Acoustic Correlates of Word Stress in American English

by

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Acoustic Correlates of Word Stress in American English

by

Anthony O. Okobi

Submitted to the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology on September 11, 2006 in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Speech and Hearing Bioscience and Technology

ABSTRACT

Acoustic parameters that differentiate between primary stress and non-primary full vowels were determined using two-syllable real and novel words and specially constructed novel words with identical syllable compositions. The location of the high focal pitch accent within a declarative carrier phrase was varied using an innovative object naming task that allowed for a natural and spontaneous manipulation of phrase-level accentuation. Results from male native speakers of American English show that when the high focal pitch accent was on the novel word, vowel differences in pitch, intensity prominence, and amplitude of the first harmonic, $H1*$ (corrected for the effect of the vocal tract filter), accurately distinguished full vowel syllables carrying primary stress vs. non-primary stress. Acoustic parameters that correlated to word stress under all conditions tested were syllable duration, $H1*-A3*$, as a measurement of spectral tilt, and noise at high frequencies, determined by band-pass filtering the F3 region of the spectrum. Furthermore, the results indicate that word stress cues are augmented when the high focal pitch accent is on the target word. This became apparent after a formula was devised to correct for the masking effect of phrase-level accentuation on the spectral tilt measurement, $H1^*$ -A3^{*}. Perceptual experiments also show that male native speakers of American English utilized differences in syllable duration and spectral tilt, as controlled by the KLSYN88 parameters DU and TL, to assign prominence status to the syllables of a novel word embedded in a carrier phrase. Results from this study suggest that some correlates to word stress are produced in the laryngeal region and are due to vocal fold configuration. The model of word stress that emerges from this study has aspects that differ from other widely accepted models of prosody at the word level. The model can also be applied to improve the prosody of synthesized speech, as well as to improve machine recognition of speech.

Thesis Supervisor: Kenneth N. Stevens Title: Clarence J. LeBel Professor of Electrical Engineering and Professor of Health Sciences and Technology

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1. Introduction

1.1 Significance of Word Stress

Word stress is prosodic prominence within a word. Prosody can be defined as a time series of speech-related information that is not predictable from the simple sequence of phonemes. According to Terken **(1991),** prosodic prominence is defined as the property **by** which linguistic units are perceived as standing out from their environment. Thus word stress is prosodic prominence that characterizes the relationship between the syllables of a word, such that one of these syllables is considered more prominent than the others. For most languages, prosody can be used to convey meaning at various levels of conversation (e.g., discourse level, phrase level, and word level). Prosodic composition of an utterance is often thought of as a means of organizing and delivering content and meaning (Beckman and Edwards, 1994).

English is a stress language that specifies one syllable in a content word to have primary word stress. In general it is the primary stressed syllable that is pitch accented when the word of interest is the focus of a phrase (i.e., high focal pitch accent). Prosodic information is part of the lexical entry of each English content word, although it is usually not a contrastive property (Kager, **1995;** Wingfield *et al.,* 2000). Exceptions to this non-contrastive rule are noun-verb minimal stress pairs, which are pairs of words with the same spelling and similar pronunciations, but different meanings, such as the noun *'abstract,* meaning a summary of a text or scientific article, and the verb *ab 'stract,* which means to take away or remove. Primary word stress is on the first syllable for the noun and on the second syllable for the verb. Such word pairs can in general be distinguished only **by** their different stress patterns, although vowel quality differences may also exist. Figure 1 shows spectrograms of (a) the minimal stress verb *di'gest* when it is the focus of the utterance and high focal pitch accented and **(b)** when it is not the focus of the utterance.

Within an utterance, prominent syllables can serve as signs indicating what possible words one might encounter along the speech-path. Studies have shown that stressed syllables are informative when inferring words, such that knowing the stress pattern of a word can greatly reduce the number of competing word candidates (Mattys and Samuel, 2000; Wang and Seneff, 2001). There are suggestions that prosodic information about a word may be independently retrieved in word production, as in the case when a speaker in a tip-of-the-tongue state can give the correct number of syllables and the stress pattern of the word, but cannot produce the phonemic segments of the word (Wingfield *et al.,* 2000). In the field of speech therapy, information conveyed by prosodic characteristics of words has served as the basis for the development of therapies to help patients with dysarthria, because such traumatic brain injury disorders are often accompanied by prosodic deficits (Wang *et al., 2005).*

According to Beckman and Edwards (1994) stressed syllables are anchor points for the pitch accent within an utterance. A study conducted by Fry (1958) showed that the salience of the FO contour was involved in the cueing of stress in minimal noun-verb stress pairs, such as *'permit* versus *per 'mit.* Unfortunately, this study gave rise to a common misunderstanding in experimental literature that fundamental frequency (FO) prominence is a direct acoustic correlate of word stress. This is a misunderstanding that has been incorporated into standard textbooks (as pointed out by Beckman and Edwards, 1994). In contrast, Bolinger (1958) suggested that vowels with primary versus non-primary word stress do not differ in their acoustic properties or in the nature of their articulation. Instead such word stress distinctions were suggested to be rule based. However studies by Fry (1955 and *1958),* Lieberman (1960) and Harrington *et al.* (1998) indicate that physical correlates that distinguish between primary stress and non-primary full vowels do exist, at least when the word of interest is pitch accented. These word stress distinctions are fundamentally different from the segmental or phonemic specifications of a word. While segmental specifications give information about the make-up of a word, word stress prosodic specifications indicate the relationship between these segments, as to which is the most prominent.

Figure **1.** *Labeled spectrogram of the minimal stress verb di'gest when it is (a) the focus of the utterance and is high focal pitch accented and (b) when it is not the focus of the utterance. The solid yellow line is the intensity contour, while the blue-dotted line is the pitch (FO) contour. Words or syllables in all capital letters indicate focal pitch accent on that word or syllable of word.*

1.2 Previous and Related Studies on Word Stress

Recent studies **by** Beckman and Edwards (1994) demonstrate that unaccented stressed vowels can differ from reduced vowels by vowel quality, duration, and possibly amplitude, while pitch accented vowels are distinguished from unaccented full vowels by an FO prominence marker. Sluijter and van Heuven (1996a-b) in their study using reiterant speech copies of nounverb minimal stress pair words showed that, for native speakers of both American English and Dutch, stressed full-vowel syllables in reiterantly imitated words can be distinguished from nonprimary full-vowel syllables, even in non-pitch accented contexts. They showed that primary stressed and full vowels can be differentiated based on the relative level of energy at their high frequencies (i.e., degree of spectral tilt), where the primary stressed vowels had more energy at their high frequencies. Stevens (1994) also gave evidence that the glottal excitation waveform differs for the vowels of syllables that are accented from vowels that are full, but unaccented, as well as from reduced vowels. These results support the claim that these three types of vowels can be distinguished based on their acoustic properties.

Assuming that the source of word stress prominence differences between these vowels is at the laryngeal level, how might this distinction arise during speech? During vowel production, the configuration of the vocal folds can be varied in several different ways. Four types of normal glottal configuration were considered by Hanson (1997a): (1) the arytenoids are approximated and the membranous part of the vocal folds close abruptly; (2) the arytenoids are approximated, but the membranous folds close sequentially from front to back along the length of the vocal folds; (3) there is a posterior glottal opening at the arytenoids that persists throughout the glottal cycle (a glottal chink), and the folds close abruptly; (4) a posterior glottal opening extends into the membranous portion of the folds throughout the glottal cycle, forcing the vocal folds to close from front to back in a non-abrupt manner. According to Hanson (1995) and Stevens (1998), the presence of a posterior glottal chink throughout a glottal cycle introduces modifications to the spectrum of a vowel. Formant bandwidth, in particular that of the first formant (F1), is increased due to additional energy loss at the glottis. Hanson (1997a) also determined that the amplitude of the first harmonic (H i) relative to that of the first formant (A **I)** can reflect the bandwidth of the first formant $(B1)$. Thus, assuming a constant effect of the vocal tract on the first formant

bandwidth, **H-A** *l* can be used to reflect changes in B 1 caused by the presence of a posterior glottal chink.

Another acoustic consequence of the glottal chink is the production of additional tilt in the source spectrum. This additional tilt is due to the fact that the airflow through the glottal chink cannot undergo a discontinuous change because of the acoustic mass of the moving air through the glottal area (Stevens, 1994). Approximations of the spectral tilt can be made **by** measuring the amplitude of the first harmonic **(H 1)** relative to that of the third formant spectral peak **(A3),** which is near 3kHz for most speakers. Measurements obtained using this method show that the mid- to high-frequency components are influenced **by** how abruptly the air flow returns to its minimum value, as well as **by** the presence of an opening in the posterior region of the glottis (Hanson and Chuang, **1999).**

Stevens (1994) found that the average drop in amplitude of the first formant **(Al)** for the reduced vowels relative to the pitch accented vowels range from **7** to **13** dB for different speakers, with considerable variability for different vowels for the same speaker. Corrections for these spectral differences between vowels were applied **by** Hanson **(1995** and 1997a-b) and further modified **by** Iseli and Alwan (2004). There are also differences between reduced vowels and pitch-accented vowels in the **F1** bandwidth (B **1),** as determined from the waveform, with the bandwidth being wider for the reduced vowels, indicating a more abducted glottal configuration for those vowels (Stevens, 1994). Furthermore, the glottal source spectrum amplitude at higher frequencies is much weaker for reduced vowels (Stevens, 1994; Sluijter *et al.,* **1995;** Sluijter and van Heuven, 1996a-b). This increased spectral tilt is also consistent with a more abducted glottal configuration, which leads to a less abrupt discontinuity in the waveform at the time of closure. Thus spectral analysis techniques used **by** Stevens (1994), Hanson **(1995,** 1997a), and Hanson and Chuang **(1999)** can be used to determine the acoustic variations between the vowels in the syllables within a word that best predict the word stress pattern of that word.

1.3 Unanswered Questions

The complication with the studies by Fry (1955 and 1958) and Lieberman (1960), as well as other earlier studies to determine the correlates of word stress, is that they did not control for the phrase level pitch accent. It seems that they assumed that the correlates of pitch accent were also correlates of word stress. However, studies **by** Beckman and Edwards (1994), Sluijter *et al.* (1995) and others show that high fundamental frequency (FO), greater intensity, and longer duration are correlates that distinguish accented primary stressed syllables from the neighboring non-primary syllables. Figure **la** shows that when the primary stressed second syllable of the minimal stress pair word, *di'gest,* is accented, it has a higher FO, more intensity, and longer in duration than the non-primary first syllable. However, as Figure **lb** shows, if the word *di'gest* is not the focus of the utterance and not high focal pitch accented, the primary stressed second syllable no longer has the higher FO, greater intensity, and the durational difference between second and first syllables is now reduced. Is it possible to distinguish the primary stressed syllable from the non-primary full vowel syllables when the word of interest is not accentuated?

Studies done **by** Sluijter *et al.* **(1995,** 1996a-b, and 1997) attempted to answer this question using reiterant speech repetitions of noun-verb minimal stress pairs embedded in a carrier phrase. Although it is still uncertain as to what properties of language reiterant speech captures, Sluijter *et al.* **(1995,** 1996a-b, and **1997)** found that when the reiterant speech version of the target word was not pitch accented they could still distinguish between the reiterant speech primary stressed syllable from the reiterant speech unstressed syllable. They found that duration, spectral tilt (measured as H1^{*}-A3^{*}, where "*" indicates correction for vocal tract shape), and first formant bandwidth (measured as H1*-A1) could be used to distinguish a primary stressed reiterant speech syllable from an unstressed reiterant speech syllable.

In their studies, Sluijter *et al.* **(1995,** 1996a-b, and 1997) manipulated the high focal pitch accent of a carrier phrase such that it was either on the reiterant speech version of the target word or not. They do not however indicate the location and proximity of the pitch accent to the reiterant target word. The importance of the location and proximity of the pitch accent will be discussed in the next chapter. Furthermore, Sluijter *et al.* **(1995,** 1996a-b, and **1997)** did not

mention that they controlled for vowel reduction. This is important because native speakers of American English often reduce the non-primary vowels of noun-verb minimal stress word pairs, like the ones they used in their studies. It is possible that the reiterant speech was capturing the difference between primary stressed syllables and reduced vowel syllables, not the difference between full vowels one of which has primary stress. Campbell and Beckman (1997) tried to replicate the studies done by Sluijter *et al.* (1995, 1996a-b, and 1997) and were unsuccessful. They concluded that contrary to the findings of Sluijter *et al.* (1995, 1996a-b, and 1997), there were no spectral correlates to word stress in English for real words with full vowels.

