

Prosody

- ▶ Prosody is the "music of language."

3 prosodic features:

- ▶ Loudness (soft-loud)
- ▶ Pitch (low-high)
- ▶ Duration (short-long)

Prosody is the aspect of language that gives prominence to certain parts of words and phrases over others.

Prosody is how the message is communicated.

... is measured in ...

Subjective auditory feature	Objective acoustic feature
Loudness (soft-loud)	Sound intensity, or amplitude (decibels)
Pitch (low-high)	Fundamental frequency (hertz)
Duration (short-long)	Duration (milliseconds)

Stay-at-home-mom

Stay at home, mom



1.

**We sprinkle prosody
on top of our
language for effect.**





2.

**It's baked into the
recipe of a language.**



Tonal language

- ▶ It's a language for which tonal changes within a word can change the word's meaning or even its grammatical function.

Word tone changes the meaning of the word completely

- ▶ Prosody is the "music of language."

Prosody

- ▶ It can be sprinkled on top of our speech for added emphasis or effect.
- ▶ It can be baked into a language as is the case with tonal languages.
- ▶ It can simply be a byproduct of underlying syllable structure rules.

Sy-l-la-bles are the smal-lest pro-so-dic u-nit.

What is prosody?

3

Erica ordered a hamburger

Erica ordered a hamburger?



Matthew Barbee, 2020

Prosodic Features

- ▶ Stress
- ▶ Pitch
- ▶ Intonation
- ▶ Pauses
- ▶ Pace (Speed)
- ▶ Loudness
- ▶ Paralinguistic Features
- ▶ Vocal Effect

Stress

5

- ▶ The force or emphasis used on a sound, syllable, or word when we speak.
- ▶ Usually when we speak, we stress content words because they convey meaning.
 - ▶ Nouns
 - ▶ Action Verbs
 - ▶ Adjectives
 - ▶ Adverbs



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Stress

6

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 - ▶ Adverbs



The flowers on the table look like a painting.

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Stress

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▶ The same word can have the stress in different places, which changes the meaning of the word.

- ▶ I gave Miki a present.
- ▶ I will present at the conference.
- ▶ I love shiny objects.
- ▶ I object to your bad attitude.

