

# **Intonational Compliance Marking**

## A theory of English intonational meaning

Matthijs Westera

Universitat Pompeu Fabra

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Westera (2017, 2018, in press): **Intonational Compliance Marking (ICM)**.

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1. Rising declaratives (of the Quality-suspending kind)
2. The ICM theory in a bit more detail
3. List intonation
4. The rise-fall-rise contour
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- ▶ most don't try to explain all three characteristics;
- ▶ those that do, end up assuming rather than explaining them.



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By (re)conceiving of this in terms of 'suspending a maxim':

- ▶ the ICM theory predicts the various uses of rising declaratives;
- ▶ and we get more detailed predictions by considering when suspending a maxim is acceptable;



## 1.5. Interim summary

Rising declaratives are often characterized in terms of incompleteness, forward-looking, etc.

By (re)conceiving of this in terms of 'suspending a maxim':

- ▶ the ICM theory predicts the various uses of rising declaratives;
- ▶ and we get more detailed predictions by considering when suspending a maxim is acceptable;
- ▶ e.g., only suspend Quality if its actual violation is deemed unlikely.

# Outline

1. Rising declaratives (of the Quality-suspending kind)
2. The ICM theory in a bit more detail
3. List intonation
4. The rise-fall-rise contour
5. Intonation on interrogatives

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**Assumption 1 (Gussenhoven '04, slightly simplified):**

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### **Assumption 2: ICM theory (Provisional)**

- ▶ L%: Sp. takes the utterance to comply with the maxims
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### Assumption 2: ICM theory (Provisional)

- ▶ L<sup>0</sup>: Sp. takes the utterance up to this boundary tone to comply with the maxims **relative to the main QUD**.
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### Assumption 3: The maxims

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- |    |     |    |     |    |     |    |
|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|
| a. | H*L | %  | H*L | %  | H*L | L% |
| b. | L*H | H% | L*H | H% | H*L | L% |
| c. | H*L | L% | H*L | L% | H*L | L% |

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| c. | H*L | L% | H*L | L% | H*L | L% |
| d. | H*  | %  | H*  | %  | H*  | %  |

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| b. | L*H | H% | L*H | H% | H*L | L% |
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| d. | H*  | %  | H*  | %  | H*  | %  |
| e. | L*H | %  | L*H | %  | H*L | L% |
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| c. | H*L | L% | H*L | L% | H*L | L% |
| d. | H*  | %  | H*  | %  | H*  | %  |
| e. | L*H | %  | L*H | %  | H*L | L% |
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- ▶ Let's focus on 'ordinary' lists: those which address a single QUD, and compliantly so.
- ▶ **Predictions of ICM theory:**
  - ▶ a./b. are “neutral” contours for ordinary lists;
  - ▶ whereas c./d./e. involve “something funny”.
  - ▶ (f./g. are unavailable for 'ordinary' lists, due to final H%.)

## 3.2. Normal/neutral contours for 'ordinary' lists

(7) John was there, Mary was there, and Bill was there

- a. H\*L            %   H\*L            %   H\*L            L%
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| b. | L*H | H% | L*H | H% | H*L | L% |

Predictions of ICM theory:

- ▶ In (7a) Sp. instead indicates full compliance early on (-L)

## 3.2. Normal/neutral contours for 'ordinary' lists

- (7) John was there, Mary was there, and Bill was there
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(toneless boundaries (%)) don't interfere with compliance marking).

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By the way: what is the suspended maxim in (11b)?

**QUIZ!**



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- ▶ **Quantity?**
- ▶ **Manner?**

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**QUIZ!**

- ▶ **Quantity?** Not likely; this would require that the *intent* changes throughout the utterance.
- ▶ **Manner?** Yes; it's only the *content expressed* that changes.

### 3.3. Non-neutral contours for 'ordinary' lists

(7) John was there, Mary was there, and Bill was there

- |    |     |    |     |    |     |    |
|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|
| c. | H*L | L% | H*L | L% | H*L | L% |
| d. | H*  | %  | H*  | %  | H*  | %  |
| e. | L*H | %  | L*H | %  | H*L | L% |

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NB.: Many more contours (and predictions); also for “unordinary” lists.

# Outline

1. Rising declaratives (of the Quality-suspending kind)
2. The ICM theory in a bit more detail
3. List intonation
4. The rise-fall-rise contour
5. Intonation on interrogatives

## 4.1. The many uses of rise-fall-rise

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**Challenge:** Rise-fall-rise has many different uses, with no obvious common denominator.

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- ▶ three types of *uncertain relevance* or *incredulity* (Ward and Hirschberg '85, '86).

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- ▶ these approaches are aimed at particular sub-classes of uses;
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- ▶ [some empirical inadequacies].

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Phonology:

- ▶ **fall-rise:** H\*L H%
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(Westera (in press). Rise-fall-rise as a marker of secondary QUDs.)

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- (14) A: Have you ever been West of the Mississippi?  
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## 4.5. Interim summary

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- ▶ RFR provides a window on the pragmatics of QUDs.

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1. Rising declaratives (of the Quality-suspending kind)
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5. Intonation on interrogatives

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- ▶ in particular, they still (like assertions) **draw attention** to things.



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(Westera (2018). An attention-based explanation for some exhaustivity operators. *Proceedings of SuB*, Edinburgh.)

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(An A-Quality suspension/violation is not normally possible.)

# Outline

1. Rising declaratives (of the Quality-suspending kind)
2. The ICM theory in a bit more detail
3. List intonation
4. The rise-fall-rise contour
5. Intonation on interrogatives

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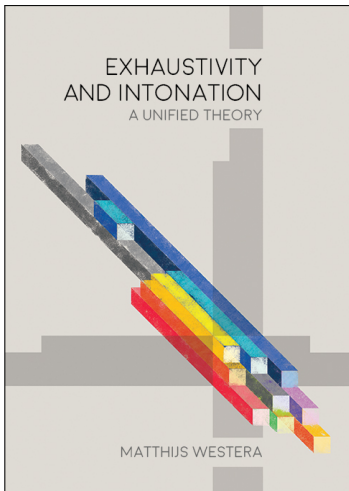
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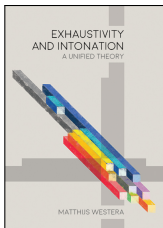
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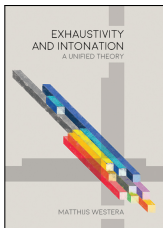
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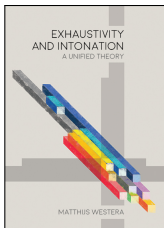


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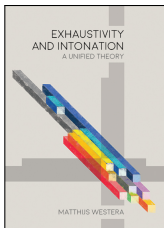
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- ▶ Westera, Goodhue & Gussenhoven (in press). The meanings of tones and tunes. To appear in Gussenhoven & Chen (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Language Prosody*.