

MARING INTONATION

L.B.Woodward

Summer Institute of Linguistics

February 1978

In Maring, intonation can be described in terms of pause groups and breath groups. A pause group is any number of phonological words occurring between pauses in an utterance. A breath group is any number of pause groups occurring between breaths. There are five general areas of pitch. These are very high, high, mid, low, and very low, covering a range of about two octaves on the piano.

There are four types of pause groups as follows:-

1. Introductory pause group.
2. Tentative pause group.
3. Final pause group.
4. Listing pause group.

In a text which consists of a series of breath groups, a breath group usually starts with an introductory pause group followed by a series of tentative pause groups and finishes with a final pause group. A listing pause group does not occur very frequently, but when it does occur, it always occurs before a final pause group.

#### Introductory Pause Group.

An introductory pause group always occurs initially in a breath group and consists of either a rise in pitch or a constant high pitch over the syllables. The pitch does not fall at the end of the pause group. Other than initially in a text, an introductory pause group is usually recapitulation

### Examples:

This example shows an introductory pause group consisting of a constant high pitch over the syllable, followed by a tentative pause group.

In this example, the introductory pause group is recapitulation of a previous verb, and consists of a rise in pitch.

A tentative pause group usually starts with a rise to a higher pitch over the first two or three syllables. This is followed by a fall in pitch and then this level is maintained, or alternatively there is a slight tonal down-drift. If the tentative pause group is short there is only one rise in pitch, but if it is longer there may be several peaks where the tone rises and falls. In this case the first rise in pitch is higher than the successive peaks. At the final margin of the tentative pause group the last syllable may take a small step up or a small step down in pitch, or it may remain the same as the previous syllable.

Examples:

(a) / yi,dok pi kafi kee.me /

(b) / keb pi wu.di ya.nga ka.ni kop /

### Final Pause Group.

A final pause group contrasts with a tentative pause group in the final margin. In a final pause group the pitch on the final one or two syllables falls to very low. This final pause group always occurs as the last pause group of a breath group. If the utterance is short it might consist of only one final pause group without any of the other pause groups. In this case the final pause group is also a breath group.

Examples:

(a) / wob ka.na.neek ai.re la //

(b) / wed ba.lus ma wa.dee.don map ye.na yang won //

### Listing Pause Group.

A listing pause group never occurs as the final pause group of a breath group. As the name suggests, there are several items listed, and two or more listing pause groups always occur one after the other with a pause between each. Each item that is listed has the intonation of a final pause group.

### Example:

In this example we have three items listed in listing pause groups, followed by a final pause group.

/ Kui.ma ko ro.mai ye.mik / To.kee.ba.ne ro.mai ye.mik /  
Gai ki ro.mai ye.mik / yi.re yang le pee.mon //

### Breath Group.

A feature of the breath group is a rise to a very high pitch. There may be more than one such peak in the breath group if it is long. These peaks correspond to one of the peaks within the tentative pause group or the final pause group. When the high peaks of the breath group superimpose on the peaks of the pause groups, these latter peaks become very high pitch instead of the normal high pitch.

### Example:

Mi,eb / wo,be wo,be wo,be / ko.mong mee.dee.ma wo.ba

pi,ak ba / a.bi.e pi,ak wa.lak wu.di mi kop/mi.e mi.e

a rai aiuk gu mee.dee.ma wo.ba ya.ga kop / a.bi.e kai

wa.la kop mee.di ya.nga meek mee.dai ree.bi gi.ak mi //

**Examples:**

This is an information seeking question.

Orthography.

	Phoneme	Practical Orthography
Introductory pause group	/~/	,
Tentative pause group	/./	*
Final pause group	/./	.
Listing pause group	/;/	;