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Facultad de Humanidades y Ciencias de la Educación  
Fonética y Fonología Inglesa II

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## Compulsory written assignment phonetics 2

### Accounting of tone units

/R ə 'wʊmən əv ðæt 'Iərə /

'Woman' and 'era' are made prominent because they both carry sense selection based on the existential paradigm since there is not a wide range of options available. The only possible options would be 'girl, lady' for woman and 'time, days' for era. They are used to emphasize the fact that a woman would not behave in that way during those times, because women did not have power over men.

As regards tone choice, Tessa is using a referring r tone because she assumes that the hearers already know what she is talking about. Although the information is not previously mentioned, she may legitimately regard it as being in play since the information is an assumed background knowledge. The discussion is about Pride and Prejudice, so the ones who have read it will understand what she is referring to.

/r+ ɪt wəz 'dɑːsɪz 'veri 'ætɪtjuːd /

"Attitude" is made prominent because the speaker is choosing among a set of possibilities that can be said about Darcy. This implies a case of sense selection, it is not his money or his looks that attracted Elizabeth, but his attitude. "Darcy" is prominent due to syntagmatic organization, it works together with "attitude" as a syntagm, neither word would work on its own in this context. As regards tone choice, the speaker produces a referring + tone because he is exercising dominance, this is a case of discourse control 1: this tone unit is not a full sentence, it is a fragment, so he needs to keep the floor of the conversation.

/r+ ðæt ə 'træktɪd ɪ 'lɪzəbəθ **tuː** hɪm/

Regarding prominence, this is a case of exploitation of the system: the tonic syllable falls on a function word to signal that Elizabeth is drawn to Darcy, and not the other

way around. As to the choice of tone, the speaker uses a referring plus again, but in this case he is making use of discourse control 2 with a “reminding” intention. He seems to assume that everyone knows this, and uses this tone to put pressure on Tessa to admit it. Since this is a symmetrical relationship, the tone has a rude effect on the listener.

/p 'dɑːsɪz 'ætɪtjuːd/

Both Darcy and attitude are made prominent because she is exploiting the system. In this case she wants to introduce that information as new to the hearer even though it has been mentioned before.

With respect to the tone choice, she is using a proclaiming p tone instead of a referring since she wants to project a context of interaction which suits her current conversational ends. We could say she is creating separateness by using this tone since she locates herself outside of the area of convergence. She doesn't agree with his viewpoint about Darcy's attitude, so she is going to present a different one.

/p hiː wəz pə'ɜːnjuːɪŋ hɜː/

'He' and 'her' are made prominent because she wants to emphasize that Elizabeth was not the one who was after him, but Darcy was. Leaving the word 'pursuing' as non-selective presupposes that she is concentrating on clearing out who was pursuing whom. It could be a case of existential synonymy because 'he' is representing Darcy and 'her' Elizabeth. They are taken-for-granted background in the context of interaction.

Regarding the tone choice, she is using again a proclaiming p tone to introduce something that Hardin doesn't know. The information is presented as not yet present in the common ground of her interlocutor. She disagrees with his idea, so she is making a contrast between his and her point of view.

/R wɛl aɪ θɪŋk ðæt ɪts 'ɒbviəsli ɒn ɪz hɛd/

Regarding tone, the speaker uses a referring tone not only to share her statement as understood but also create togetherness with the hearer. Doing that, she excludes the other non-participant from the conversation and remarks to Hardin that it is Darcy who thought that Elizabeth had feelings for him.

The adverb "obviously" is made prominent because it carries both a sense selection and social connotation deriving from the choice of referring tone. We can describe this connotation as an assumption of solidarity between the speaker and the hearer. "Head" is prominent because this is a case of sense selection between all the possibilities that she can say about Darcy. Instead of saying head, she could have said imagination or brain and both represent the same existential sense. Although

they are incompatible with each other, they will project the same context of integration.

/p ðæt ʃiːd 'eni 'fiːlɪŋz fə hɪm ət ɔːl/

In this case, the speaker is using a proclaiming tone because she presents information that is not yet present in the common ground. This information will increase the area of convergence. In other words, her point of view could change Hardin's world view about Elizabeth.

Regarding prominence, the adverb "all" is made prominent because the information she has shared before is not yet appreciated by the hearer so she remarks it. "Any" is made prominent because it is working together with "at all". There is no room here for sense selection because it wouldn't make sense to use "some" or any other quantifier: "any" and "at all" are part of the same syntagm, they are both modifying "feelings". They complement each other to emphasize the absence of feelings.