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THE INTERACTION OF STRESS AND QUANTITY IN SWEDISH

In my paper I intend to comment on a couple of currently influential proposals concerning the phonological interpretation of stress and quantity in Swedish.

Stress should, in my opinion, be regarded as a fairly abstract phonological category pertaining to phonetic prominence. On one hand it has several different semantic and grammatical functions, on the other hand it has several phonetic realizations (intensity,  $F_0$ -contours, quantity, elaboration/reduction of segmental structure). Considering word level phonology only, we can say that stress is structurally superordinate to word tone and quantity, rather than the other way around. The latter two could be looked upon as subordinate phonological contrasts with the function of subcategorizing strings with stressed syllables.

The main part of my contribution will be devoted to the phonological interpretation of quantity. The classical structuralist solution maintains that length is distinctive for vowels (Elert 1970, Bannert 1974, Witting 1977). The most well-known generative analysis (Eliasson & La Pelle 1973), on the other hand, argues that length distinctions in both vowels and consonants are phonologically irrelevant and can be predicted from stress plus a postulated contrast between non-geminated and geminated consonants. Recently, a phonetic theory based on the notion of articulatory gestures has been proposed by Öhman (1978). Öhman makes the same assertions as Eliasson. I shall argue that though such an analysis is theoretically possible provided that certain ad hoc assumptions are made, data concerning, e.g., the production and perception of Swedish vowels, slips of the tongue, interference in the pronunciation of foreign languages, language acquisition etc, indicate that the analysis under consideration lacks psychological validity and that length in vowels is phonologically relevant in Swedish.