**Abstract**

Pitch and duration of 4 sets of experimental material are measured and analyzed. The material was used to investigate the role of prosodic, syntactic and lexical focus in word processing and learning in second language acquisition. The well-known finding that accent boosts pitch is confirmed. The boosting of duration in one set could also be due to final lengthening. Syntactic and lexical means of marking focus, however, do not give the duration and the pitch of a word an extra boost.

**Introduction**

It is important for us to know what the duration and the pitch of the target words of the experimental material is. These measurements are the basis of this poster. The measurements were done with Praat (and its algorithms), and pitch measured in the range between 75 and 350 Hz (Boersma & Weenink, 2006). All pitch values were then transformed to ERB values (Traunmüller, 1999).

Both pitch and duration are boosted by accent, but being in a clefted constituent or in the scope of a lexical marker do not give an extra boost.

The graphs in panels 4 and 5 illustrate this very clearly.

**Pitch in English Clefts**

Accent, but not cleft, boosts pitch in the English material.

**Pitch in English focus particles**

Accent, but not being in the scope of a focus particle, boosts pitch in the English material.

**Material**

(1) Prosodic marking of focus
a. Some rude children blamed the noisy GAPPET for the ruckus.
b. Some rude children blamed the NOISY gappet for the ruckus.

(2) Syntactic marking of focus (English)
a. It’s the stale GANNET that is suffering from city development.
b. It’s the STALE gannet that is suffering from city development.

(3) Syntactic marking of focus (German)
a. Es ist der faule KABU, der stundenlang auf einen Fuß steht.
b. Es ist der FAULE kabus, der stundenlang auf einen Fuß steht.

(4) Lexical means of marking focus
a. An ill lawyer moved only a ruthless GANTA onto the sidewalk.
b. An ill lawyer moved only a ruthless GANTS onto the sidewalk.
c. An ill lawyer moved only a ruthless GANT onto the sidewalk.
d. An ill lawyer moved only a ruthless GANTA onto the sidewalk.

**References**


**Conclusions**

In this poster, we reported on measurements of duration and pitch of target words of three sets of our experimental material. We wanted to investigate whether non-prosodic ways of marking focus (syntactic and lexical) had an effect on the prosody of our target words. It turned out that it did not. Even though we do not wish to interpret these results beyond the material of our experiments, we have seen that accent boosts pitch, but neither cleft, nor lexical focus markers had an additional effect. The reason we have not found an effect of duration in the cleft material can be explained by the fact that the target words occurred phase-final. Phrasal final syllables are lengthened (Cambier-Langeveld, 2000).

Stressed syllables are longer and have a more pronounced pitch than unaccented syllables and accented syllables are longer and have a more pronounced pitch than unaccented syllables.