Thus unanswered questions remain with regards to the correlates of word stress. The first question about whether there exist acoustic properties of primary stressed syllables that can be used to distinguish them from non-primary syllables has been answered with regards to comparisons between accented full vowel syllables, unaccented full vowel syllables, and reduced vowel syllables (Beckman and Edwards, 1994; Stevens, 1994; Hanson, **1997b).** However, the question has not been answered for unaccented primary stressed full vowel syllables versus nonprimary full vowel syllables, for real English words with full vowels. This is the central question that will be addressed in this thesis. It can be broken down into three specific questions: Are there acoustic production correlates of word stress for non-reiterant speech words with full vowels, when they are not pitch accented? Are these acoustic correlates also perceptual cues for syllable prominence when the target word is not pitch accented? What is the range of syllable difference in these acoustic correlates that is considered natural **by** native speakers of American English?

1.4 Research Objectives

The objective of the thesis research was to determine the acoustic parameters that change in response to word level prosody. In particular, the goal is to determine the acoustic parameters that consistently distinguish the primary stressed full vowel syllable from the non-primary full vowel syllable of target words in different pitch accented conditions, as well as those parameters that make this distinction only when the word of interest is pitch accented (i.e., correlates to pitch

accent). A long-term goal of this thesis work is to derive a word stress model of American English that can be used to automatically extract quantitative word stress information in order to greatly improve automated speech recognition systems.

Figure 2. *Main goal of research is to determine the correlates of word stress that can be used to differentiate between a primary stressed full vowel from a nonprimary full vowel, even when the syllable containing vowel is not pitch accented.*

Information from this study can also be used to design a specialized diagnostic tool for probing patients with language or motor speech production deficits, in order to determine if the problem is of a prosodic nature. Furthermore, such a diagnostic tool could be used to determine if the prosodic deficit is on the phrase level or at the word level. The method used in this study to prompt speakers to accentuate and de-accentuate target words can also be used, with slight modification, to teach non-native speakers of American English how to produce native-like utterances with varying phrasal focus.

The specific aim of this thesis study is to determine the acoustic correlates of primary word stress and distinguish it from phrase level pitch accent correlates in order to derive a quantitative acoustic model of word prosody. On the assumption that the acoustic parameters associated with primary stressed and accented syllables are the result of articulatory mechanisms used in speech production, the acoustic characteristics of primary stressed syllables in American

English two-syllable nouns are analyzed and quantified in attempt to develop this model of articulatory-acoustic mapping.

1.5 Hypotheses

The general working hypothesis for this study is that native speakers of American English are expected to show differences between primary and non-primary stressed syllables in their production of both real and novel word utterances. This word stress distinction is expected to be indicated primarily **by** syllable duration, spectral tilt **(HI*-A3*)** and noise at high frequencies. It is also possible that word stress information might be carried **by** syllable vowel differences in first formant bandwidth approximated **by Hi*-A1*,** as indicated **by** results from preliminary experiments on the acoustic differences between primary stressed and reduced vowels, and studies done **by** Klatt and Klatt **(1990),** Stevens (1994), and Hanson **(1997b).** Corrections were made to the spectral measurements to account for the effects of the vocal tract shape on the glottal source spectrum (Hanson, **1995;** Iseli and Alwan, 2004). These corrected parameters are indicated **by "*"** in the text.

Evidence for syllable duration as a word stress cue comes from several studies (Oller, **1973;** Klatt, **1976;** Sluijter *et al.* **1995,** 1996a-b, and **1997).** Studies done **by** Sluijter *et al.* **(1995** and 1996a) also indicated that for noun-verb minimal stress pair words, primary stressed vowels have less spectral tilt than unstressed vowels. Studies **by** Klatt **(1976),** Klatt and Klatt **(1990)** in a paradigmatic (i.e., across different words) comparison of primary stressed vowels to unstressed vowels showed that primary stressed vowels had less noise at high frequencies than unstressed vowels, which were not controlled for reduction.

Syllable differences in spectral tilt, noise at high frequencies, and duration are hypothesized to exist between primary and non-primary stressed full vowel syllables for cases when the phrase level prominence (i.e., high focal pitch accent) is on the target word and also when it is not on the target word. Based on previous findings **by** Klatt and Klatt **(1990)** and Sluijter *et al* (1996a-b and **1997),** we expect that a non-primary full vowel would be shorter in

duration, have greater spectral tilt, and be noisier, than the primary stressed vowel within the same word. However, it is possible that duration is also affected by phrase level accentuation, since syllable duration is known to be affected by location relative to phrase boundaries and discourse (Oller, 1973; Klatt, 1976; Beckman and Edwards, 1994; Turk and White, 1999).

Changes in the value obtained for syllable difference in FO prominence, intensity and the spectral approximations of amplitude of voicing and open quotient, H1* and HI*-H2* respectively, are expected to correlate with the primary stressed syllable only when it is also accented (i.e., pitch accent correlates), but not when it is de-accented. This is based on the results from studies by Beckman and Edwards (1994) and Sluijter *et al.* (1995, 1996a-b, and 1997) discussed in Section 1.2. Primary stressed syllables of target words are expected to be identifiable **by** their higher FO prominence and greater intensity only when they are pitch accented, as demonstrated in Figure 1. Increases in HI* and Hi*-H2* give rise to increases in the overall amplitude and intensity and are therefore expected to line-up with intensity as a pitch accent correlate (Klatt and Klatt, 1990). Thus these parameters are hypothesized to be correlates for phrase level prominence, not word stress, in American English, as shown by Beckman and Edwards (1994) and Sluijter *et al.* (1995 and 1996a-b).

1.6 Approaches **to Study**

The hypotheses discussed in Section **1.5** can be organized into three general areas of interest (distinction, production and perception) which have to be addressed in order to meet the objectives of this thesis. The first area of interest is distinction. According to the hypotheses of Section **1.5,** the primary stressed syllable of a two-syllable word should be acoustically different from the non-primary syllable in a non-accented situation, even if both syllables contain full vowels. In order to address this area, an object naming paradigm was developed that allowed the author to prompt native speakers of American English to put high focal pitch accent on the target words embedded in a carrier phrase, as well as to de-accent them. It is important that speakers be able to pitch accent the correct syllable (i.e., primary stressed syllable) of a target word because this shows that speakers know the relationship between the two syllables of the target

word and can accurately distinguish them in a pitch accented condition. It is the objective of this thesis to determine if the same speakers continue to distinguish the primary stressed syllable from the non-primary syllable in non-pitch accented situations.

The second area of interest is production. Production differences between primary stressed and non-primary full vowel syllables should be consistent across vowels (e.g. */a/,* /i/,/o/, and $\langle u \rangle$. That is since vowel differences in vocal tract shape are corrected, the primary stress versus non-primary full vowel distinction should be present regardless of the formant characteristics of the vowel. This is because the events giving rise to this distinction are hypothesized to be occurring at the region of the glottis, which **by** first approximation is assumed not to be influenced **by** the changes in the vocal tract that give rise to the different vowels. In order to test this hypothesis two-syllable novel words with full vowels, discussed further in Chapter 2, were used in a production study to control for the phonological differences between syllables that might affect accurate measurements of the acoustic parameters of interest. Nonminimal stress pair real words with full vowels, but contrasting in the primary stress syllable location, were also used in the production study to determine the acoustic correlates to word stress and pitch accent. The object naming paradigm was used in the production study to accentuate and de-accentuate target novel and real words.

Perception is the third area of interest and is directly related to the results obtained from the production study. It addresses the issue of whether the acoustic correlates found in the production study are perceived as carrying word stress information to listeners. That is, production word stress acoustic correlates should be used perceptually as syllable prominence cues. In order to determine the perceptual cues of word stress, two-syllable novel words were synthesized and embedded in the same phonological environment used in the carrier phrase for the production study. The syllable difference in the correlates of word stress that were found in the production study were manipulated in order to change the prosodic relationship between the two full vowel syllables of the synthesized words and determine how changes in syllable differences in these correlates influence syllable prominence judgment.

2. Production Study: Novel and Real Words

2.1 Speakers

Five male native speakers of American English, between **18** and **50** years of age, participated in this study. None of the participants had a history of hearing or speech production difficulties. Participants were compensated for the amount of time they devoted to this study. They were individually recorded in a sound insulated booth using a directional condenser microphone, approximately 12 inches from the mouth. Utterances were digitally recorded at 10kHz sampling rate and low-pass filtered at 5kHz for speech analysis.

Although both male and female speakers were used in the preliminary experiments leading to this study, only male speakers were used in this thesis study. Preliminary experiments revealed that the object naming paradigm, used to prompt speakers to accent or de-accent the target word, was more affective with male speakers, who in general produced only one pitch accent corresponding to the high focal pitch accent in their utterance of the carrier phrase. Female speakers, tested in the preliminary experiment, often not only placed a high focal pitch accent in the right location, but also contrastively pitch accented the target word. This made it difficult to obtained non-accented target words to test our hypotheses stated in Chapter **1.**

Furthermore, previous studies **by** Klatt and Klatt **(1990)** and Hanson and Chuang **(1999)** showed that there were gender differences with regard to some of the acoustic measurements that will be used in this study, such as the approximation for glottal spectral tilt, $H1^*$ -A3^{*}, and noise at high frequencies. According to Hanson and Chuang **(1999),** it is possible that spectral tilt is an important cue for distinguishing male and female voices, while Klatt and Klatt **(1990)** found that female speakers tended to have more noise at high frequencies. Male speakers tended to have greater harmonic energy at high frequencies and less noise. Since we wanted to avoid incorrect or ambiguous results that might be interpreted as being due to gender differences, as well as narrowly focus on correlates of word stress between primary stress and non-primary full vowels, only male speakers were used in this study.

2.2 Stimuli

Speakers were required to name objects represented by digital pictures displayed on a 19 inch computer monitor. These pictured objects were visualizable nouns. Object names were said using the carrier phrase discussed in Section 2.3.

2.2.1 Novel Words

The difficulty with finding large numbers of two-syllable English names of objects with variable stress patterns and then controlling these words for vowel-consonant compositions and vowel quality, led to the use of reiterant speech-like novel words for this production study. The novel words were *'dada, 'dodo,* and *'didi,* with first syllable primary stress, and their second syllable primary stress counterparts *da'da, do'do,* and *di'di*. The first syllable [CV]₁ and the second syllable $[CV]_2$ of the novel words contained the same consonant and vowel in order to control for the phonological composition of the syllables.

Precautions were also taken to control for the surrounding environment of the syllables. A single syllable name of a color ending in a vowel always preceded the novel word and a single syllable word beginning with the voiced stop-consonant **/d/** always followed the novel target word in the carrier phrase used in this study. Thus both the first and the second syllable of the target word were preceded by a vowel and followed by the voiced stop-consonant /d/. The vowels in the target novel words were chosen because they are full vowels, capable of being primary stressed and are relatively far from each other in the vowel formant space. The consonant **/d/** was chosen for easier identification of landmarks for the consonants and the vowels.

Three visually distinct novel objects were chosen and given the first syllable primary stressed names *'dada, 'didi,* and *'dodo.* These same three objects were then slightly altered, so

that they were recognizable but noticeably different. The second syllable primary stress names *da 'da, di 'di* and *do 'do,* respectively, were given to the altered forms of three objects. Figure 3 shows the objects used to represent the novel words. Thus the first syllable primary stress novel word was a lexical item representing a different object and having a different meaning than the second syllable primary stress novel word, although they both shared the same CVCV composition (i.e., *'dada* and *da 'da).*

2.2.2 Real Words

A total of four real words were used in this production study. Two of the object names had first syllable primary stress, *statue* and *sushi,* while the other two target words had second syllable primary stress, *tattoo* and *bouquet.* All the above target words were chosen because they contain a primary stressed syllable and a secondary/non-primary full vowel syllable. Pronlex, a component of the COMLEX lexical database, as well as The American Heritage College Dictionary, $3rd$ edition, were used to verify the word stress status of each of the syllables of the target words used in this study. Figure 4 shows the objects used to represent the real words.

The first syllable primary stressed word, *statue,* and the second syllable primary stressed word, *tattoo*, have identical vowels in their first and second syllables. This allows for direct comparison of the two vowels when they are primary stressed and when they are non-primary full vowels. Target words *sushi* and *bouquet* share the same vowel **/u/** with *statue* and *tattoo,* but in the first syllable rather than the second. The different syllable location of the vowel /u/ allows for a six-way direct and syllable location comparison of the vowel /u/ between the four target words. None of the words contained liquids (i.e., [1] and [r]) and/or glides (i.e., [w] and **[j])** because of the effect of these segments on the spectral composition of adjacent vowels.

Figure 3. The objects used to represent the novel words.

Figure 4. The objects used to represent the real words.

2.3 Experiment Design

Before testing the participants on the target words, they were put through a preliminary training session. Two preliminary training objects were given the novel names 'gugu and gu'gu, respectively. The purpose of the preliminary training session was to introduce the speakers to the format of this production study. Following the preliminary training session speakers were presented the objects representing the target words, using the same format. Before the actual test, speakers were given a brief naming practice session, where they saw the orthographic spelling of each target word written underneath its corresponding object once and then practiced using the names of the objects (i.e., target words) in carrier phrases requiring them to verbally distinguish the minimal stress pairs of target words. In the practice session, two objects were presented together with the first object corresponding to a first syllable primary stressed target word and the second object corresponding to a target word with second syllable primary stress (i.e., statue-tattoo).

