

The Syntax of Stress in Spanish*

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This talk presents a syntactic approach to the computation of stress within the framework of Distributed Morphology (Halle & Marantz 1993 and related work). The analysis builds on Oltra-Massuet's (1999, 2000) analysis of Catalan stress and it is developed within the theory of metrical structure proposed in Idsardi 1992 and Halle and Idsardi 1995. The main idea behind this proposal is that feet boundaries are projected from the syntactic structure of the word onto the metrical plane, thus extending Idsardi's notion of *Edge Marking*. The set of rules that derives stress placement in Spanish is the following:

- (1) *Stress algorithm*
 - a. Project a line 0 mark for each syllable nucleus.
 - b. *Insert a right parenthesis to the right of the highest nonverbal functional node on line 0.*
 - c. *Insert a right parenthesis to the left of T on line 0.*
 - d. Project the rightmost mark of each line 0 foot onto line 1.
 - e. Insert a right parenthesis to the right of the rightmost mark on line 1.
 - f. Project the rightmost mark of each line 1 foot onto line 2.

It will be shown that this stress algorithm derives the major stress patterns of Spanish words from independently motivated assumptions about their syntactic structure. Since, as we argue, reference to these word internal constituents is essential in building metrical structure, the present analysis argues strongly in favor of morphological frameworks, such as Distributed Morphology, in which words have syntactic structure.

Furthermore, this analysis of stress directly relates the syntax of Spanish to the computation of stress through morphology, thus providing evidence for a tight relation between syntax, phonology and morphology, as predicted by the framework of Distributed Morphology.

* This talk is based on the paper, co-authored with Karlos Arregi, Stress-by-Structure in Spanish, *LI* 36:1, 43-84.

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