2) Can the discourse relation marking between two clauses influence the first clause final major continuation?

GOAL OF THE STUDY

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METHOD & PROTOCOL

Recording

Recording a production experiment is designed to contrast pairs, with 32 French native speakers. Around 40 recordings obtained for each configuration (CIS, CIA, CAO, CAP, etc.) with 5 different sentences per configuration.

RESULTS

CONCLUSION: back to the initial questions

1) Our configurational continuations and Delattre’s continuation features

- CIS-CIA mainly rise. CIS-CIA peak mean is quite similar to CAP-CAO peak (for rising data only), but the distribution of observations between 80 and 105 semitones is significantly different (Wicoxon test). Our result is more nuanced than Delattre’s conclusions and is further research is needed in order to take into account larger segments (not only the last two syllables), the location and the duration of the pitch accent, intra-sentential differences.

- CAP-CAO show only 59% of rising patterns (positive slopes).

- CAS are significantly different from DIS slopes, which are lower, and from QIS slopes, which are higher (fig. 6).

- The slopes of CIS and CIA, mostly rising, are not mutually different. However, CIS and CIA slopes are significantly different from DIS slopes, which are lower, and from QIS slopes, which are higher (fig. 6).

- CAP-CAO slopes are significantly different from CAP slopes (CIS-CAP slopes). CAP slopes, though higher than DIS slopes, are not significantly different from them. Similarly, CAO slopes, though slightly lower than QAS slopes, are not significantly different from QAS (fig. 5).

- This is not consistent with Delattre’s claim about major continuations. However, our observations is based on the local part of the sentence (an effect of the protocol, see figure 2). See also answer to question 2, below.

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- The targets of the study correspond to the words in bold.

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