

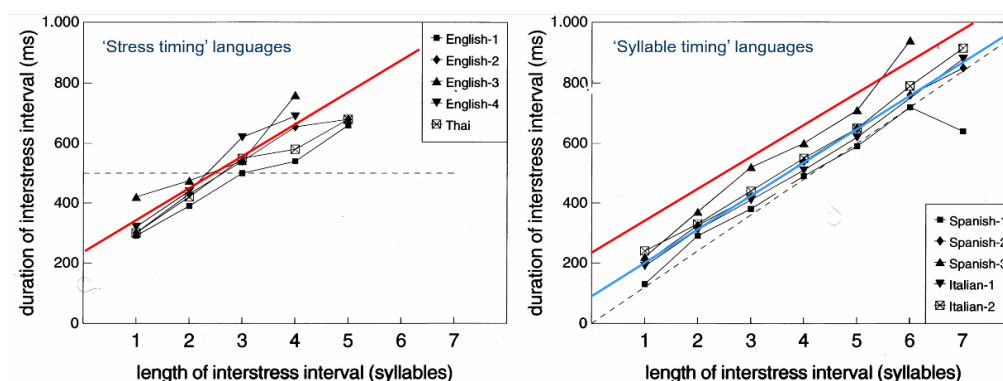
Answers to Prof. Ferenc Bunta for his review on

The perception and production of American English Sounds by Palestinian Arabic Adolescents

First of all, I would like to thank Prof. Ferenc Bunta for all the valuable comments and remarks on my PhD dissertation in its previous draft and the present version. His meticulous review and detailed comments are extremely beneficial to my dissertation. I'm most certainly taking into consideration all applicable remarks in the final version and my future publications.

In response to the reviewer's 6th point concerning the phrase "phonetically tense", I agree with the reviewer. "Phonetically tense" is a misnomer here that should have been removed. It was meant to indicate that I am fully aware that the ash vowel behaves phonotactically as a short (others call it a phonemically lax) vowel, i.e., it cannot occur at the end of a word while it can be followed by tautosyllabic /ŋ/ (pronounce "eng"/ - which is not possible for long vowels (which some authors call phonologically tense vowels). At the same time, I never meant to imply that tenseness should be considered a SINGLE phonetic feature. From the beginning, I made it clear that tenseness can be considered a phonological feature that has at least two phonetic correlates: (i) longer duration, (ii) more extreme articulatory position. When I wrote "phonetically tense" I meant to say that the vowel was characterized by long duration plus extreme/peripheral position – even though it behaves phonotactically as a short/lax vowel.

Concerning the 7th point on the stress-timed vs. syllable-timed languages, I apologize as I should have formulated the idea of the mentioned citation more carefully. In fact, the formulation I used does not even separate stress-timed from syllable-timed systems. In both types, the length of the interstress interval increases linearly with the number of UNSTRESSED syllables in between stresses. The interstress interval always increases linearly with the number of unstressed intervals between the stresses. This is precisely the point of Dauer's (1983) paper. The difference between stress-timed and syllable-timed systems is not in the linearity of the function but in the size of the intercept: stressed syllables in a stress-timed language are longer than unstressed syllables. For plots of the functions in Dauer's data see Van Zanten & Van Heuven (1997) – copied below. The red regression line in the right-hand picture is copied from the left-hand picture. It is easy to see that the slope of the function is the same for both systems but that the syllable-timed interstress interval is consistently shorter than in the stress-timed languages (i.e., a matter of the intercept).



Therefore, I think we are in complete agreement on the notion that the underlying structure may not be what Abercrombie (1967) and Pike (1945) proposed. I will correct the misunderstanding I caused in my future publications.

Finally, as for the manuscript's terminological and clerical errors, I will surely take all the provided remarks into consideration. Once again, I truly appreciate the reviewer's critical remarks as well as the words of praise. I would like to thank him for all the time and efforts that he invested in reviewing my dissertation.

Budapest, August 23rd, 2022.



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