



Faculdade de Letras
Universidade de Lisboa



Laboratório de Fonética
Centro de Linguística

Conferência

FLUL, 5 de Março, 16.00h

Pós-graduação em Linguística
Seminário de Fonética - Prosódia
Sala Leite Vasconcelos

Prof. Pilar Prieto

Institut Català de Recerca i Estudis Avançats & Universitat Pompeu Fabra

On the role of visual and acoustic cues in encoding prosodic information

In this talk, I will first present converging evidence from a variety of experiments in our lab that Catalan listeners perceive pitch range contrasts involving H and \uparrow H tones in a discrete fashion, both at the boundary tone and at the pitch accent level. Yet congruency tests also show that in some cases there is a moderate degree of overlap of one category into the other. In one of these cases, namely in the contrast between statements (L+H* L%) and echo questions (L+ \uparrow H* L%) we tested the relevance of both acoustic cues (f₀ scaling) and visual cues (facial gestures) on the perception of the contrast. The identification results highlight the crucial role of the visual information in encoding both meanings and also reveal the facilitation effect of the auditory stimuli used (echo question interpretations are facilitated with higher F₀ values). Moreover, reaction time patterns clearly indicate that the two modes of processing are sensorally integrated. The study reported here demonstrates a previously unrecognized phenomenon in the phonology of intonation, namely, that the perception of the speaker's facial expression is the key factor in the interpretation of two prosodic meanings.

Apoio: Mestrado em Linguística Portuguesa (Sons e Melodias), FLUL