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Ellen van Zanten (Eds.)*

**A SURVEY OF WORD
ACCENTUAL PATTERNS
IN THE LANGUAGES
OF THE WORLD**

A Survey of Word Accentual Patterns in the Languages of the World

Edited by
Harry van der Hulst
Rob Goedemans
Ellen van Zanten



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Preface

Over a decade ago, in 1996, *Stress patterns of the world: part 1* was published. This book provided background to the structure, organization and content of *StressTyp*¹, a database for word stress/accent systems on which a variety of people had been working since 1992. The 1996 volume contained theoretical and practical information on the database, as well as possible applications and extensions of *StressTyp*. As is clear from the ‘*part 1*’ of the title, a sequel volume was conceived which would focus on presenting data from *StressTyp* along with typological studies in the domain of word stress/accent. Around the start of the new millennium the first steps towards this typological and data-oriented volume were taken. Experts on various language areas were asked to contribute chapters on the stress/accent systems of as many languages in ‘their’ part of the world as they could lay their hands on. No preconditions (theoretical or otherwise) were set, but the authors were encouraged to use the *StressTyp* data in their chapters. Some did so more than others. As we had hoped, all authors went beyond the data that are already present in *StressTyp* so that, as a consequence, the material collected in this volume will provide an excellent base for a future extension of *StressTyp*.

In this preface we will describe the content of this volume, showing how the various language families of the world are covered in its chapters.

This book is largely organized in a geographical fashion. A list of chapters is presented below. We indicate which languages are covered in each chapter (for the actual chapter titles see the Table of Contents):

Part I: Surveys

- Chapter 1: Word accent: Terms, typologies and theories (Harry van der Hulst)
- Chapter 2: Australian Languages (Rob Goedemans)
- Chapter 3: Austronesian Languages (Ellen van Zanten, Ruben Stoel and Bert Remijsen)

1. A version of *StressTyp* is available on the web, which comes with a simple search engine. The full database (implemented in ACCESS) can be obtained by writing to Rob Goedemans. See Goedemans and van der Hulst (2009) for a detailed and up-to-date discussion of *StressTyp*, and relevant references.

- Chapter 4: Papuan Languages (Ellen van Zanten and Philomena Dol)
- Chapter 5: North American Languages (Keren Rice)
- Chapter 6: Middle American Languages (Harry van der Hulst, Keren Rice and Leo Wetzels)
- Chapter 7: South American Languages (Leo Wetzels and Sergio Meira)
- Chapter 8: African Languages (Laura Downing)
- Chapter 9: European Languages (Harry van der Hulst)
- Chapter 10: Asian Languages (René Schiering and Harry van der Hulst)
- Chapter 11: Middle Eastern Languages (Harry van der Hulst and Sam Hellmuth)
- Chapter 12: Stress Typology (Rob Goedemans)

Chapters 2–11 each deal with a geographical area which covers one or more language families, although, as might be expected, the match between area and family, or families is never exact. Moreover, the approximate match refers to the distribution of languages in the pre-colonial period, not taking into account the migration of speakers and languages that has occurred since, roughly, the 17th century. These ten chapters contain elaborate typological and/or areal overviews, including languages that are in StressTyp and languages that are not present in StressTyp at this time. They also contain theoretical excursions into interesting phenomena encountered in the region or mention striking examples of geographical spreading of accentual phenomena. Together these chapters provide the reader with a thorough idea of the diversity of stress/accent systems that occur in the language families of the world. Chapter 2 has a double function. It presents an overview of stress patterns in Australian languages, but at the same time it is intended to (re-)familiarize readers with the coding, terminology and theoretical ideas of the StressTyp database.

We have provided an introductory chapter (Chapter 1) that will provide the reader with elementary terminology and theoretical tools to organize the variety of accentual systems that will be discussed in the subsequent chapters of this book. This chapter serves as an introduction to the kinds of phenomena that this book is about, including some of the commonly used distinctions and terminology. The phenomena that are studied here are rich and varied, and not always fully understood. This has inevitably led to a proliferation of terms in the linguistic and phonetic literature, which is also reflected in this volume. We did not ‘require’ all authors to use the same terminology. Although chapter 1 advocates a particular usage of terms, it also relates this to other practices, some of which

are used in other chapters. Chapter 12 is another general chapter which offers a quantitative study regarding some of the most important stress phenomena, such as location, quantity sensitivity, rhythm etc., based on the StressTyp database.²

Part II: Language profiles

Part II of this volume contains ‘language profiles’ which are, for each of the 511 languages contained in StressTyp (in 2009), extracts from the information that is contained in the database. Each profile contains:

- The language name
- A Stress Type Code
- A genetic affiliation
- A geographical area
- A prose description of the primary stress location
- Some examples in IPA with glosses
- Some references which have been used.

