

Intonational phrases and clause boundaries

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Abstract:

This talk discusses the potential influence of intonational phrases on the sentence processing of clause structure in silent reading.

Adopting the Implicit Prosody Hypothesis (Fodor 1998, 2002), I will propose a parsing principle which imposes a certain bias on the argument structure comprehension according to the prosodic phrasing in the implicit prosody. This analysis can explain various otherwise puzzling (allegedly) syntactic restrictions observed in long-distance scrambling and cleft constructions in Japanese.