Digital pictures of the target words, referred to as objects, were presented to the participants within the object naming paradigm. The presentation of the objects was varied in three different conditions designed to produce systematic variations in phrase level accentuation. Results from these three conditions were used to determine the acoustic correlates of word stress that distinguished between the primary stressed syllable and the non-primary full vowel syllable of the two-syllable target words, as well as the correlates of pitch accent that indicate the presence of phrasal focus on the target word. The three conditions designed to separate phrase level focal pitch accent from word stress acoustic correlates are: The focal pitch accented condition (Fa); the post-nuclear pitch accented condition **1 (Fp 1);** and post-nuclear pitch accented condition 2 **(Fp2).**

2.3.1 Focal Pitch Accented Condition (Fa)

In this object naming task, speakers were first shown a picture of the object representing the first syllable primary stressed word next to the picture of the object representing the minimal

stress paired second syllable primary stressed word (i.e., *'dada-da'da,* statue-tattoo, etc.). Speakers were asked the question "Which object drove here?" and instructed to answer with the name of the circled object in the carrier phrase, "My grey *(target word)* drove here." This object naming task was designed to have the speaker place high focal pitch accent on the target word. In this high focal pitch accented condition (Fa), both objects were always the color grey and assigned the same owner, "my". Thus by varying the circled object, speakers were prompted to put the high focal pitch accent on the target word within the carrier phrase. The novel words were paired according to their CV composition, such that words with identical composition, but contrast in the syllable location of the primary stress vowel (i.e., minimal stress pairs like *'dada* and *da'da).* For the real words, *statue and tattoo* were paired, to allow for maximum contrast of word stress. *Sushi* and *bouquet* formed the second minimal stress pair of target real words, since they contrast in the syllable location of their primary stress. Speakers were presented a picture of the paired objects twelve times, with one of the paired objects circled. The first utterance of each target word was not used in analysis. Each utterance was checked for correct intonation before analysis. Figure *5* illustrates (a) the object presentation format and (b) an example utterance spectrogram from a speaker's response to the presentation.

varying the object, the speaker could be prompted to treat the name of the target object as new information
and place focal pitch accent on it. The solid yellow line is the intensity contour, while the blue-dotted line is
 Figure 5. Focal Pitch Accented Condition (Fa). (a) object presentation and (b) labeled spectrogram. By

2.3.2 Post-Nuclear Pitch Accented Condition 1 (Fpl)

Speakers were also tested in the non-focal pitch accented condition $(Fp1)$, where the onesyllable word preceding the target word had the high focal pitch accent. The same pair of target words tested in the Fa condition was also tested in this Fp1 condition. Speakers were shown a grey version of the object representing one of the target words next to a blue version of the same object. They were then asked the question "Which object drove here?" The speakers were instructed to use the carrier phrase "Your *(color)* target word drove here." In this condition the object remained the same, as well as the owner, but the color of the circled object changed. Since the color of the object was the only thing different, speakers were prompted in this Fpl condition to place the high focal pitch accent on the color in their utterance, instead of on the target word. Speakers were presented each object representing a target word six times in a row, with only the color of the circled object changing. As before, the first utterance of each target word was not used in analysis. Figure 6 illustrates (a) the Fpl object presentation format and (b) an example utterance spectrogram from a speaker's response to the presentation.

2.3.3 Post-Nuclear Pitch Accented Condition 2 (Fp2)

An additional post-nuclear focal pitch accented condition was added to this production study in order to better understand the effect of location and presence of focal accent on both the primary stressed and non-primary full vowel syllables. This effect of high focal pitch accent on spectral measurements from the target words is discussed in detail in Section 2.6 of this Chapter. In this post-nuclear pitch accented condition (Fp2), objects of each target word were grouped into blocks of six presentations containing the exact same object all the same color. Each object was then assigned one of the possible two owners, "my" or "your", written on the object. All the target words, tested in both the Fa and Fpl conditions, were also tested in this Fp2 condition.

They were then asked the question "Which object drove here?" The objects were presented in the same format as in the Fp1 condition, such that speakers were instructed to use the circled object's name in the carrier phrase "(Owner) blue target word drove here." Thus speakers were prompted to place the high focal pitch accent on the word two syllables in front of the target word. By only varying the owner of the pictured object, speakers were prompted to treat the owner of the object as the new information and place the high focal pitch accent on it. Figure 7 illustrates (a) the Fp2 object presentation format and (b) an example utterance spectrogram from a speaker's response to the presentation.

spectrogram. By varying the color of the object, speakers could be prompted to treat the color of the circled
object as new information and place focal pitch accent on it. The solid yellow line is the intensity contour,
wh Figure 6. Post-Nuclear Pitch Accent Condition 1 (FpI). (a) object presentation and (b) labeled pitch accent on that word or syllable of word.

2.4 Measurements

For each vowel of all the target words, the peak fundamental frequency (FO), maximum intensity, and the duration of each syllable of the target word were determined using the speech analysis application, Praat version 4.3.04 **by** Boersma and Weenink **(2005).** In this study, measurements were made of glottal source spectral parameters, using **512** DFT spectra of each target word vowel, at three different locations in the middle of the vowel that were at least 20ms apart. The spectra were constructed using a variable window size, depending on the average fundamental frequency of each speaker.

Spectral measurements of the first and second harmonics **(H1** and H2, respectively), the first and second formant amplitudes **(Al** and **A3,** respectively), as well as the frequencies of the first, second and third formants (Fl, F2, and **F3,** respectively) were made for each vowel. Values obtained for **H1** and H2 were corrected using a modified version of the correction formula proposed **by** Iseli and Alwan (2004) for the effect of Fl on **H1** and **H2** (Appendix **A** for more detail). The amplitude of the third formant **(A3)** was also corrected for the effect of F **1** and F2, caused **by** vocal tract shape differences between vowels (Figure **8).** The **F3** of each vowel of a target word was 600Hz band-pass filtered and rated **by** the author for noise using a 7-point rating system, where a rating of 1 indicated evidence of no noise and a rating of **7** indicated completely noisy. Figure 9 shows the 7-point noise rating system which was adapted from the 4-point noise rating system used **by** Klatt and Klatt **(1990),** Hanson **(1995** and 1997a), and Hanson and Chuang **(1999).** Utterances were pre-screened for the correct intonation. Only target words with vowels longer than 55ms in duration (both primary stressed and non-primary) were analyzed and used in the results reported in Section **2.5.**

Figure 8. Effect of vocal tract shape on glottal source spectrum (figures from Hanson, 1995; Stevens, 1998;
and Hanson and Chuang, 1999).

Filtered F3 Waveform Noise Rating

Figure 9. The 7-point waveform noise rating system which was adapted from the 4-point noise rating system used by Klatt and Klatt
(1990), Hanson (1995 and 1997), and Hanson and Chuang (1999).
2.5 Results

Measurements made from the target words produced **by** the five speakers were organized into Tables shown in Appendix B according to the conditions in which they were produced (i.e., Fa, **Fpl** and **Fp2).** The formant values obtained agreed with expected values for the vowels contained in the target words (Stevens, **1998).** Although formant frequencies obtained for the vowels were within the expected value range for the novel words in all three conditions, the first formant **(F1)** of the primary stressed vowel in the novel words *'dada and da'da* was consistently greater than that of the non-primary full vowel (Tables 1-12 in Appendix B). However, this was not observed for the other novel word pairs. There were no consistent formant differences observed between primary stressed vowels and non-primary full vowels for the real words.

Syllable differences with regard to the remaining parameters were calculated from the values in these tables and graphed according to Figure **10.** In this and later figures, what is graphed is the average speaker difference between the first syllable value and the second syllable value of the measured parameters **(S1-S2).** Thus if the value of the first syllable is greater, the difference is positive and if the second syllable has a larger value, the difference is negative. Equal values between the two syllables results in a difference of zero.

2.5.1 Correlates of Word Stress

Syllable difference values from the novel target words *'dada, 'dodo,* and *'didi,* with first syllable primary stress, and their second syllable primary stress counterparts *da 'da, do 'do,* and *di 'di,* revealed that consistent correlates of word stress do exist (Figure **11).** The same correlates that distinguished primary stressed syllables from the non-primary full vowel syllables for novel words also correlated with word stress for the real words (Figure 12). These correlates of word stress are syllable differences in duration, spectral tilt (measured as $H1^*$ -A3^{*}), and noise at high frequencies (indicated **by** the band-pass filtered **F3** waveform ratings).

Results shown in Figures 11 a-c and 12a-c illustrate how syllable differences in duration correlate to syllable prominence differences between the first and second syllables of the target words. When the first syllable has the primary stress it is greater than or equal to the duration of the second full vowel syllable. For the real words, the primary stressed first syllable was on average consistently longer in duration than the second full vowel syllable. This was not the case with the novel words, where in the non-pitch accented conditions Fpl and Fp2, the primary stressed first syllable was often the same duration as the second syllable. The difference between the two types of words might be explained by noting that the primary stressed first syllable real word *statue* begins with a double consonant cluster, adding additional length to the first syllable. The first syllable of *sushi* contains the vowel /u/ which intrinsically has a longer duration than the vowel /i/. Thus it seems that it is the uncontrolled consonant-vowel composition of the real words that results in the observed primary stressed first syllable duration differences between novel and real words. However for both novel and real words, primary stressed second syllables were consistently longer than the preceding full vowel first syllable.

Syllable differences in the spectral tilt measurement H **1** *-A3* also distinguished the primary stressed syllable from the full vowel syllable, for both novel and real words, in all three pitch accent conditions (Figures **I** Id-f and 12d-f). In general the primary stressed syllable had less spectral tilt than the non-primary syllable. For both novel and real words, equal spectral tilt often corresponded to second syllable primary stress, with the exception being first syllable primary stressed *'didi* in the Fp2 condition. However, as will be demonstrated in Section 2.6, clearer measurements of spectral tilt can be obtained that more accurately depicts the spectral tilt syllable difference between primary stressed and non-primary full vowel syllables.

Figures 11g-i and 12g-i show that the average syllable difference in the band-pass filtered F3 waveform noise rating (Nw), which indicates relative amount of noise at high frequencies, accurately distinguishes the primary stressed syllable from the non-primary full vowel syllable. The syllable difference in noise rating goes in the same direction as that for H1^{*}-A3^{*}. That is, the primary stressed syllable on average has lower waveform noise ratings than the non-primary full vowel syllable for novel words, which have syllables with the same CV composition.

However, for real words two types of syllable differences seem to be captured by the Nw rating. The first is syllable differences in vowel composition. Note that for *statue* and *tattoo,* both having the vowel /u/ in the second syllable position, regardless of the syllable position of the primary stress, the second syllable had higher Nw ratings. For *sushi* and *bouquet,* both having the vowel $/u'$ in the first syllable position, it is the first syllable that consistently had higher Nw ratings. Thus syllables with $/u'$ in general have more noise at high frequencies. However, superimposed on this vowel distinction is the primary stress distinction. Notice that when the syllable with /u/ has primary stress, it has lower Nw ratings than the corresponding syllable with /u/ that is non-primary. Thus once syllable vowel differences are accounted for, primary stressed syllables can be distinguished from non-primary full vowel syllables using Nw ratings.

2.5.2 Correlates of Pitch Accent

The same pitch accent correlates were found for both the target novel words and real words. These correlates only distinguished primary stressed syllables from non-primary full vowel syllables when the target word had high focal pitch accent. Syllable difference in peak fundamental frequency (FO), peak intensity, and amplitude of voicing, measured as H1*, all correlated to pitch accent. Figures **13** and 14 show that syllable differences in these parameters distinguished the more prominent syllable only in the Fa condition, when the target word had high focal pitch accent. This was true for both novel and real words.

Figures 13a-c and 14a-c show that syllable difference in FO peak distinguished primary stressed from non-primary full vowels only in the Fa condition. In this pitch accented condition, the primary stressed syllable had the higher FO peak. However, when the target word was not high focal pitch accented (i.e., **Fpl** and **Fp2** conditions), the first syllable had the higher FO peak value, regardless of which syllable had primary word stress. This was true for both novel and real words. Furthermore, Figures 13b-c and 14b-c show that the further the high focal pitch accent is from the target word, the smaller the FO peak difference is between the first and second syllables of the target word.

Syllable **HI*** differences also distinguished which of the syllables had the primary stress only in the Fa condition. Figures **13d-f** and **14d-f** show that like syllable difference in FO peak, syllable difference in **H1*** was favored the primary stressed vowel only when the target word was high focal pitch accented in the Fa condition. However, when the target word was in the **Fp** 1 and **Fp2** conditions, the first syllable on average had the greater H **I*** value, regardless of which syllable had primary word stress. This was consistent for the novel, as well as the real words. As with the syllable difference in FO peak, the further the high focal pitch accent is from the target word, the smaller the **H1*** difference is between the first and second syllables of the target word.

