A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF TIMING AND RHYTHM IN SPEECH

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Speech rhythm is traditionally defined as recurrence of stressed syllables at more or less equal intervals of time in a speech continuum. We can also find a more detailed definition of speech rhythm as the regular alternation of acceleration and slowing down, of relaxation and intensification, of length and brevity, of similar and dissimilar elements within a speech event. It seems that the enclitic tendency (the initial unstressed syllables follow the nucleus) is more typical of English, though in speech flow it is sometimes difficult to define the borders of rhythmic groups, e.g. The more organized the speech is the more rhythmical it appears, poetry being the most extreme example of this. Prose read aloud or delivered in the form of a lecture is more rhythmic than colloquial speech. Experimental phonetic research on speech rhythm seems to have reached an impasse. Recently, this research field has tended to investigate produced (rather than perceived) rhythm, focussing on timing, i.e. duration as an acoustic cue, and has not considered that rhythm perception might be influenced by native language. Yet evidence from other areas of phonetics, and other disciplines, suggests that an investigation of rhythm is needed which (i) focuses on listeners' perception, (ii) acknowledges the role of several acoustic cues, and (iii) explores whether the relative significance of these cue This creates the regular stress-timed rhythm of English. The problem of rhythm in language learning. English speakers have a problem when learning other languages as they naturally want to apply their own English rhythm to the new language. This is a similar problem for all language learners. However, each language has its own rhythm that must be learned along with the grammar and vocabulary. Different types of language require different stresses in English. Formal language, such as a speech about a pressing topic, such as politics, often has more stressed syllables. This is because there tend to be more important words in a powerful speech. Informal speech tends to have fewer stresses because there are fewer important words. An example with formal language