Rifat Rastegar (1997): H*L

Hellmuth (2006): LH
experimental alignment study

Formal Arabic: H*L

**Difference due to level of formality?**

**Data - Methodology**

- _____: investigation of information structure in EA
- Data:
  - spontaneous and semi-spontaneous speech: stories, conversation, information structure experiment
  - information structure: translation task (3 speakers) (D2 information structure project, SFB Universität Potsdam)
  - alignment experiment: EFA vs. ECA (Hellmuth & El preparation)
- **qualitative analysis**

**Information structure**

- „neutral declarative“: sentence focus
- existential construction (read speech)

CVC

VSO (narrative)
and-went-Sg.m. GoHa Cairo „and GoHa went to Cairo."

EXIST dog ASP-Sg.m. bite man „a dog is biting a man”.

H within stressed syllable, L2 at word end

*=not different accents: LH vs. HL
(cf. Bruce 2005 for Swedish)
alignment and scaling variable: partly due to semantics and pragmatics of text

**Topic and Focus**

- **topics:** rising gesture
- **focus:** (rising) - falling gesture
- L1 quite stably aligned with onset of stressed syllable (sometimes beginning of word)
- H and L2 subject to functional variation

**frequency code:** rising – uncertainty (questioning) – topical falling – certainty (assertion) – focal (cf. Peters, Kohler & Wesener 2005)

**alignment under speaker’s control** (cf. Gussenhoven 2005)

**difference also due to phonological factors (nb. of intervening unstressed syllables, speech style)**

**Discussion**

- **topics:** rising gesture
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**difference also due to phonological factors (nb. of intervening unstressed syllables, speech style)**

- **formal (a) vs. colloquial (b):**
  - (a) munaa’aydan sala-l-mawz wa-yqut
  - (b) binaaddi sal-muzz w-y-yuul „praising the bananas, saying…”

**References**

Gussenhoven, C. (2005), The Phonology of Time and Intonation, Cambridge Univ. Press.
Hellmuth, S. (2005), Intonational pitch accent distribution in Egyptian Arabic, School of Oriental & African Studies, University of London.