Another correlate of pitch accent was found to be syllable differences in peak intensity. Figures 13g-i and 14g-i show that only in the Fa condition does syllable difference in peak

intensity accurately distinguish between primary stressed syllables and non-primary full vowel syllables. As with the other correlates of pitch accent, syllable difference in FO peak and HI*, syllable intensity peak differences is positive in the Fpl and Fp2 conditions, indicating that the first syllable had the greater intensity peak regardless of which syllable had the primary word stress. However, unlike the other correlates of pitch accent, the positive intensity peak difference between the syllables in the Fp1 and Fp2 conditions is smaller when the second syllable has the primary stress. Although this difference exists, it is also small, such that the syllable intensity peak difference when the first syllable has primary stress is often with 3dB of the syllable difference when the second syllable has the primary stress. At first glance this might seem like the same situation as with the correlate of word stress, Nw rating, however there are major differences.

One major difference between Nw rating and intensity peak is that when we control for the phonological composition of the syllables, as in the case with novel words, the first syllable bias for greater intensity peak in the Fp1 and Fp2 conditions does not disappear. A possible reason why the positive syllable intensity peak difference is smaller when the second syllable has primary stress is that primary stressed syllables tend to have more energy at high frequencies, as indicated by the spectral tilt, a correlate of word stress. This increased amplitude of high frequency harmonics, if large enough, can increase the overall intensity of the primary stressed second syllable vowel, relative to that of the first syllable, thereby decreasing the intensity peak difference between the two syllables. In order to know whether a positive syllable difference in intensity peak indicates first syllable or second syllable primary stress, we would have to know the contribution of mid to high frequencies to the overall amplitude. This however is a measure of spectral tilt, which we have shown to be a correlate of word stress. Thus knowledge of the syllable difference in intensity peak, which is positive in the Fp1 and Fp2 conditions, is not sufficient information to determine the primary stressed syllable.

2.5.3 Non-Correlates

Syllable differences in the parameters $H1^* - H2^*$, an approximation of open quotient, and **HI*-Al*,** an approximation of **F1** bandwidth, did not correlate to either word stress or pitch accent. Figures 15 and 16 show that in none of the three pitch accented conditions (i.e., Fa, Fpl, and Fp2) did syllable differences in either H1^{*}-H2^{*} or H1^{*}-A1^{*} consistently distinguish the primary stressed syllable from the non-primary full vowel syllable. Thus it seems that syllable differences in open quotient and Fl bandwidth, approximated as Hi*-H2* and H1 ***-A *** respectively, are not parameters that native speakers of American English consistently use to convey prosodic information, at least at the word level.

Figure 13. Pitch accent correlates for novel words. The difference between the average first syllable value and the average
second syllable value (S1-S2).

잆

Figure 14. Pitch accent correlates for real words. The difference between the average first syllable value and the average second syllable value (S1-S2).

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2.6 High Focal Pitch Accent Effect on H1* Value

*2.6.1 Changes in HI * Due to Pitch Accent Location and Proximity*

The results from Section 2.5 indicate that syllable difference in HI*-A3* is a correlate of word stress, even though H₁^{*} is by itself a correlate of pitch accent. Is it possible that the word stress distinction between primary stressed syllables versus non-primary full vowel syllables, in terms of H1*-A3*, is due to a combination of changes in H1* and A3*? Or is it that changes in H1*, which correlate to pitch accent, is some how confounding the spectral tilt measurement H1*-A3*, that correlates to word stress? How can we determine the part or parts of the measurement H1^{*}-A3^{*} that are contributing to the word stress syllable difference in spectral tilt, measured as $H1*-A3*$?

If we just look at H1^{*} measurement differences between focal pitch accented primary stressed vowels and unaccented non-primary full vowels, we should see that accented vowels have higher values of $H1^*$, since $H1^*$ is a correlate of pitch accent. This seems to be the case, as is shown in Figure 13d. When neither the primary stressed nor the non-primary full vowel was accented, no consistent difference in $H1*$ was observed based on the primary word stress status of the vowel, since HI* is not a correlate of word stress. This is shown in Figures 13e-f. Interestingly, if we look at the change in H1^{*} value of a particular syllable of a target novel word (i.e., the first or second syllable) as a function of pitch accent location, we find that HI* does not remain constant. Figure 17a shows the change in average Hi* of the full vowel in the second syllable of all the novel target words, as a function of focal pitch accent position. As Figure 17a clearly shows that the average H1* value decreases as the distance of the focal pitch accent from the target word syllable of interest increases. The pattern is relatively consistent for all the novel target words. The value of $H1*$ seems to stabilize when the high focal pitch accent is located about two syllables before the syllable vowel of interest and remain relatively unchanged when the focal pitch accent is three syllables in front of the syllable vowel of interest.

From Figure 17a, we can see that on average the high focal pitch accent increases the HI* value of a full vowel about 8dB from the base value observed when the focal accent is

located three syllables preceding the full vowel syllable of interest. When the high focal pitch accent is located one syllable in front of the syllable of interest, that syllable's HI* value is about 2dB greater than the average base value of 32.7 dB. These results agree with findings from Stevens (1994) and Hanson (1997b), which showed that non-reduced vowels had reduced amplitudes following a nuclear pitch accent compared to when the vowels were themselves pitch accented. Figure 17b illustrates the effect of high focal pitch accent on the fundamental harmonic (H1) as a function of distance from the target word syllable. Thus the pattern of H1^{*} differences shown in Figure 13 for the novel words can mostly be accounted for by the proximity and location of the focal pitch accent. It is also possible that the number of consonants or types of consonants between the syllables would affect the rate of decline of the focal accent effect on HI. Nevertheless, this finding rules out HI* as the cause of the spectral tilt difference observed in Figures 1ld-f.

Figure **18.** *A change in HI *-A3*, can be due to either change in the HI* ***** *value or changes in A3*.*

Since H1^{*} has been ruled out as the cause of the glottal spectral tilt (H1^{*}-A3^{*}) difference between primary stressed and non-primary full vowel syllables, how can it be determined that the difference is due to a decrease in A3* (Figure 18)? As discussed in Chapter 1, non-abrupt closure of the vocal folds during phonation causes the amplitude of the harmonics at higher frequencies to decrease, resulting in the increased presence of noise at those frequencies. Thus lower values of A3*, for non-primary full vowels, should result in greater evidence of noise in the region of the third formant (F3) for all three focal pitch accented conditions tested in the novel word. Figure 12g-i shows the results of the waveform noise rating for all three conditions for the novel words. This suggests that the measurement Hi ***-A3*** can and should be corrected for the effect of high focal pitch accent on $H1*$ in order to use it to more accurately differentiate between the primary stressed and non-primary full vowels in a two-syllable word.

2.6.2 Correction for the Effect of High Focal Pitch Accent on Spectral Tilt Measurement

If we assume, according to Section 2.6.1, that the **H1*** differences between the primary stressed and non-primary full vowels $(\Delta H1^*)$, as shown in Figure 14, are predominantly due to the presence, location, and proximity of the high focal accent, then we can correct for the effect of the high focal pitch accent on syllable difference in spectral tilt (ΔST , where $ST = H1^* - A3^*$) between the two vowels by subtracting from it $\Delta H1^*$. Equation 1 illustrate the ΔST correction for HI* difference due to high focal accent.

$$
\Delta ST^* = \Delta ST - \Delta H1^* \tag{Eq. 1}
$$

where ΔST^* is the corrected spectral tilt measurement.

A hypothesis arising from the correction of ΔST for the effect of focal accent is that, because of possible physiological constraints, the glottal events giving rise to the high focal pitch accent, such as increased pressure difference across the glottis and or increased open quotient, cannot be instantaneously stopped or reset. The result is that for the Fp1 and Fp2 conditions the residual effects of these events continue from the preceding vowel into the target word. A

prediction of this hypothesis is that the first syllable of the target word would be the most affected, especially if it has primary stress and produced more modally. Another prediction would be that the effect of the events giving rise to the high focal pitch accent would decrease with increasing distance from the accent. Figure 13a-c supports this hypothesis.

Thus the ΔST correction should be applicable to all three focal accented conditions (i.e., Fa, **Fpl,** and Fp2). However, it should be most effective when the focal pitch accent is on the target word, since this is when the change in **HI*** from its "default" value is greatest. Implementation of Equation 1 on the spectral tilt difference results shown in Figures 13d-f and 14d-f, using the **AHI*** results shown in Figures 13a-c and 14a-c, respectively, is illustrated in Figures **19** and 20. Figures 19 and 20 shows that when the effect of the pitch accent on H1* is accounted for, spectral tilt differences between the vowels of a two syllable word can be better observed using the correction for the effect of high focal pitch accent on the spectral tilt measurement H1*-A3*.

Pitch Accent Corrected Spectral Tilt Measurements (Novel Words)

Figure 19. Novel word spectral tilt measurements corrected for the effect of pitch accent on H1*. The difference
between the average first syllable value and the average second syllable value (S1-S2).

Pitch Accent Corrected Spectral Tilt Measurements (Real Words)

Figure 20. Real word spectral tilt measurements corrected for the effect of pitch accent on H1*. The difference
between the average first syllable value and the average second syllable value (S1-S2).

2.7 Discussion

From the results we observed that the parameters measured in this production study can be broken up into three groups: correlates of word stress in all three conditions, Fa, Fpl, and Fp2; correlates of pitch accent, that only distinguish the primary stressed syllable from the nonprimary full vowel syllable when the target word has phrase-level high focal pitch accent (i.e., condition Fa); and non-correlates of either word stress or pitch accent. The correlates of word stress that were observed in all three conditions for both novel and real words were syllable differences in duration, spectral tilt, measured as **HI*-A3*,** and band-pass filtered F3 waveform noise ratings. Primary stressed syllables were longer in duration and contained vowels with less spectral tilt compared to the non-primary full vowel syllable in the same word. The vowel of a primary stressed syllable was also in general rated as having less high frequency noise than the non-primary full vowel syllable of the same word.

Correlates of word stress only when the target word was high focal pitch accented (i.e., pitch accent correlates) were found to be syllable differences in peak FO and intensity within the vowel, as well as H **I*,** which corresponds to the amplitude of voicing. These parameters accurately distinguished the primary stressed syllable from the non-primary stressed syllable of a target word only in the Fa condition. However, when the focal pitch accent preceded the target word, the first syllable of the target word consistently had the greater peak FO, peak intensity, and H₁^{*} values. The smaller peak intensity difference in the F_{p¹} and F_{p²} conditions, when the second syllable has primary stress, might be due to the effect of focal pitch accent proximity on H1* combined with the fact that primary stressed vowels have more energy at high frequencies.

To elaborate, a non-pitch accented primary stressed first syllable vowel would be expected to have more energy at high frequencies than the non-primary second syllable vowel. Depending on how large the spectral tilt difference between the two vowels, this energy difference at high frequencies can contribute to the overall peak intensity difference. Furthermore, since the first syllable is always closer in proximity to the focal pitch accent in the Fpl and Fp2 conditions, it would be expected, according to section 2.6 and based on the results, to have a higher H1^{*} value. This would further increase the intensity difference between the

primary stressed first syllable and the non-primary second syllable, leading to the first syllable having a greater peak intensity (Figure 13h-i). If the second syllable has the primary stress, it would in general have less or equal spectral tilt as the non-primary first syllable in the same word, thereby neutralizing one of the two sources that gave the first syllable greater peak intensity when it had primary stress. Since the first non-primary first syllable will still have a greater H1*, because it is closer to the pitch accent in the **Fpl** and **Fp2** conditions, it is expected to still have the greater peak intensity, since energy at low frequencies contribute more to the overall amplitude than energy at high frequencies. However, the syllable difference, when the second syllable has primary stress, will not be as great, that is more positive.

The non-correlates of either word stress or pitch accent were the spectral approximations of open quotient, H1 *-H2*, first formant bandwidth, H ***-A1,** as well as formant differences between the primary stressed syllable and the non-primary full vowel syllable of a word. Thus it does not seem that, for the real words tested in this study, vowel formant differences, in this case for [u], allow us to determine the word stress pattern of the word. Interestingly, for one minimal stress pair of novel words, *'dada* and *da'da,* the primary stressed vowel consistently had a higher Fl frequency (See Appendix B). This larger Fl value for the primary stressed vowels of the novel words *'dada* and *da'da* is consistent with the effects of opening the mouth wider. It might have been easier for speakers to indicate the relationship between the vowels of the two syllables **by** opening the mouth wider, since the production of the vowel /a/ does not require rounding, as in the production of /o/ and /u/, or narrowing a region of the oral cavity, as in the production of the vowel /i/. Further explanation is given in Chapter 4.

The spectral approximations of open quotient, H1*-H2*, and first formant bandwidth, **H1*-A1,** do not clearly distinguish between primary stressed and non-primary **full** vowel syllables. Perhaps changes in **H1*** are confounding the results for HI*-H2* and **HI*-Al*.** However, analysis of the individual average speaker values and overall average H2* and **Al*** values shown the tables in Appendix B, suggest that in most cases changes in **H2*** and **Al *** do not correlate with either word stress or pitch accent. Overall, the differences between the primary stressed syllable and the non-primary full vowel syllable of a word, in terms of the

correlates of word stress, were more distinct once the CV composition of the target words were controlled, as in the case with the novel words.

