Utterance repetition in other-initiated self-repair as a form of creativity in interaction

Laura Panne

Universität Hamburg, laura.panne@uni-hamburg.de

Other-initiated self-repair is a phenomenon of spontaneous speech that ensures intelligibility in interaction and is to be regarded as a routine in which the speakers have to find creative solutions to a problem of understanding. From a phonetic-prosodic perspective, this area has so far been under-researched. This contribution aims to show the prosodic features used to clarify an utterance after an acoustic intelligibility problem in spoken German.

In an acoustic analysis using the Praat software, repair sequences consisting of a trouble source turn and a repetition separated by the next-turn repair initiation (NTRI), such as *wie bitte*, *was* or *hä*, were analyzed for prosodic contrast. In addition, the intonation contours were annotated according to GToBI (Grice et al. 2005). Following Curl 2004 and Drew 1997, repair sequences were classified into categories according to sequential organization (fitted or disjunct) and whether NTRIs are open class or specifying. While repetitions of fitted trouble source turns are realized with longer duration, greater intensity, and wider pitch range, the prosodic contrasts between disjunct trouble source turns and their repetitions tend to be reduced. Moreover, the contour L+H* L-% seems to be characteristic for repetitions of fitted trouble sources. However, prosodic intensification affects the entire utterance when preceded by an open class NTRI, but is mainly limited to the accented syllable when the repetition is preceded by a specifying NTRI.

The results of the acoustic analysis, in terms of the relationship between sequence organization and prosody, are quite consistent with Curl's study of self-repair in English. The prosodic features found for repairs of fitted trouble sources may be associated with resumption or emphasis of information and an increase in prominence of the accented syllable (Gussenhoven 2004), as well as, regarding intonation, with new information or a contrastive focus (Grice et al. 2005). The reduced prosodic pattern of repetitions preceded by disjunct trouble sources could be due to problems of sequence organization.

References: • Curl, T. S. (2004). 'Repetition' repairs: The relationship of phonetic structure and sequence organization. In E. Couper-Kuhlen, Elizabeth & C. E. Ford (eds.), *Sound Patterns in Interaction. Cross-linguistic studies from conversation*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 273-298. • Drew, P. (1997). "Open" class repair initiators in response to sequential sources of troubles in conversation. *Journal of Pragmatics* 28(1), 69-102. • Grice, M., S. Baumann & R. Benzmüller (2005). German Intonation in Autosegmental-Metrical Phonology. In S. Jun (ed.), *Prosodic Typology: The Phonology of Intonation and Phrasing.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 430-458. • Gussenhoven, C. (2004). *The Phonology of Tone and Intonation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.