

Tertiary stress?

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ˌɛkskəˈmjuːnɪkeɪt

èxcommúnicāte

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intro

What would be an argument for 3ry stress?

Contrast with

- i. major stressed syllables
- ii. reduced syllables

Contrast

- a. 'lexical': fórmat ['fɔ:mæt] vs. clímate ['klaɪmət]
- b. 'motivational': véto ['vi:tɔʊ] vs. mótto ['mɑ:roʊ]

Why interpret these contrasts as contrasts in stress (degree)?

Saturn vs. written

['sætɜ:n] > ['sætən] *?['sætn], ['ritən] > ['ritn]

contrasting major and 3ry stress

the rhythm rule

sàrdíne → sárdine sándwich

kàngaróo → kángaroo mérchant

Àlabáma → Álabama ríver

àcadémic → ácademic yéar

contrasting major and 3ry stress

no rhythm rule

retúrñ → *réturn tícket

maróon → *mároon swéater

Octóber → *Óctober rain

Titánic → *Títanic's band

RR distinguishes major & 3ry stress

sardine = 21

October = 310

a lexical difference?

any #31# or #210# words?

Bahréin → Báhreín Ísland
princéss → Príncess Ánn

vs

Bahréini → *Báhreini Dínar
princésses → *príncesses Ánn and Vic

the rhythm rule schematically

$X X \# X \rightarrow \underline{X} X \# X$

$X X x \# X \rightarrow X \underline{X} x \# X$ (so $*\underline{X} X x \# X$)

$X x X x \# X \rightarrow \underline{X} x X x \# X$

sárdine tín = dódo tín

Déejay Bóbo = Rábbi Stánton

Jápanese guý = ánalýse Máry

kángaroo cóurt = Búgaboo Párk

consequences of merging major & 3ry stress

1. full = stressed *agitate*
2. rightmost stress is not necessarily the tonic
radiate, tonic is ‘predictable?’ statistics:
radiate > *kangaroo*, *brocade* > *rabbi*;
‘lexical?’ *robot* ≠ *hotel*, *tormént* ≠ *ransack*
3. “no stress clash” is dubious (#XXx, #XX#
October, *sardine*, *robot* (and occasionally
elsewhere: *demarcate*)

contrasting “3ry” and zero (stress)

full V vs reduced V

proton vs button (flapping)

separate vs sep(e)rate (syncope)

stimulate vs stimulus (u-tensing)

ambiguous vowels

veto vs motto (flapping)

specialism vs mav(e)rick (syncope)

botulism vs botulin (u-tensing)

full or reduced?

indifferent vowels

message, village, image, but cf. cottage

SO...

1. no need to distinguish major and 3ry stress
2. no reason to conflate 3ry and zero (stress)
3. at the word level there is stress and no stress
4. stress is full vowelhood, no stress is reduced vowelhood (stress is vowel quality)
5. for ambiguous vowels stress is a diacritic or irrelevant