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3. Perception Study: Individual and Co-variation of Word Stress Correlates

3.1 Listeners

A total of fourteen native speakers of American English participated in this perception study. Six of the participants were involved in both of the syllable prominence judgment tasks described below. A subset of the listeners were also involved in a naturalness rating task using the stimuli from the syllable prominence judgment tasks. All the participants were male and between **18** and **50** years of age, with no history of language disorder or speech therapy. Listeners were chosen to match the speakers who participated in the production study and some of them were also involved in the production study discussed in Chapter 2. As with the production study, listeners were compensated for their involvement in this perception study. All listeners were tested in the same sound insulated booth, where the production studies were conducted. Stimuli were presented through headphones at a sound level comfortable for each listener.

3.2 Synthesis of **Stimuli**

3.2.1 Stimuli for Individual Variation of Word Stress Parameters

The software application **KLSYN88** was used to manipulate word stress acoustic parameters. In order to determine if listeners were influenced **by** syllable differences in the **KLSYN88** parameters that corresponded to duration **(KLSYN88** parameter **DU),** spectral tilt **(KLSYN88** parameter TL), and aspiration noise **(KLSYN88** parameter **AH),** a novel word *"dada",* with syllables that varied in these parameters, was synthesized and concatenated into the declarative carrier phrase "Your blue [dada] drove here." The carrier phrase was spoken **by** a male native speaker of American English, with high focal pitch accent on the first word of the phrase, as in the **Fp2** condition discussed in Chapter 2. The novel word *"dada"* was copy

synthesized from the same male speaker and was the only part of the carrier phrase that was synthesized. Figure 21 shows a comparison of the spectrum and waveform of the real vowel *la/* with the spectrum and waveform of the synthesized vowel.

The syllable difference in the word stress corresponding parameters, duration (approximated using the KLSYN88 parameter DU), spectral tilt (approximated using the KLSYN88 parameter TL), and noise at high frequencies (approximated using the KLSYN88 parameter for aspiration noise, AH) of the first and second syllables of the synthesized *"dada"* were individually manipulated such that there were differences between the two syllables. For each of the word stress corresponding parameters, the difference between the vowels of the first and second syllables of *"dada"* could have 1 of 17 values. When the parameter of a syllable was varied, the same parameter for the other syllable was kept constant at the designated minimum value.

The consonant-vowel (CV) composition of the synthesized *"dada"* was such that the first and second syllables had exactly the same acoustic production of the onset [d], while the vowels of the two syllables varied in one of the three acoustic parameters tested in this perception study. Acoustic parameters corresponding to the pitch accent correlates and non-correlates found in the production study of Chapter 2 were kept constant at the values observed for the male carrier phrase speaker during his production of the novel word *'dada* in the Fp2 condition of Chapter 2. The FO started at 95Hz at the beginning of the vowel for the first syllable and dropped at a rate of 1Hz/20ms. The FO for the second syllable started at 90Hz and declined at the same rate. Other parameters measured in the production study, such as formant values, H1 and H2 were also kept constant.

For the KLSYN88 parameter corresponding to duration, DU, the two syllables of *"dada"* could differ in DU by Oms, 20ms, 30ms, 45ms, 60ms, 75ms, 90ms, 105ms, or 120ms. The minimum syllable duration was 150ms, which was the value both syllables had when the DU syllable difference was Oms. The increase in DU of a syllable was accomplished by lengthening the vowel portion by 20ms for the first step, 10ms for the second step, and 15ms intervals afterwards. The 20ms was chosen as the minimum difference between syllables in order to insure that each incremental change in syllable DU also involved a change in the number of glottal pulses generated within the vowel of the syllable being manipulated. Thus given that the second syllable of the synthesized *"dada"* had a fundamental frequency (FO) starting at 90Hz and declined at a rate of 1Hz/20ms, 20ms DU increase from the minimum duration of 150ms insured that an additional glottal pulse was also generated. During changes in the duration (DU) difference between the two syllables of *"dada",* the syllable difference in the parameter TL was held constant with the second syllable having 2dB more TL then the first syllable. Syllable difference in the parameter AH was held constant at zero.

For the KLSYN88 parameter corresponding to spectral tilt, TL, the two syllables of *"dada"* could differ in TL by OdB to 16dB, in 2dB steps. The minimum syllable TL was OdB, which was the value both syllables had when their difference in TL was OdB. The maximum TL a syllable could have was **16dB,** because further increase in TL, using **KLSYN88,** resulted in changes in the overall amplitude of the vowel spectrum. During changes in the TL difference between the two syllables of *"dada",* the syllable difference in the parameter **DU** was held constant with the second syllable being 30ms longer, while syllable difference in the parameter **AH** was held constant at zero.

The **KLSYN88** parameter corresponding to aspiration noise, **AH,** could differ between the two syllables *of"dada"* **by** OdB to **16dB,** in 2dB steps. The minimum syllable **AH** within the vowel region was **35dB,** which was the value both syllables had when their difference in **AH** was OdB. The maximum **AH** a syllable could have was 51dB, because further increase in **AH,** using **KLSYN88,** resulted in changes in the overall amplitude of the vowel spectrum. Further changes in **AH** also resulted in distinctly unnatural sounding speech. During changes in the **AH** difference between the two syllables of *"dada",* the syllable difference in the parameter **DU** was held constant with the second syllable being 30ms longer, while syllable difference in the parameter TL was held constant with the second syllable having 2dB more TL then the first syllable.

3.2.2 Stimulifor Co-variation of Word Stress Parameters

For the syllable prominence judgment task involving co-variation of the word stress parameters, the novel word *"dada"* was once again synthesized and concatenated into the declarative carrier phrase "Your blue [dada] drove here." The carrier phrase was identical to the one used for the individual variation of the word stress parameters and contained the high focal pitch accent on the first word of the phrase, as in the **Fp2** condition. As before, the novel word *"dada"* was the only part of the carrier phrase that was synthesized.

The parameters corresponding to word stress correlates, duration (represented **by DU),** spectral tilt (represented **by** TL), and noise at high frequencies (represented **by AH),** were manipulated as described in Section **3.2.1.** The **KLSYN88** parameters corresponding to pitch accent correlates and non-correlates found in Chapter 2 were kept constant in the manner

discussed in Section 3.2.1. However, for these syllable prominence judgment task stimuli, the KLSYN88 parameters were co-varied, such that there were a total of 343 possible unique tokens. For the KLSYN88 parameter corresponding to duration, DU, the two syllables of *"dada"* could differ in DU by Oms, 30ms, 75ms, or 120ms. The minimum syllable duration was once again 150ms, which was the value both syllables had when the DU syllable difference was Oms. These syllable differences in DU are a subset of the DU values used in Section 3.3.1.

For the KLSYN88 parameter corresponding to spectral tilt, TL, the two syllables of *"dada"* could differ in TL by OdB, 2dB, 8dB and 16dB. The minimum syllable TL was OdB, which was the value both syllables had when their difference in TL was OdB. The maximum TL a syllable could have was 16dB, because of the effect of further increase in TL on the overall amplitude of the vowel spectrum. The KLSYN88 parameter corresponding to aspiration noise, AH, could differ between the two syllables *of"dada"* by OdB, 2dB, 8dB and 16dB. The minimum syllable AH within the vowel region was 35dB and the maximum AH a syllable could have was 51dB, for the reasons discussed in Section 3.2.1.

3.3 Experiment Design

3.3.1 Syllable Prominence Judgment Tasks

The purpose of this portion of the perception study was to determine if the word stress correlates, found in the production study of Chapter 2, were perceptually realized as such by listeners when varied as individual parameters and when co-varied. Individual variation of the KLSYN88 parameters corresponding to the word stress correlates allowed us to determine how listeners' judgment of syllable prominence is influenced by syllable differences in these parameters, in an ideal hypothetical condition where all other word stress cues are held constant between the two syllables of the novel word *"dada".* Co-variation of the word stress corresponding parameters allowed us to determine which of the parameters was more perceptually salient relative to the other two parameters. For the syllable prominence judgment

task involving individual variation of the parameters, listeners were asked during 4 trials to indicate which syllable of *"dada"* was more prominent. Each trial consisted of a practice session, during which listeners were exposed to the range of parameter manipulations using 4 tokens, and the test session, where a listener heard each of **17** possible tokens once.

For the syllable prominence judgment task involving co-variation of the **KLSYN88** parameters **DU,** TL and AH, syllable difference of a particular parameters could have 1 of **7** possible values, which were a subset of the **17** possible syllable difference values each parameter could have in the individual variation syllable prominence judgment task. Since the syllable difference in any of the three KLSYN88 parameters could have 1 of **7** possible values, there were 343 possible combinations of the three parameters. Thus the syllable difference values of a given parameter had 49 tokens in common. Listeners were given one trial, also consisting of a practice session and the test session, where listeners heard each of the 343 possible tokens once. As with the syllable prominence judgment task involving individual word stress variations, listeners were asked to determine which syllable of *"dada",* embedded in the carrier, was more prominent.

Results were obtained only from the test sessions of both syllable prominence judgment tasks. Listeners were given four choices: (1) the first syllable of *"dada"* was more prominent and they were certain; (2) they were uncertain, but if they had to guess they would guess that the first syllable was more prominent; **(3)** the second syllable *of"dada"* was more prominent and they were certain; (4) they were uncertain, but if they had to guess they would guess that the second syllable was more prominent. A subset of the listeners from both syllable prominence judgment tasks was also asked to rate the naturalness of the tokens used in the syllable prominence judgment tasks.

3.3.2 Naturalness Rating Tasks

Listeners were asked to rate the naturalness of each of the tokens used in the syllable prominence judgment tasks on a scale of 1 to 4, with 4 being natural and 1 being unnatural. The

purpose of these tasks was to determine the range of syllable difference in the word stress correlates that is considered natural by native speakers of American English. This also allowed us to weight the results obtained from the syllable prominence judgment tasks, such that results from the more natural tokens are weighed greater in contributing to our knowledge of word stress than unnatural tokens.

For the syllable prominence judgment task involving individual variation of the word stress parameters (DU, TL, and AH), 7 listeners were asked to rate the naturalness of each token. They were asked to do it in 4 trials consisting of a practice and a test session. A token carrier phrase with the real *"dada"* was also included, as well as tokens containing *"dada"* with extreme syllable difference in parameter values and one token where the vowels in *"dada"* were replaced with broadband noise. For the syllable prominence judgment task involving co-variation of the parameters, 4 listeners were asked to rate the naturalness of each token. This was done in 1 trail, consisting of a practice and a test session. As with the syllable prominence judgment task involving individual word stress parameter variation, the real carrier phrase, as well as one token where the vowels in *"dada"* were replaced with broadband noise, were included to give listeners the full range of possible naturalness.

3.4 Syllable Prominence Judgment Results

3.4.1 Individual Word Stress Parameter Variation

For the syllable prominence judgment involving individually varied word stress corresponding KLSYN88 parameters duration (represented by DU), spectral tilt (represented by TL), and noise at high frequencies (represented by AH), the four choices given to listeners were categorized into 2 groups, response for first syllable prominence and response for second syllable prominence. Responses of each of the ten listeners for a particular token were averaged, such that a single number representing a listener's average response for a particular token during the 4 trials was obtained. An Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) statistical analysis was done on the average response of the ten listeners for the 17 tokens of each of the manipulated parameters DU,

TL and **AH.** Changes in listeners' judgment of syllable prominence due to syllable difference in **DU** were found to be statistically significant **(p << 0.001).** This was also true for syllable difference in TL **(p << 0.001).** However, changes in syllable difference in **AH** did not significantly influence listeners' judgment of syllable prominence **(p =** 0.664). It should also be noted that there was significant differences between listeners in there responses (See Appendix E).

The average listener response to syllable difference in **DU,** shown in Figure 22, indicates that longer syllables, with greater value of **DU,** were perceived as having greater prominence. Interestingly, when the **DU** value was equal for the first and second syllable of *"dada",* listeners tended to perceive this as indicating first syllable prominence. This is in agreement with previous studies on duration (Fry, **1955;** Oller, **1972;** Klatt, **1976)** and with the results obtained in the production study of Chapter 2. Figure **23** shows that syllable difference in the spectral tilt **KLSYN88** equivalent parameter, TL, also cued for syllable prominence. The syllable with the greater TL value was perceived as being less prominent. **AH** results illustrated in Figure 24 show that syllable difference in **AH** had little effect on the response of native speakers of American English in this syllable prominence judgment task.

