

CLE SEMINAR SERIES-III

Topic: Break Indices and Phrasal Tones

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Presentation Date: 20th May, 2014

Venue: KICS Seminar Hall

Abstract:

Break indices represent a rating for the degree of juncture perceived between each pair of words and between the final word and the silence at the end of the utterance. They are to be marked after all words that have been transcribed in the word tier. Break indices can be described with the help of five levels ranging from 0-4. Level 0 indicates the boundary between the words from clitic groups. Level 1 indicates most phrase-medial word boundaries. Level 2 indicates a disjuncture that is weaker than the intermediate phrase boundary and stronger than the Level 1. Level 3 indicates the intermediate intonational phrase boundary and level 4 indicates the full intonational phrase boundary (Beckman and Hirschberg, 1994).

Break indices can play a significant role in the identification of phrasal tones. There are two types of phrasal tones: an intermediate phrase tone (ip) and a full intonational phrase tone (IP). An intermediate phrase tone is marked through - symbol and it is always assigned level 3 in break index whereas a full intonational phrase tone is marked through % symbol and it is always assigned level 4 in break. The objective of this presentation is to elaborate how tone and break index model can be used in Urdu language and what types of problems are faced while assigning break indices on Urdu speech corpus.

