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## Effects of focus structure on prenuclear prosody

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Simon Roessig

University of York

simon.roessig@york.ac.uk

The role of prenuclear prominences for focus marking attracts more and more attention. Studies present evidence that the prosody of the prenuclear region indicates its status as part of a broad focus or as prefocal, e.g., Kügler (2008) for German, Andreeva et al. (2017) for Bulgarian, and Alzamil & Hellmuth (2021) for Arabic. In this contribution, I will present a systematic investigation of the prenuclear domain and its relation to the nuclear accent in German. The results show that the realization of the prenuclear domain indeed depends on whether it is focal or prefocal, see Fig. 1. The prenuclear noun is characterized by larger F0 excursions, higher F0 maxima and longer durations when it is in broad focus than when it precedes a narrow focus. Furthermore, the realization of the prefocal domain, when *prefocal*, depends on the following focus. The prenuclear noun is produced with smaller F0 excursions, lower F0 maxima and shorter durations before a corrective focus than before a non-corrective narrow focus. The findings suggest that the phonetic manifestation of information structure is distributed over larger prosodic domains in an inverse relationship with the prenuclear domain becoming less prominent when the nuclear domain becomes more prominent.

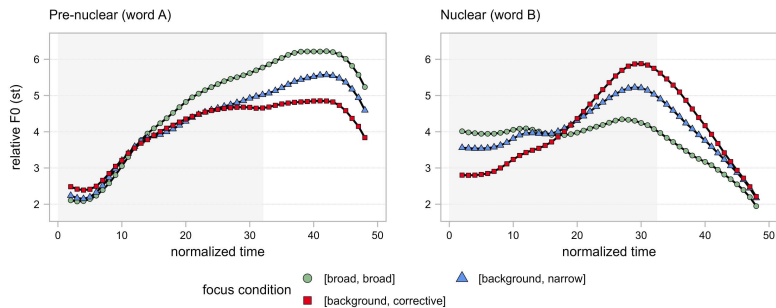


Fig. 1: Average F0 contours of prenuclear and nuclear word in the three focus conditions. The condition labels are pairs of the prenuclear and nuclear information status, e.g., [background, narrow] = prenuclear word in background and nuclear word in narrow focus.

**References:** • Alzamil, A., & Hellmuth, S. (2021). The realization of different structural focus conditions in Saudi Arabic dialects. *Proceedings of the 1st International Conference on Tone and Intonation (TAI)*, 196–199. • Andreeva, B., Barry, W. J., & Koreman, J. (2017). Local and Global Cues in the Prosodic Realization of Broad and Narrow Focus in Bulgarian. *Phonetica*, 73(3–4), 256–278. • Kügler, F. (2008). The role of duration as a phonetic correlate of focus. *Proceedings of Speech Prosody 2008*, 591–594.