The Non-Locality of Predicate Integration

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Integration, the intonational phenomenon whereby (certain) predicates that immediately follow their arguments remain unaccented (‘A TRAIN arrived’), has been argued to reduce to the phonological spell-out of the local syntactic internal argument+head configuration (Truckenbrodt 2006, Fery & Samek-Lodovici 2006 a.o.). We show that this is not feasible: integration can involve higher arguments, even external ones, can proceed across adjuncts, and can involve phrasal predicates. We present a constraint-based system which refers directly to the notion of argument (like Gussenhoven 1983 and Zubizarreta 1998), and merges predicate integration as well as focus prominence into a generalized prominence principle.