Figure 22: *The distribution plot of average response by* **10** *listeners, when the syllable difference in DU was variedfor the novel word "dada" in the carrier phrase "Your blue dada drove here." SI denotes the region for syllable one prominence and S2 denotes the region for syllable two prominence. The linear fitted line is just to aid in visualization of the response trend.*

Figure 23: *The distribution plot of average response by 10 listeners, when the syllable difference in TL was variedfor the novel word "dada" in the carrier phrase "Your blue dada drove here." SI denotes the region for syllable one prominence and S2 denotes the region for syllable two prominence. The linear fitted line is just to aid in visualization of the response trend.*

Figure 24: *The distribution plot of average response by 10 listeners, when the syllable difference in AH was variedfor the novel word "dada" in the carrier phrase "Your blue dada drove here." Si denotes the region for syllable one prominence and S2 denotes the region for syllable two prominence. The linear fitted line is just to aid in visualization of the response trend.*
3.4.2 Co-varied Word Stress Parameters

As with the syllable prominence judgment task involving individual word stress parameter variation, the four choices given to listeners for the co-varied KLSYN88 word stress parameters duration (represented by DU), spectral tilt (represented by TL), and noise at high frequencies (represented by AH) were categorized into 2 groups, response for first syllable prominence and response for second syllable prominence. Since each listener only heard each token once, there was no need to average. An Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) statistical analysis was done on the syllable prominence response of the ten listeners for the 343 tokens with respect to the individual co-varied parameters DU, TL, and AH. Changes in syllable difference in DU and TL significantly influenced listeners' judgment of which syllable *of"dada"* was more prominent ($p \ll 0.001$ and $p \ll 0.001$, respectively). Furthermore, a DU and TL interaction was present ($p = 0.002$), indicating that not only did syllable differences in DU and TL individually influence listener judgment, but that they also significantly affected each other's ability to influence the listener's judgment. As with the syllable prominence judgment task involving individual word stress parameter variation, changes in syllable difference in AH did not significantly influence listeners' judgment of syllable prominence ($p = 0.428$), nor was there significant interaction between it and the other parameters DU and TL ($p = 0.946$ and $p = 0.793$, respectively). It should also be noted that there was significant differences between listeners in there responses (See Appendix E).

Figure 25 shows that, as found with individually varied word stress parameters, longer syllables (i.e., with larger value of DU) were perceived as having the greater prominence. Although an interaction existed between syllable difference in DU and TL, changes in the parameter TL had little effect on listeners' use of syllable differences in DU as a cue for lexical prominence. When the DU duration value was equal for the first and second syllable of "dada", listeners on average perceived this as indicating first syllable prominence. As suggested by preliminary results, a "dada" with a second syllable longer than the first by about 30ms (i.e., - 30ms) was perceived to be the most ambiguous syllable duration difference cue for native

speakers of American English. Figure 26 shows that when the syllable difference in DU is small, that is when the first syllable is longer by 30ms or less and when the second syllable is longer by 30ms or less, syllable difference in the spectral tilt KLSYN88 equivalent parameter, TL, has the most influence on a listener's judgment of syllable prominence. As with the individual word stress parameter variation, the syllable with the greater TL value was perceived as being less prominent. As before the AH results illustrated in Figure 27, had little influence on listener judgment of syllable prominence ($p = 0.428$).

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Figure 25: *The distribution plot of average response by 10 listeners, when the syllable difference in DU was co-varied with TL and AHfor the novel word "dada" in the carrier phrase "Your blue dada drove here." SI denotes the region for syllable one prominence and S2 denotes the region for syllable two prominence. The linear fitted lines are just to aid in visualization of the response trends.*

Co-Variation Results (TL) **I CoVaritionResuts (L)**

Figure **26:** *The distribution plot of average response by O10 listeners, when the syllable difference in TL was co-varied with DU and AHfor the novel word "dada" in the carrier phrase "Your blue dada drove here. " SI denotes the region for syllable one prominence and S2 denotes the region for syllable two prominence. The linear fitted lines are just to aid in visualization of the response trends.*

I Co-Variation Results (AH) I

Figure *27: The distribution plot of average response by 10 listeners, when the syllable diference in AH was co-varied with DU and TLfor the novel word "dada" in the carrier phrase "Your blue dada drove here." Si denotes the region for syllable one prominence and S2 denotes the region for syllable two prominence. The linear fitted lines are just to aid in visualization of the response trends.*

3.5 Naturalness Rating Results

3.5.1 Individual Word Stress Parameter Variation

The responses of the listeners who participated in the naturalness rating task for individually varied word stress parameters were averaged and used to construct a histogram indicating how native speakers of American English perceived the naturalness of the syllable differences in the KLSYN88 parameters DU, TL and AH. ANOVA was conducted on listeners' response to the co-varied parameters. Syllable differences in DU and TL influenced listeners' judgment of naturalness ($p = 0.002$ and $p = 0.006$). However, syllable differences in AH did not significantly influence listeners naturalness rating ($p = 0.103$). Responses to the extreme syllable difference values for the word stress KLSYN88 parameters were not included in the statistical analysis.

Figures 28-30 show that the majority of the synthesized "dada" were perceived as being fairly natural, regardless of which syllable had the greater value. However, Figure 28 shows that there is a slight preference in terms of naturalness of native speakers of American English for the second syllable, in the novel word *"dada",* to be slightly longer in duration, as indicated by the parameter DU. Likewise, Figure 29 shows that listeners perceived a second syllable of *"dada"* with slightly greater spectral tilt, as indicated by the parameter TL, to be more natural. Figure 30 shows that in general the range of AH values used in the prominence experiment were perceived as fairly natural.

Figure *28: Histogram plot of average naturalness rating by all 7 listeners, when the syllable difference in DU was variedfor the novel word "dada" in the carrier phrase "Your blue dada drove here." The scale is from 1- 4, with I being unnatural and 4 being natural. Rl is the real utterance, while syllable DU difference of 800 and* - *800 indicate that the first syllable and the second syllable were longer by 800ms, respectively. Xs indicates that both syllables were 950ms and Ns is an utterance token with broad band noise replacing the vowels in "dada. "*

Figure 29: *Histogram plot of average naturalness rating by all 7 listeners, when the syllable difference in TL was variedfor the novel word "dada" in the carrier phrase "Your blue dada drove here." The scale is from 1-4, with 1 being unnatural and 4 being natural. RI is the real utterance, while syllable TL difference of 40 and -40 indicate that the first syllable and the second syllable were greater by 40dB, respectively. Xs indicates that both syllables had 40dB TL and Ns is an utterance token with broad band noise replacing the vowels in "dada. "*

Syllable **AH** Difference Naturalness Rating

Figure 30: *Histogram plot of average naturalness rating by all 7 listeners, when the syllable difference in AH was variedfor the novel word "dada" in the carrier phrase "Your blue dada drove here." The scale is from 1-4, with I being unnatural and 4 being natural. RI is the real utterance, while syllable AH difference of 40 and -40 indicate that the first syllable and the second syllable were greater by 75dB, respectively. Xs indicates that both syllables had 75dB AH and Ns is an utterance token with broad band noise replacing the vowels in "dada."*

3.5.2 Co-varied Word Stress Parameters

The responses of the listeners who participated in this naturalness rating task for the covaried word stress parameters were averaged and used to construct a histogram indicating how native speakers of American English perception of the naturalness of speech was influenced by syllable differences in the KLSYN88 parameters DU, TL and AH. ANOVA was conducted on listeners' response to the co-varied parameters. Syllable differences in DU, TL, and AH in the novel word "*dada*" all influenced listeners' judgment of naturalness (p << 0.001 for all). Furthermore, the ANOVA indicated that an interaction between syllable differences in TL and AH existed ($p = 0.002$) and between syllable differences in DU and TL ($p = 0.042$). However, no statistically significant interaction was found between DU and AH ($p = 0.961$). Responses to the extreme syllable difference values for the word stress KLSYN88 parameters; the real utterance; and the utterance with the noise replacing the vowels of *"dada"* were not included in the statistical analysis.

As with the individual word stress parameter variations, listeners had a slight preference in terms of naturalness for slightly longer second syllables, as indicated by the parameter DU averaged over all the TL and AH values (Figure 31). Likewise, Figure 32 shows that listeners perceive a second syllable of "dada" with greater spectral tilt, as indicated by the parameter TL averaged over all DU and AH values, to be more natural. Figure 33 shows that in general the range of AH values averaged over all DU and TL values used in the syllable prominence judgment tasks, involving co-variation of word stress parameters were perceived as fairly natural. This agreed with the naturalness rating results from when the parameter AH was varied by itself.

Figure 31: *Histogram plot of average naturalness rating by 5 listeners, when the syllable difference in DU was co-varied with TL andAHfor the novel word "dada" in the carrier phrase "Your blue dada drove here." The scale is from 1-4, with 1 being unnatural and 4 being natural. RI is the real utterance, while Ns is an utterance token with broad band noise replacing the vowels in "dada. "*

Figure 32: *Histogram plot of average naturalness rating by 5 listeners, when the syllable difference in TL was co-varied with DU andAHfor the novel word "dada " in the carrier phrase "Your blue dada drove here." The scale is from 1-4, with 1 being unnatural and 4 being natural. RI is the real utterance, while Ns is an utterance token with broad band noise replacing the vowels in "dada. "*

Figure 33: *Histogram plot of average naturalness rating by 5 listeners, when the syllable difference in AH was co-varied with DU and TLfor the novel word "dada" in the carrier phrase "Your blue dada drove here." The scale is from 1-4, with I being unnatural and 4 being natural. RI is the real utterance, while Ns is an utterance token with broad band noise replacing the vowels in "dada. "*

3.6 Discussion

Results from this study indicate that two of the three correlates of word stress produced **by** speakers in Chapter 2 represented **by** the KLSYN88 parameter **DU** (corresponding to duration), TL (corresponding to spectral tilt), and **AH** (corresponding to aspiration noise) were cues for listeners in the syllable prominence judgment tasks. Syllable difference in **DU** was a very strong and robust cue for syllable prominence when it was the only word stress parameter that differed between the two syllables of the synthesized novel word *"dada."* This was also true when syllable difference in DU was co-varied with syllable difference in the other two word stress parameters, TL and **AH.** In general, the syllable with the larger value of **DU** (i.e., longer in duration) was perceived as having the greater prominence. However, there seems to be an equal syllable duration bias towards first syllable prominence, with the second syllable having to be longer than about 30ms before being considered prominent. This finding agrees with the syllable duration difference results obtained in the production study of Chapter 2.

Listeners' use of syllable **DU** difference in choosing the more prominent syllable in *"dada"* was not influenced much **by** changes in the syllable difference of the other KLSYN88 parameters TL and **AH.** For both individual and co-varied word stress parameter syllable prominence judgment tasks, listener judgment of syllable prominence for the first syllable seems to reach saturation before the greatest syllable difference in **DU** tested in this study is achieved. However, it seems that listeners' judgment of longer second syllables as the more prominent syllable does not reach saturation, given the range of syllable difference in **DU** used in this study. This result, along with the naturalness rating for **DU,** indicates that the second syllable of *"dada"* can be longer before it is perceived as being unnatural. However, the syllable difference in **DU** might then indicate a phrasal boundary (Klatt, **1976,** Shattuck-Hufnagel and Turk, **1996).**

Syllable difference in the **KLSYN88** parameter for spectral tilt, TL, also cued for prominence when it was individually varied and when it was co-varied with the other word stress parameters. However, syllable difference in TL was most influential as a prominence cue when the syllable difference in **DU** (i.e., duration), between two syllables with full vowels, is relatively small. According to the natural ness ratings for **DU,** small syllable differences in **DU** are

perceived as being the most natural for a synthesized two-syllable novel word with two **full** vowels. In general, the syllable of *"dada"* that had the greater value of TL was perceived as being less prominent. However, there seems to be preference for the second syllable to have a slightly greater default value of TL, such that the second syllable TL value must be greater than the first syllable value **by** about 4dB before it is considered less prominent. The naturalness rating results also indicated that a significant interaction existed between syllable difference in **DU** and syllable difference in TL. These results all suggest that the duration and spectral tilt word stress correlates produced **by** speakers were intentional and natural for both the novel and real words.

Results for syllable difference in **AH** had the least influence on listeners' judgment of syllable prominence. Listeners' use of syllable difference in **AH** was slightly, but not significantly, influenced **by** syllable difference in TL. In general, syllable difference in **AH** did not influence listeners' judgments and thus was not perceived as a cue for syllable prominence. When syllable difference in **AH** was individually varied, listeners seemed to find the range of syllable difference in **AH,** for *"dada"* with a second syllable longer than the first **by** a **DU** value of 30ms and slightly more spectral tilt (TL value of 2dB), to be all within natural range. The syllable difference in **AH** naturalness ratings were overall high and varied little. However, syllable differences in **AH** did significantly influence listeners' judgment about the naturalness of the utterance containing the synthesized *"dada".* This was apparent when syllable difference in **AH** was co-varied with the other word stress parameters. This can serve as evidence that the listeners could perceive the syllable difference in **AH** in the syllable prominence judgment tasks, since the identical tokens were used for both prominence judgment and naturalness rating. It would be interesting to determine the nature of the interaction between syllable difference in TL and syllable difference in **AH.** Results from the production study, would suggest that their would be a positive correlation, such that listeners would find it more natural to find a syllable with greater spectral tilt, represented **by** TL, to also have greater noise at high frequencies, represented by **AH.**

Overall the naturalness ratings indicated that the range of syllable differences in DU used in the syllable prominence judgment task was fairly natural compared to the carrier phrase with

the real "dada," except when the first syllable was 120ms longer than the second syllable. These results agree with the production study, where equal syllable duration was used **by** speakers to indicate first syllable primary stress. The range of syllable differences in TL and **AH** were all considered **by** listeners to be fairly natural. However, a slight preference for second syllables with greater TL was still observed, suggesting that a first syllable with a slightly greater spectral tilt would be considered enough to cue for second syllable prominence. Results from the real word production study seem to confirm this hypothesis.

