



The Phonology of Tone and Intonation (Research Surveys in Linguistics)

By Carlos Gussenhoven

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Tone and Intonation are two types of pitch variation, which are used by speakers of all languages in order to give shape to utterances. More specifically, tone encodes segments and morphemes, and intonation gives utterances a further discursal meaning that is independent of the meanings of the words themselves. In this comprehensive survey, Carlos Gussenhoven provides an up-to-date overview of research into tone and intonation, discussing why speakers vary their pitch, what pitch variations mean, and how they are integrated into our grammars. He also explains why intonation in part appears to be universally understood, while at other times it is language-specific and can lead to misunderstandings. After eight chapters on general topics relating to pitch modulation, the book's central arguments are illustrated with comprehensive phonological descriptions - partly in Optimality Theory - of the tonal and intonational systems of six languages, including Japanese, Dutch, and English.

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Review

"Gussenhoven provides a well organized presentation of pitch accent, lexical tone and intonation in language in general..." --Functions of Language

About the Author

Carlos Gussenhoven is Professor and Chair of General and Experimental Phonology at the University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

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