raining. (↗) [*uptalk*, SA: assertion]

The declarative sentences in (1) show that intonation does not map onto a unique speech act, and speech acts do not map onto specific intonational contours. Only a combination of structural and prosodic properties can derive the different interpretations. I propose to expand the 'syntactization of discourse' (Speas & Tenny 2003) to include prosodic information in a discourse-related projection replacing the traditional ForceP. Force and an Intonation occur in the specifier positions of a complex speech act phrase with a speaker- and an addressee-oriented projection (Lam 2014).



References: • Lam, Z. (2014). A Complex ForceP for Speaker- and Addressee-oriented Discourse Par-

ticles in Cantonese. SCL 35: 61-80. • Speas, M. & Tenny, C. (2003). Configurational properties of point of view roles. AiG 1, 315-345.