

An Introduction to Suprasegmental Phonology

Stress, Rhythm and Intonation in Contemporary English

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This course of lectures focuses on various problems pertaining to the domain of suprasegmental phonology. The course is meant to add to the information our students have already acquired in the first year when studying mainly the segmental phonology of the English language. The first part of the course deals with stress placement in morphologically simple English words. It also analyzes the rules for stress placement in compounds and phrases. Vowel reduction is discussed as a result of stress placement. A distinction is made between stress at word level and stress at phrase and sentence level. The second part of the course analyzes the rhythm of English, with an emphasis on the difference between English and other languages (Romanian for instance) in this respect. The last part of the course focuses on intonation and its pragmatic role. Various intonational contours are discussed in the context.