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4. Conclusion

Results from the production and perception studies reported in this thesis indicate that there are acoustic correlates of word stress, which consistently distinguish between primary stressed syllables from the non-primary full vowel syllables in all the pitch accented conditions tested. These correlates of word stress were spectral tilt, noise at high frequencies, indicated **by** ratings of band-pass filter **F3** waveforms, and syllable duration. The production and perception studies indicate that duration is the strongest correlate and cue to word stress. These findings are is in agreement with studies **by** Klatt **(1976),** Beckman and Campbell **(1997),** and Sluijter *et al.* **(1995,** 1996a-b, and **1997).** Nevertheless, when the syllable duration difference is small, listeners' judgment of syllable prominence is strongly influenced **by** syllable difference in spectral tilt, as found in the perception study of Chapter **3.**

Although, speaker average syllable difference in band-pass filtered **F3** waveform noise ratings correlated consistently with word stress patterns in the production study of Chapter 2, noise at high frequencies was not used **by** listeners to determine word prominence in the syllable prominence judgments. When the **KLSYN88** parameter corresponding to aspiration, **AH,** was varied individually and in combination with the other consistent correlates of word stress, it did not significantly influence listeners' judgment of syllable prominence for the synthesized *"dada".* It seems that **AH,** in the range that it was varied in the perception studies, was not a cue for syllable prominence, but was a correlate of word stress brought about **by** spectral tilt. Increase in spectral tilt also decreases the ratio of the amplitude of high frequency harmonics relative to that of the amplitude of high frequency noise already present. This could be used as another evidence that increase in spectral tilt, as measured **by** Hi ***-A3*,** is due to lowering of the amplitude of **A3*** not the increase of **Hl*.** This seems like a more natural process, since increasing **HI*,** even **by** a small amount, could increase the overall spectral amplitude. Increase in overall amplitude was found to be correlated to pitch accent in Chapter 2, using syllable difference in peak intensity, as well as in other studies (Fry, **1955** and **1958;** Lieberman, **1960;** and Harrington *et al.,* **1998).**

Furthermore, results from the production study indicate that word stress correlates are augmented in the Fa condition, when the high focal pitch accent was on the target word. However, this Fa condition also has the effect of masking the spectral tilt differences, as measured **by HI*-A3*,** between primary stressed and non-primary full vowel syllables. This effect of the high focal pitch accent on the **HI *-A3*** measurement can be corrected using Equation 1 of Chapter 2. Application of this focal pitch accent correction to measurements of **H1 *-A3*** in conditions where the high focal pitch accent precedes the target word, such as in the **Fp 1** and **Fp2** conditions also result in more accurate and clearer syllable differences in spectral tilt.

Vowel quality differences, such as increase in the first formant (F **1),** also seem to distinguish primary stressed syllables from non-primary stressed syllables for the vowel /a/ in the novel words *'dada and da 'da* in all three conditions tested in the production studies. This was found to be consistent across the five speakers (See Appendix B, Tables **1-3).** However it was not true for the other novel words containing the vowels /o/ and /i/, or for the real words. As demonstrated **by** the syllable prominence judgment tasks in Chapter **3,** syllable differences in formant values are not essential for making judgments about syllable prominence. In the case of *'dada* and *da 'da,* it might have been easier for speakers to indicate the relationship between the vowels of the two syllables **by** opening the mouth wider, since the production of the vowel */a/* does not require rounding, as in the production of /o/ and /u/, or narrowing of a region of the oral cavity, as in the production of the vowel /i/. Thus it seems that the goal of the speakers was to maintain the identity of the vowels, while simultaneously indicating the word stress relationship between these vowels, within the target words.

There are also acoustic correlates of pitch accent that only distinguish between primary stressed syllables from the non-primary full vowel syllables when the target word has phrase level high focal pitch accent. These pitch accent correlates were shown in the production study of Chapter 2 to be FO prominence, intensity prominence and amplitude of the first harmonic **(HI*).** When the focal pitch accent preceded the target word, the first syllable of the target word consistently had the greater peak FO, peak intensity, and **H1 *** values.

Preliminary experiments, not discussed in this thesis, indicated that in both the production and perception studies syllable differences in first formant bandwidth, as approximated by H1^{*}-**Al*,** could also serve as a weak correlate of word stress in conditions where the target word does not have high focal pitch accent. There seems to be some evidence of this for the real words, Figure 14e-f. However, there is no evidence of **H1*-Al*** being a word stress or pitch accent correlate once syllable differences in consonant and vowels were controlled, as with novel words in Chapter 2. This might be because loss of energy at high frequencies did not spread to lower frequencies. HI *-H2* was also found not to correlate with either word stress or pitch accent. It is possible that the measurement technique used in the production study was not sensitive enough. Perhaps more direct means of measuring these parameters, such as laryngeal endoscopy with calibrated sizing function, are needed in order to determine if they do play a role in distinguishing primary stressed full vowel syllables from non-primary full vowel syllables.

The naturalness rating results showed that the synthesized tokens used in the perception study of Chapter **3** were in general perceived **by** native speakers of American English as being fairly natural, but still fell short of the real utterance. Furthermore, the ratings revealed that listeners had preferences for syllable differences in **KLSYN88** parameters corresponding to the correlates of word stress (i.e., **DU,** TL, and **AH).** For example listeners seemed to find the range of syllable difference in **AH,** when individually varied with the second syllable being longer **by** a **DU** value of 30ms and having a TL value of 2dB, to be all within the natural range. However when the syllable difference in **DU** and TL were co-varied with **AH,** significant interaction between TL and **AH** was observed. Listeners seemed to favor second syllables with slightly longer or equal in duration than the first syllable, as well as second syllables that had slightly greater spectral tilt. These preferences might help shed light on why, for listeners and speakers, judgment of first syllable prominence and production of primary stressed syllables, respectively, are equated with equal syllable duration.

Naturalness ratings in the production study in Chapter **3** also confirmed that listeners could perceive the syllable differences in the **KLSYN88** parameter for aspiration noise, **AH,** as could the author of this thesis and others not reported, but did not use it to assign word prominence. Suggesting that the higher waveform noise rating for non-primary full vowels

observed in the production study was due to lowered amplitude of high frequency harmonics exposing noise already present, rather than active generation of noise by the speakers. However individual speaker differences exist (See Appendix B, Tables 7-12).

A general conclusion from the results obtained in this thesis research of two syllable novel and real words is that during speech production male native speakers of American English use changes in the shape of the vocal tract to distinguish between different vowel types. However, in order to distinguish between the primary stressed syllable and the non-primary full vowel syllable, speakers use duration and changes in glottal configuration during vowel phonation to lower or increase the amplitude of high frequency harmonics. For most of the vowels tested in this study (i.e., /o/, /i/, */u/),* significant changes in the vocal tract shape in order to indicate the word level prosodic relationship between two syllables of a target word, could compromise the identity of the vowels. Thus the prosodic relationship between the two syllables of the target words used was indicated using duration and changes in the glottal region of the larynx that result in different degrees of spectral tilt, which also gave rise to syllable difference in noise at high frequencies. These word stress syllable differences were also observed for the novel words with the vowel /a/, however additional first formant (F1) syllable differences that correlated to word stress were observed. This is possibly because the vowel /a/ does not have the same vocal tract shape restrictions as /o/, /i/, and /u/, since changes in syllable differences in F1 did not correlate with word stress for the other novel and real target words.

Duration seems to be the more salient of the cues for word stress, for both production and perception. Perhaps, this is because syllable differences in duration is a more simple and robust means of relaying word stress prosodic information, since major adjustments of speech articulators are not needed. What is needed is to just maintain the speech action, such as phonation, for a period of time. According to Turk and Sawusch (1996), harmonic signals produced with longer duration are perceived as being louder. Such an effect would be applicable to vowels. Also associated with loudness are changes in the amplitude of high frequency harmonics around 3kHz, which is the region of lowest intensity threshold in human hearing (Fletcher and Munson, 1937). Thus it is possible that changes in syllable difference in duration and spectral tilt are a means of changing the perceived loudness of the primary stressed syllable.

Studies done **by** Turk and Sawusch **(1996)** and Kochanski *et al.* **(2005)** suggest that more research is needed to in order to understand the role of duration and spectral tilt in determining the loudness of linguistic units at the level of the syllable. Overall, the differences between the primary stressed syllable and the non-primary full vowel syllable of a word, in terms of the correlates of word stress, were more distinct once the phonological composition of the target words were controlled, as with the novel words. Furthermore, significant individual differences exist in the production and perceptual use of word stress correlates.

5. Future Work

In the future, a replication of this study with female native speakers of American English will be conducted. This will allow for comparison of word stress correlate production and perception across gender. The current hypothesis is that no differences should exist in the perception of word stress correlates. It is however possible that word stress correlate gender differences might exist for speech production, given that female native speakers of American English tend to have less energy at high frequencies (Klatt and Klatt, 1990). Closer look at individual differences would also be appropriate, since differences between speakers and listeners do exist.

A possible future addition to this study is a physiological component that could help to strengthen the validity of the acoustic production and perception results obtained. The physiological component of the study would involve the visualization of vocal fold configurations during vowel phonation. This can be accomplished by utilizing a laryngeal endoscope with calibrated sizing function to visualize the glottal region during phonation and to quantitatively measure changes is the glottal area that would be associated with increase or decrease of spectral parameters, such as open quotient, increases in first formant bandwidth and spectral tilt. Many of these measurements can also be accomplished using electroglottography (EGG). In either case, correlation between the acoustic and physiological findings that support the results obtained in this thesis would greatly increase the validity of these results, as well as expand the number of fields and disciplines in which this study has an impact.

Further research can also be done to determine the role of duration and spectral tilt with regards to word stress. Evidence from this thesis research suggests that it is possible that the syllable differences between primary stressed and non-primary full vowel, might be an attempt to change the perceived loudness of the primary stressed syllable. It would also be important to investigate the effect of neighboring consonants on the perceived prominence of a syllable. For example is there a difference in the high frequency energy of the burst of a stop-consonant onset

of a primary stressed syllable compared to the burst of a matched stop-consonant onset of a nonprimary syllable of the same word? There are still many interesting unanswered questions with regard to word stress. Results from this study have shed light on a few, but many more unanswered questions still remain, such that the field of prosody will remain interesting for decades to come.

APPENDICES

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Correction of Spectral Measurements Using Inverse Filtering APPENDIX A:

During the production of vowels, such as /a/, /i/, **/o/,** and [u], airflow through the glottis, caused **by** pressure differences across the glottis, is modulated **by** the vocal fold vibrations. This modulation of airflow can be represented as changes in the volume velocity, Ug(t), as is shown in Figure 34a. For many speakers, there is an airflow bypass that is not modulated **by** the vocal folds and is represented as a DC flow. The derivative of Ug(t) with respect to time gives rise to the glottal waveform illustrated in Figure 34b. A Fourier transformation of the glottal waveform gives rise to the glottal source spectrum shown in Figure 34c.

Figure 34: *Glottal pulse (a), glottal waveform (b), and glottal source spectrum (c). (figures are from Hanson, 1995).*

The glottal source spectrum is then altered (i.e., filtered) **by** the supra-glottal region known as the vocal tract (See Figure **8).** It is the configuration of the vocal tract during vowel production that gives rise to the poles and zeros that in turn filter the glottal source spectrum. Figure **35** shows the vocal tract filtered glottal source spectrum, with **H1,** H2, **Al** and **A3** indicating the amplitudes of F0, 2F0, F1 and the third resonant frequency F3, respectively.

Figure 35: *Vocal tract filtered glottal source spectrum. H1, H2, A1 and A3 indicating the amplitudes of FO, 2FO, Fl and the third resonantfrequency F3, respectively. (from Hanson and*

Inverse filtering is used to remove the effect of the poles and zeros of the vocal tract transfer function that alter the amplitude of the glottal source spectrum in the frequency domain. Thus inverse filtering is done in order to obtain a more accurate measurement of the glottal source spectrum. It is done by measuring the amplitude of the harmonics of interest from vocal tract filtered glottal spectra, like the one illustrated in Figure 35. From these measurements is subtracted the influence of the vocal tract transfer function. This allows for the comparison of glottal characteristics, such as open quotient (approximated as H1-H2), across different vocal tract shapes.

