Methods in empirical prosody research
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Hardly any other linguistic subdiscipline has developed as rapidly as prosody in recent
decades. This is due to the appreciation it has received in grammatical theoretic research but
also to the technological revolution that has resulted in the widespread availability of
dedicated software to conduct analysis and statistics. All stages of experimental work have
been affected: data collection, data processing, acoustical and statistical analysis, as well as
the development of stimuli for perceptual experiments. Carefully controlled methodologies
have become a standard in linguistic research in order to gather empirical evidence, and
their development plays an increasing role in Romance linguistics. A number of recent
publications document this development and show how this field of research is becoming
ever more dynamic and innovative (see e.g. Sudhoff et al. 2006, Cohn et al. 2012 for a
general overview, and Meisenburg & Selig 2004, Gabriel & Lleó 2011 for the field of
Romance studies in the German-speaking regions).

Our session seeks to collect, compare, and verify the validity of different methodological
practical experiences in current research on prosody. Due to this focus, many questions will
arise. One important question will be how to choose the optimal procedure for collecting
adequate data. This is a difficult question since many contextual factors (e.g. language
contact, L2, information structure) can influence prosodic realization. Questions will also
arise about the adequacy of a specific method, since different methods produce different
results.

We particularly welcome papers on the following methods and issues:
• Methods for setting up specific discourse patterns in order to elicit utterances with
  specific discourse functions (see Skopeteas et al. 2007, Prieto & Roseano 2010,
  Armstrong accepted);
• Direct measurements of articulatory movements (see Fougeron & Keating 1997);
• Collection of judgments and reaction time measurements in identification and
discrimination experiments (see Vanrell 2011, Feldhausen et al. 2011 or Prieto 2012,
among others);
• Presentation techniques and measurement procedures in psycholinguistic
  experimentation (i.e., DMDX);
• Methods for data manipulation and resynthesis (see Dufter & Reich 2003, Moraes
  2008);
• Possibilities and potential problems of rating-scale formats (see Swerts & Krahmer
  2008, Nadeu & Prieto 2011);
• Multimethodological approaches, also known as mixed-methods research or
  triangulation (see Hudson et al. 1995, Gerrits & Schouten 2004 or Félix-Brasdefer
  2010);
• Methods to detect diachronic developments in prosody (see Pešková et al. 2012).

We welcome contributions on all Romance languages (with special interest in those that are
less studied), as well as contributions regarding other languages in contact with Romance.
All linguistic schools and theoretical backgrounds are invited. Abstracts no longer than 1
page (+ references) should be sent by January 15, 2015 at the latest to: feldhausen [AT]
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References


