

Intonation in Indonesian languages

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Recent work on the intonational systems of a number of languages in Indonesia is beginning to unravel systems of prosodic organization which differ significantly from the better-known prosodic systems of European languages but also from the tonal systems of mainland Southeast Asian languages. Using data from Totoli (Sulawesi) and Waima'a (East Timor) as the main examples, this paper will illustrate two features of these systems: The widespread lack of prominence lending tones (aka intonational pitch accents) and the systematic use of intonationally marked units smaller than intonation units (called intermediate phrases in some of the literature).