Except for some minor corrections, these profiles are exactly as the information occurs in StressTyp even in those cases in which the relevant chapter reports conflicting information. As shown, in StressTyp information about stress is encoded in three different ways. The so-called *Stress Type Code* offers a compressed formula which captures the primary stress location; these codes are listed in the appendix to this book. The *prose description* states the location of both primary and, if present (reported) non-primary stresses in the manner it would be described in a descriptive or reference grammar. Not included in the language profiles in the book is the third and most important aspect of StressTyp which is a *formal encoding* of both primary and non-primary stress in terms of several explicit parameters, which are discussed in chapter 2.

Below we place the languages that are surveyed in this volume within the context of the language families of the world. There are many classifications of the languages of the world that differ in many details. Here we will follow Ruhlen (1987/1991: 290) who distinguishes 17 (super-)families (the numbers in parentheses indicate the numbers of languages according to the Ethnologue website (2004 edition) and Ruhlen 1991, respectively):

2. Another important application of the database has led to the contributions by Goedemans and van der Hulst to the World Atlas of Linguistic Structures (WALS) (Haspelmath et al. 2005), while van Zanten and Goedemans (2007) also can serve as an introduction to StressTyp and its possible uses.

(super)family	number of languages	
	Ethnologue	Ruhlen (1991)
1. Khoisan	(18	31)
2. Niger-Kordofanian (Niger-Congo)	(1489	1064)
3. Nilo-Saharan	(199	138)
4. Afro-Asiatic	(372	241)
5. Caucasian	(North: 34, South: 5	38)
6. Indo-Hittite	(443	144)
7. Uralic-Yukaghir	(38 + 1 for Yukaghir	24)
8. Altaic	(65 + 12 for Japanese	63)
9. Chukotko-Kamchatkan	(5	5)
10. Eskimo-Aleut	(11	9)
11. Elamo-Dravidian	(75	28)
12. Sino-Tibetan	(365	258)
13. Austric	(1532	1175)
I Miao-Yao	(32	4)
II Austroasiatic	(168	155)
III Austro-Tai	(1332	1016)
A Daic (Tai)	(70	57)
B Austronesian	(1262	959)
14. Indo-Pacific (Papuan) ³	(821 + 15 Andamanese	731)
15. Australian	(258	170)
16. Na Dene	(47	34)
17. Amerind	(N: 307 + C: 114 + S: 315 = 736	583)

Taking Ruhlen's classification merely as a reference point, the following table indicates which language families are covered by the chapters in this volume:

Chapter 2: Australian Languages: 15

Chapter 3: Austronesian Languages: 13IIIB

Chapter 4: Papuan Languages: 14

-
3. Indo-Pacific has become a label for all Pacific languages that are not Austronesian or Australian. As such it includes the languages of New Guinea plus surrounding islands, the Andamanese languages spoken on the Andaman Islands in the Bay of Bengal and the now extinct Tasmanian language family.

- Chapter 5: North American Languages: 10, 16, 17
 Chapter 6: Middle American Languages: 17
 Chapter 7: South American Languages: 17
 Chapter 8: African Languages: 1–4
 Chapter 9: European Languages: 4 (non-African), 5–9
 Chapter 10: Asian Languages: 11–13 (exc. 13IIIB)
 Chapter 11: Middle Eastern Languages: part of 4

There are two remaining categories in Ruhlen's system:

18. Language isolates [well-studied] (30 5)
 19. Unclassified [new discoveries, undocumented] (96 16)

No attempt has been made to include all of these in either this or other chapters. However, a number of these languages are discussed nonetheless.

There is no account of two other categories that the Ethnologue and Ruhlen mention:

20. Pidgins and Creoles (and 'mixed' languages) (17 + 81 + 8 37)
 21. Invented (or artificial) (3 2)

Also excluded from this volume are sign languages.

