

S.E.G. Öhman

ON THE EXPLANATION OF INTONATIONS AND THEIR MEANINGS

Intonation has like any other constitutive element of the expressions of speech, a physical mechanical (or phonetic) aspect and a psychic teleological (or semantic) aspect. The explanation of an intonation should therefore be twofold:

1) explaining in what the essence of the acoustic structure of the intonation consists

and

2) explaining the purpose to which it is used in the language game.

In the paper a gesture theory for the physical mechanical aspect of the explanation will be proposed. For the psychic teleological explanation a certain language game concept will be suggested. The latter seems to make it possible to develop a natural, semantic explanation model that contrasts rather sharply with the current association semantics (*aliquid stat pro aliquo*). Many examples from Swedish, produced by means of LPC-synthesis will be given.