Development of Catalan and Spanish ToBI online training materials

Carme de-la-Mota1, Lourdes Aguilar1, Rafèu Sichel-Bazin2,1, Joan Borràs-Comes3,1
1 Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona | 2 Universität Osnabrück | 3 Parc Científic de Barcelona

Introduction

- Large, prosodically labeled corpora are needed to model real-world understanding of the prosodic mechanisms that dominate the spoken communication between humans.
- ToBI is a framework to develop community-wide conventions to transcribe the intonation and prosodic structure of spoken utterances in a language variety. This fine-grained labeling system requires well-trained transcribers.
- A given language must provide a freely available manual to teach the system to new transcribers, with many recorded examples of transcribed utterances graded from easy to difficult.
- Aim: to develop two websites with the Catalan and Spanish ToBI Training Materials, each containing explanations and interactive exercises with sounds and graphics, and for the first time in the ToBI Training Materials, a basic ear training section.

Website structure

- Course guide
  - Course goals
  - Description of the course
  - Core concepts
  - Glossary
- Ear training
- Cat/Sp ToBI Labeling system
- Exercises
- References

Ear training

- This is the first step before being confronted with the actual intonation patterns
- The goal is to practice tone identification and discrimination between high, low, rising and falling pitch movements

Cat/Sp ToBI Labeling system

- Uses of Cat/Sp ToBI
- Description of the system
- Prosodic phrasing
- Tonal representation

Exercises

- Phrasing
- Pitch accents, boundary tones, and nuclear configurations
- Recognition
- Labeling

Conclusions

Web analytics

Google Analytics® detailed statistics about the website's visitors.

Notice the constant amount of pageviews over time, the average time spent on the site, the number of page views per session, and the users' geographical dispersion.

Uses and applications

- Learning Catalan and Spanish prosody in an autonomous way.
- Training transcribers of Catalan and Spanish speech databases in the AM framework.
- Helping naive transcribers of different languages before being faced with the labeling systems: without assuming any background in linguistics or speech sciences, new labelers can perform a set of ear-training exercises before they start transcribing on their own.
- Helping transcribers to be consistent. This is the last of the five requirements of the ToBI systems: to check intercoder agreement by means of consistency tests.
- Conducting research on the prosodic phenomena encoded in the Cat/Sp_ToBI tiers by searching the corpus.
- Allowing easy inter-linguistic comparisons of the inventory of pitch accents, boundary tones and nuclear configurations of Catalan and Spanish.
- Using the prosodic analysis and quantitative data derived from Cat/Sp_ToBI for modeling prosody for speech synthesis.
- Obtaining quantitative results by using the corpus as an annotated database.
- Teaching Catalan and Spanish prosody both to students of linguistics and to L2 learners.

References


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