Transcription

Read: DuBois et al. 1993
Intonation unit

- A carriage return is used to indicate the end of an intonation unit. Thus, each intonation unit appears on a single line.

- An intonation unit is a stretch of speech uttered under a single coherent intonation contour. It tends to be marked by cues such as a pause and a shift upward in overall pitch level at its beginning, and a lengthening of its final syllable.
-- Truncated intonation unit

- A double hyphen (--) indicates that the speaker breaks off the intonation unit before completing its projected contour.
- Occurs primarily in cases where a speaker utters the initial portion of a projected intonation unit but abandons it before finishing—i.e., a false start.
- For every intonation unit that *is* complete, the line should end with *some* representation of its intonation unit.
- Truncated word

• A single hyphen (-) indicates where the speaker has truncated a word, leaving the end of the (projected) word unuttered.
[ ] Speech overlap

- Square brackets are used to indicate the beginning and ending of overlap between the utterances of two speakers.
- The second speaker’s left bracket is aligned vertically under the first speaker’s left bracket.
- Brackets indexed with numbers ([2 2]) can be used to create distinctive bracketing when several overlaps occur in rapid succession in a short stretch of speech.
- This will be necessary whenever two distinct cases of overlap occur without at least one line of nonoverlapped text between them.
Final intonation contour

- The period (.) indicates a class of intonation contours whose transitional continuity is regularly considered as final.
- For English, this means primarily (but not exclusively) a fall to a low pitch at the end of an intonation unit.
- It can appear in places other than the end of a sentence, and it need not appear at the end of every (normative) sentence.
Continuing intonation contour

• The comma (,) indicates a class of intonation contours whose transitional continuity is regularly understood as *continuing*.

• The contour is often realized in English as a slight rise in pitch at the end of an intonation unit.

• But one type of continuing contour is realized by a terminal pitch that remains level; another, by a terminal pitch that falls slightly, but not low enough to be considered final.
? Intonation contour representing an appeal

- The question mark (?) indicates a class of intonation contours whose transitional continuity is regularly understood as an appeal.
- For English this is often realized by a marked high rise in pitch at the end of the intonation unit.
- “Appeal” here refers to when a speaker, in producing an utterance, seeks a validating response from a listener.
- The most common type of appeal is a yes-no question.
- There will occur grammatical questions that do not carry this type of contour; conversely the question mark will appear in units that lack the morphosyntactic structure of a (normative) question.
= Lengthening

- An equal sign (=) indicates that the preceding segment is lengthened prosodically, to a degree greater than what is expected on the basis of accent and lexical stress patterns.
- It frequently occurs at the end of an intonation unit.
...(N) Long pause

• A sequence of three dots (…) immediately followed by a number in single parentheses is used to represent relatively long pauses (.7 seconds or longer)
• The approximate duration is indicated within parentheses to the nearest 10th of a second:
  – …(.9)
• Ordinarily, a pause between two intonation units is written together with the unit that follows it (never with the one that precedes it).
• However, if a pause is attributable to more than speaker (as when, during a long pause, it is unclear who is going to speak next), it is often preferable to place the pause notation on a separate line by itself.
… Medium pause

• A sequence of three dots (…) indicates a pause of medium length--one that is noticeable but not very long, about half a second in duration.
.. Short pause

- A sequence of two dots (..) indicates a brief break in speech rhythm, that is, a very short, barely perceptible pause (about 0.2 seconds or less).
(COUGH) Vocal noises

- Single parentheses surrounding a description written in capital letters are used to indicate nonverbal noises produced in the vocal tract of speech event participants.
  - (THROAT), (SWALLOW), (SNIFF), (SNORT), (YAWN), (TSK), etc.
(H) Inhalation

• A capital H in a single parentheses (H) indicates audible inhalation.
• In conversation, breathing can be used, for example, as a signal that one is about to take a turn at speaking.
(Hx) Exhalation

• A capital H followed by a small x within a single parentheses (Hx) indicates audible exhalation.
@ Laughter

- The @ symbol is used to represent laughter.
- One token of the symbol @ is used for each “syllable,” or pulse, of laughter.
<Y Y> Types of quality

- Angled brackets <Y Y> are used to indicate that the stretch of text which they enclose has a marked quality or prosody of some sort.
  - <F F> forte: loud
  - <P P> piano: soft
  - <HI HI> higher pitch level
  - <LO LO> lowered pitch level
  - <WH WH> whispered quality
  - <@ @> laughing quality
  - <Q Q> quotation quality
  - etc.
X Uncertain hearing, Indecipherable syllable

- A pair of angled brackets <X X> marked with the capital letter X --the X suggesting an unknown quantity--is used to mark portions of the text that are not clearly audible to the transcriber, to such an extent that there is some doubt as to what words were spoken.

- The capital letter X is used to indicate speech that is not audible enough to allow a reasonable guess as to what was said. One X is used for each syllable of indecipherable speech.
Marginal words

- *uh, unh, um* represent hesitation words (filled pauses).
- *hm, m, huh, and hunh* express various nuances of awareness, wonder, or other backchannel response.
- *mhm, unhhunh, and uhuh* are backchannels or affirmative responses.
- * unh-unh* is a negative response.
- *uh-oh* is a mild alarm cry.