We believe that this volume will be of interest to people in the field of theoretical phonology and language typology. It will function as a reference work for these groups of researchers, but also, more generally, for people working on syntax and other fields of linguistics, who might wish to know certain basic facts about the distribution of word accent systems. We hope that its availability 'as is' will spark new research and new interest in the phenomenon of word stress/accent and that it will contribute to the growing body of data and theories in this domain.

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The editors would like to thank Kristine Hildebrandt for her helpful advice during the preparation of this book. We would also like to thank an anonymous reviewer for valuable comments on all chapters. This reviewer did not comment on chapter 6, but did express the wish that we add it.

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Affiliation of authors

Philomena Dol

Leiden University Centre for
Linguistics
PO Box 9515
2300 RA Leiden
THE NETHERLANDS
p.h.dol@hum.leidenuniv.nl

Laura J. Downing

ZAS, Berlin
Schuetzenstr. 18, D-10117 Berlin
GERMANY
downing@zas.gwz-berlin.de

Rob Goedemans

Leiden University Centre for
Linguistics
Leiden University
PO Box 9515
2300 RA Leiden
THE NETHERLANDS
r.w.n.goedemans@hum.leidenuniv.nl

Sam Hellmuth

Department of Language and
Linguistic Science
University of York
Heslington, York YO10 5DD
UNITED KINGDOM
sh581@york.ac.uk

Harry van der Hulst

Department of Linguistics
University of Connecticut
337 Mansfield Road Unit 1145
Storrs, Connecticut 06269-1145
USA
harry.van.der.hulst@uconn.edu

Sergio Meira de Santa Cruz Oliveira

Leiden University Centre for
Linguistics
Leiden University
PO Box 9515
2300 RA Leiden
THE NETHERLANDS
s.meira@hum.leidenuniv.nl

Bert Remijsen

Linguistics & English Language
University of Edinburgh
Dugald Stewart Building
3 Charles Street
Edinburgh
EH8 9AD
UNITED KINGDOM
b.remijisen@ed.ac.uk

Keren Rice

Department of Linguistics
University of Toronto
130 St. George Street
Toronto, Ontario
CANADA M5S 3H1
rice@chass.utoronto.ca

René Schiering

Institut für Allgemeine
Sprachwissenschaft
Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität
Münster
Aegidiistr. 5, 48143 Münster
GERMANY
rene@punksinscience.org

Ruben Stoel

Medical Library
Academic Medical Centre
University of Amsterdam
PO Box 22660
1100 DD Amsterdam
THE NETHERLANDS
r.b.stoel@amc.uva.nl

Leo Wetzels

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam &
Laboratoire de Phonétique et
Phonologie (LPP)
CNRS/Paris III, Sorbonne Nouvelle
Paris
FRANCE
wlm.wetzels@let.vu.nl

Ellen van Zanten

Leiden University Centre for
Linguistics
Leiden University
PO Box 9515
2300 RA Leiden
THE NETHERLANDS
e.a.van.zanten@hum.leidenuniv.nl

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Part I. Typological Surveys

1. Word accent: Terms, typologies and theories

Harry van der Hulst

1. Introduction

This chapter provides a discussion of terminology, typology and theories in the domain of word accent. Section 2 discusses the use of terms like 'accent' and 'stress' and promotes the use of the former term as designating a unique abstract property of domains (such as words) which serves as a reference point for a number of phonetic, phonological and other grammatical properties. Section 3 discusses the idea that we can distinguish several levels of accentuation. Section 4 asks whether words can be without accent (unaccented), while section 5 briefly addresses variability in the location of accents. Section 6 reviews typologies and theories of accent locations. In section 7 we deal with the notion of syllable weight. Finally, section 8 offers a summary and some conclusions. Where required, we will use illustrative examples that clarify central properties of our subject, even though an extensive analysis of these examples may ultimately raise problems of various kinds that cannot be dealt with here.

2. Terminological practices

2.1. *Accent and cues*

In dictionary entries lexicographers often use a graphic symbol, adjacent to or on top of one of the letters, to indicate what is called the location of 'accent' or 'stress'. We will use these two terms interchangeably until, below, we will explicitly propose to differentiate them in a particular way.

If a phonetic transcription is added to the spelling form, the accent symbol is often a small superscripted vertical line which is placed before the syllable that is accented. Sometimes the accented syllable is capitalized. One of these practices is illustrated with a few random examples from an English dictionary:

- (1) *escalade* ['eskəleɪd] ...
- escalate* ['eskəleɪt] ...
- escallop* ['eskəloup] ...