SYMPOSIUM ON PROSODY AND SYNTAX: AN OVERVIEW

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On November 13th, 2004, the Twenty-Second Conference of the English Linguistics Society of Japan hosted a symposium in which four speakers presented their research on the interaction of prosody and syntax as listed in (1).¹

- (1) a. Yoshihisa Kitagawa (Indiana University)
“On the Interaction of Prosody, Syntax and Pragmatics”
- b. Shinichiro Ishihara (University of Potsdam)
“Prosody-Scope Match and Mismatch in Japanese *Wh*-questions”
- c. Hisao Tokizaki (Sapporo University)
“Prosody and Phrase Structure without Labels”
- d. Amy J. Schafer (University of Hawaii)
“Consistency and Variability in Prosody-Syntax Correspondences in English”

One distinctive property common to these researchers is that they all attempt to provide an answer to the questions of whether and how syntactic information comes to be encoded and reflected in the prosody produced and/or perceived by language users.

Kitagawa and Ishihara both discussed the correlation between prosody and scope found in *Wh*-questions in Japanese, though they paid attention to two different aspects of the same phenomenon. Kitagawa investigated what exact role prosody plays when syntacticians attempt to solicit grammaticality judgments from their informants (and from them-

¹ Abstracts and handouts can be downloaded and some of the recordings can be listened to by visiting “<http://www.iub.edu/~ykling/Symposium.html>”. Unfortunately, Amy Schafer had to forgo submitting her written work to *English Linguistics* because of schedule constraints.

selves). Underlying his pursuit of this topic is the unremarkable but important fact that grammaticality judgments can be obtained only as part of acceptability judgments, and the former can be distilled only after we succeed in carefully and properly abstracting away various extra-syntactic and extra-grammatical factors. He points out that *not enough care or attention is generally paid to this matter when grammatical judgments are elicited despite the fact that this issue has been repeatedly discussed in the literature.*

While Kitagawa discussed extra-grammatical factors that affect perception (and accordingly acceptability judgments as well), Ishihara in his presentation focused on the grammatical mechanism that creates the prosody-scope correlation. Based on experimental data, he showed that the prosody-scope correlation collapses when the *Wh*-phrase is scrambled out of its scope. He argued that the *prosody is computed cyclically, based upon syntactic cyclicity*, and that the prosody-scope correlation, as well as the mismatch created by scrambling, can be accounted for by adopting the notion of *multiple Spell-Out* in the Minimalist framework.

Tokizaki and Schafer, on the other hand, paid attention to the mapping of syntax onto phonology. Tokizaki raised the question of what exact syntactic information should be represented in the phonological phrasing, and argued that *syntactic labeling is not necessary for syntax-phonology mapping*. Schafer then raised a question of how reliably prosody reflects syntactic structure in the production of utterances. She argued that although there is substantial variation in the exact prosodic/intonational form of utterances, *prosodic cues to syntactic structure remain strong even in situations where they are potentially unnecessary for the listener.*

The diagram (2) below provides a bird's-eye picture of the correlations between generative grammar (indicated by $\Diamond$) and other extra-syntactic/extra-grammatical factors including processing (indicated by $\Diamond_P$). Which presentation dealt with which part of this general picture is indicated by (K) (Kitagawa), (I) (Ishihara), (T) (Tokizaki) and (S) (Schafer).²

² See Kitagawa and Ueyama (2004: Chapter 5) for the view that processing of a sentence is eventually led to grammar's generation of a sentence anew.

(2)

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