If we model the vocal tract using an all-pole transfer function, then the complex function $(T(\omega))$ can be represented by Equation 2.

$$
T(\omega) = \left(\frac{s_1 s_1^*}{(s-s_1)(s-s_1^*)}\right) \left(\frac{s_2 s_2^*}{(s-s_2)(s-s_2^*)}\right) \cdots \left(\frac{s_n s_n^*}{(s-s_n)(s-s_n^*)}\right) \qquad \text{Eq. 2}
$$

where $s = j\omega$. $s_n = (\alpha_n + \omega_n)$ and $s_n^* = (\alpha_n - \omega_n)$, while n is the number of the vocal tract resonant frequencies (i.e., formants).

Given Equation 2, the transfer function for just the first resonant frequency is given by Equation 3.

$$
F_1(\omega) = \frac{(\alpha_1 + j\omega_1)(\alpha_1 - j\omega_1)}{(j\omega - (\alpha_1 + j\omega_1))(j\omega - (\alpha_1 - j\omega_1))}
$$
 Eq. 3

where $\omega = 2\pi f$ and $\omega_1 = 2\pi F1$.

Equation 3 can be used to represent the influence of Fl on the amplitudes of FO and 2FO, H1 and H2, respectively. In this case $\omega = 2\pi f$, where $f = F0$ (or $f = 2F0$, for correction to H2).

For a vowel like /a/, we can assume that the F1 pole in the S-plane is sufficiently close to the imaginary j ω -axis and $\alpha_1 \ll \omega_1$, such that we can approximate $\alpha_1 \approx 0$. Thus Equation 3 can be reduced to Equation 4.

$$
|F_1(f)| = \frac{F1^2}{F1^2 - f^2}
$$
 Eq. 4

where $f = F0$, for H1 correction, or $f = 2F0$, for H2 correction.

Since the amplitudes H1 and H2 are in dB, we need to convert the magnitude of Equation 4 into the log domain. This gives rise to Equation 5.

$$
dB[F_1(f)] = 20 \log_{10} \left(\frac{F1^2}{F1^2 - f^2} \right) = 10 \log_{10} \left(\frac{F1^2}{F1^2 - f^2} \right)^2
$$
 Eq. 5

where $f = F0$ or $f = 2F0$.

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Figure 36: *Vocal tract filtered spectrum of the vowel A/with the first formant centered around the second harmonic frequency.*

Although the above correction works, particularly for the vowel $/a/$, where F1 is far from FO and 2FO, there is a problem. The problem with the above correction is that **by** approximating $\alpha \approx 0$ we also made the assumption that F1 has no bandwidth. However, as Figure 36 shows, if F1 is low enough in frequency, as in the case for the vowel /i/, the bandwidth B1 does have an influence on the amplitude of harmonics in the frequency range of FO and 2F0. According to Hanson **(1995)** and Iseli and Alwan (2004), Equation 3.4 is most accurate only when FO or 2FO is at least a bandwidth away from Fl. Thus for Fl close to or within the OHz **-** 500Hz frequency range, α_1 cannot be approximated as zero and must instead be estimated in Equation 3.

Figure 37: The average formant bandwidth as a function of frequency, obtained from sweeptone measurements with the glottis closed. The data points are fitted with a 2nd order *polynomial equation (Data obtained from Stevens, 1998).*

Figure **37** shows that the average formant bandwidth, obtained from sweep-tone measurements with the glottis closed, as a function of frequency (Stevens, **1998).** Bandwidth (BW) values derived from the second order curve fitted to the data in Figure **37** were used to estimate α for Equation 2, where $\alpha = \pi BW$. For the production study of Chapter 2, the bandwidths of the formants were estimated using the second order equation from Figure 37 and then used to obtain a value from the transfer function of Equation 2. The resultant function was used to correct for the effects of formant locations on the amplitude of neighboring harmonic frequencies (i.e., H1 and H2), as well as the effect of neighboring formants on each others amplitude (i.e., F2 and F3 for the vowel $\langle i \rangle$). This was accomplished by subtracting the transfer function quantity, in dB, from the measured parameter amplitudes (i.e., H1 and H2). In the case of the formant amplitudes, the quantity of the transfer function using the measured formant

frequencies was subtracted from the measured formant amplitudes and the transfer function quantity using formant values for a neutral vocal tract of length 17.5cm was added. More detailed explanation of this process can be found in Hanson **(1995)** and Iseli and Alwan (2004). Equation **6** illustrates the vocal tract transfer function correction for **H1.**

$$
H1^* = H1 - 20 \log_{10}(T(\omega))
$$
 Eq. 6

where **HI*** is corrected for the effects of vocal tract transfer function (i.e., shape) on the measured H1 value and $T(\omega)$ is from Equation 2.

Table *1: Average Fa condition measurement values for the first three formants (F1,F2, andF3); the peak fundamental frequency value (FOpk) within the vowel; the peak intensity (Int) within the vowel; and the syllable duration (Dur) of each syllable for all speakers. Legend: The number after the target word indicates which syllables of the target word bears primary stress. Fa, Fpl, and Fp2 indicate the focal accent condition in which the target word was produced. The average measurement values of the respect acoustic parameters where obtained for the first (SI) and second (S2) syllables of each target word. They are presented adjacent horizontally form each other. An accent mark, ', indicates SI or S2 as the primary stressed syllable of the target word.*

Table 2: *Average Fpl condition measurement values for the first three formants (FJ,F2, andF3); the peak fundamentalfrequency value (FOpk) within the vowel; the peak intensity(Int) within the vowel; and the syllable duration (Dur) of each syllable for all speakers. Legend: The number after the target word indicates which syllables of the target word bears primary stress. Fa, Fpl, and Fp2 indicate the focal accent condition in which the target word was produced The average measurement values of the respect acoustic parameters where obtained for the first (SI) and second (S2) syllables of each target word They are presented adjacent horizontally form each other. An accent mark, ', indicates Si or S2 as the primary stressed syllable of the target word*

Table 3: *Average Fp2 condition measurement values for the first three formants (FI,F2, andF3); the peak fundamental frequency value (FOpk) within the vowel; the peak intensity (Int) within the vowel; and the syllable duration (Dur) of each syllable for all speakers. Legend: The number after the target word indicates which syllables of the target word bears primary stress. Fa, Fpl, and Fp2 indicate the focal accent condition in which the target word was produced The average measurement values of the respect acoustc parameters where obtainedfor the first (Si) and second (S2) syllables of each target word They are presented adjacent horizontally form each other. An accent mark, ', indicates Si or S2 as the primary stressed syllable of the target word.*

Table 4: *Average Fa condition measurement values for the first three formants (FJ,F2, andF3); the peak fundamental frequency value (FOpk) within the vowel; the peak intensity(Int) within the vowel; and the syllable duration (Dur) of each syllable for all speakers. Legend: The number after the target word indicates which syllables of the target word bears primary stress. Fa, Fpl, and Fp2 indicate the focal accent condition in which the target word was produced The average measurement values of the respect* acoustic parameters where obtained for the first (S1) and second (S2) syllables of each target word. They *are presented adjacent horizontally form each other. An accent mark, ', indicates Si or S2 as the primary stressed syllable of the target word*

Table 5: *Average Fpl condition measurement values for the first three formants (F1,F2, andF3); the peak fundamentalfrequency value (FOpk) within the vowel; the peak intensity (Int) within the vowel; and the syllable duration (Dur) of each syllable for all speakers. Legend: The number after the target word indicates which syllables of the target word bears primary stress. Fa, Fpl, and Fp2 indicate the focal accent condition in which the target word was produced. The average measurement values of the respect acoustic parameters where obtainedfor the first (SI) and second (S2) syllables of each target word. They are presented adjacent horizontally form each other. An accent mark, ', indicates SI or S2 as the primary stressed syllable of the target word.*

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Table 6: Average Fp2 condition measurement values for the first three formants (F1,F2, andF3); the peak fundamental frequency value (F0pk) within the vowel; the peak intensity(Int) within the vowel; and the syllable duration (Dur) of each syllable for all speakers. Legend: The number after the target word indicates which syllables of the target word bears primary stress. Fa, Fp1, and Fp2 indicate the focal accent condition in which the target word was produced. The average measurement values of the respect acoustic parameters where obtained for the first (S1) and second (S2) syllables of each target word. They are presented adjacent horizontally form each other. An accent mark, ', indicates S1 or S2 as the primary stressed syllable of the target word.

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Table 7: Average Fa condition values for the vocal tract filter corrected $(*)$ spectral parameter measurements: amplitude of the first harmonic (H1*); amplitude of the second harmonic (H2*); amplitude of the first formant (A1); amplitude of the third formant (A3*); and waveform noise rating of 600Hz band-pass filtered third formant (Nw).

Legend: The number after the target word indicates which syllables of the target word bears primary stress. Fa, Fp1 and Fp2 indicate the focal accent condition in which the target word was produced. The average measurement values of the respect acoustic parameters where obtained for the first (S1) and second (S2) syllables of each target word. They are presented adjacent horizontally form each other. An accent mark, ', indicates S1 or S2 as the primary stressed syllable of the target word.

Table 8: Average Fp1 condition values for the vocal tract filter corrected (*) spectral parameter measurements: amplitude of the first harmonic (H1*); amplitude of the second harmonic (H2*); amplitude of the first formant (A1); amplitude of the third formant (A3*); and waveform noise rating of 600Hz band-pass filtered third formant (Nw).

Legend: The number after the target word indicates which syllables of the target word bears primary stress. Fa, Fp1 and Fp2 indicate the focal accent condition in which the target word was produced. The average measurement values of the respect acoustic parameters where obtained for the first (S1) and second (S2) syllables of each target word. They are presented adjacent horizontally form each other. An accent mark, ', indicates S1 or S2 as the primary stressed syllable of the target word.

Table 9: *Average Fp2 condition values for the vocal tract filter corrected (*) spectral parameter measurements: amplitude of the first harmonic (HI *); amplitude of the second harmonic (H2*);* amplitude of the first formant (A1); amplitude of the third formant (A3*); and waveform noise rating *of 600Hz band-pass filtered third formant (Nw).*

Legend: The number after the target word indicates which syllables of the target word bears primary stress. Fa, Fpl and Fp2 indicate the focal accent condition in which the target word was produced The average measurement values of the respect acoustic parameters where obtainedfor the first (Si) and second (S2) syllables of each target word. They are presented adjacent horizontally form each other. An accent mark, ', indicates Si or S2 as the primary stressed syllable of the target word.

Legend: The number after the target word indicates which syllables of the target word bears primary stress. Fa, Fp1 and Fp2 indicate the focal accent condition in which the target word was produced. The average measurement values of the respect acoustic parameters where obtained for the first (S1) and second (S2) syllables of each target word. They are presented adjacent horizontally form each other. An accent mark, ', indicates S1 or S2 as the primary stressed syllable of the target word.

Table 11: Average Fp1 condition values for the vocal tract filter corrected (*) spectral parameter measurements: amplitude of the first harmonic (H1*); amplitude of the second harmonic (H2*); amplitude of the first formant (A1); amplitude of the third formant (A3*); and waveform noise rating of 600Hz band-pass filtered third formant (Nw).

Legend: The number after the target word indicates which syllables of the target word bears primary stress. Fa, Fp1 and Fp2 indicate the focal accent condition in which the target word was produced. The average measurement values of the respect acoustic parameters where obtained for the first (S1) and second (S2) syllables of each target word. They are presented adjacent horizontally form each other. An accent mark, ', indicates S1 or S2 as the primary stressed syllable of the target word.

Legend: The number after the target word indicates which syllables of the target word bears primary stress. Fa, Fp1 and Fp2 indicate the focal accent condition in which the target word was produced. The average measurement values of the respect acoustic parameters where obtained for the first (S1) and second (S2) syllables of each target word. They are presented adjacent horizontally form each other. An accent mark, ', indicates S1 or S2 as the primary stressed syllable of the target word.

Table 13: *Effect of focal pitch accent on the fundamental harmonic amplitude (H1) of a full vowel in post-nuclear position. Other than in the Fa condition, the syllable of interest is the non-primary full vowel of the second syllables of the novel target words. Fa is the condition where the target second syllable is focal pitch accented (syllable distance* **=** *0). Fpsl is the condition where the first syllable of the2-syllable word containing the target second syllable is focal pitch accented (syllable distance* $= 1$ *). Fps2 is when two syllables preceding the target syllable is focal pitch accented (syllable distance = 2). Fps3 is when three syllables preceding the target syllable is focal pitch accented (syllable distance* $= 3$ *).*

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Tables 14 - 16: Listener Syllable Prominence Judgment Responses (Ind. Variation)

APPENDIX C:

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Tables 17: Listener Syllable Prominence Judgment Responses (Covariation)

						Average DU Syllable DifferenceResponse of Individual	Listeners		Co-variation	
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Table **19: ANOVA** Results for Naturalness Rating Task **APPENDIX** F:

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