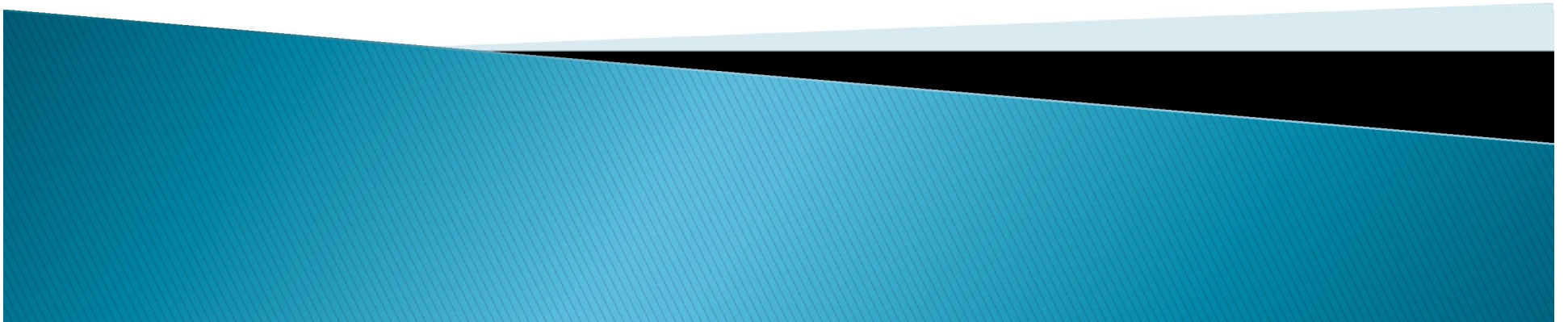


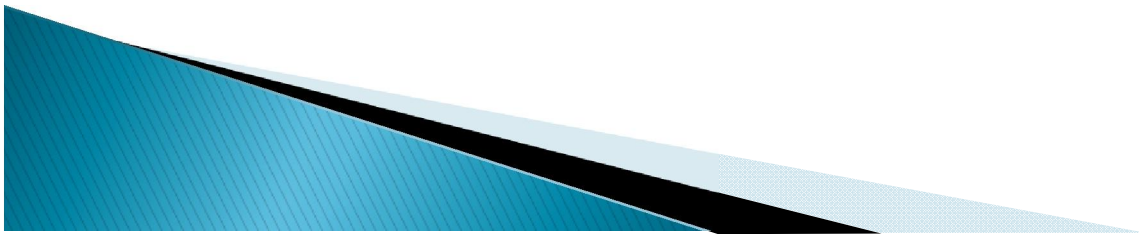
# Prosodic or Suprasegmental Features

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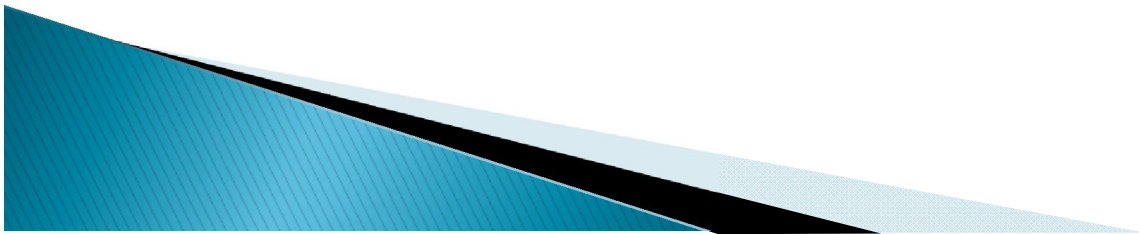
# Suprasegmentals?

- ▶ Those properties that occur *above the level* of segments (regardless of their place or manner of articulation) are called *suprasegmental (or prosodic) properties*.
- ▶ These are *pitch, loudness, and length*.



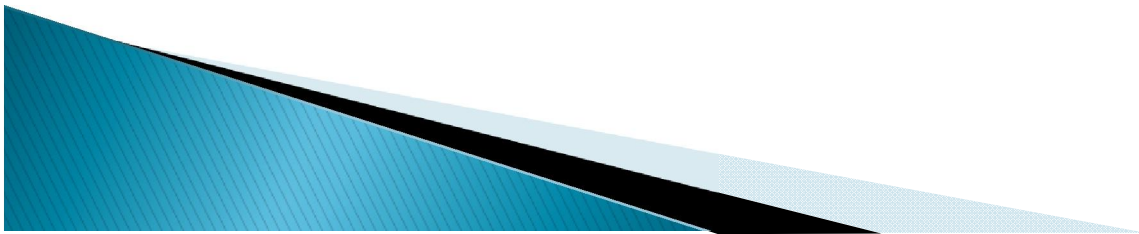
# Pitch

- ▶ the auditory property of a sound that enables us to put it on a scale that ranges from low to high
- ▶ Especially noticeable in sonorous sounds like, vowels, glides, liquids, and nasals.
- ▶ Pitch function linguistically differs from one language to another.
- ▶ Is differentiated into: tone language and intonation language



# Tone Languages

- ▶ languages that use pitch to differentiate words meaning.
- ▶ Types: Level/register & contour tones



# Level/Register Tone

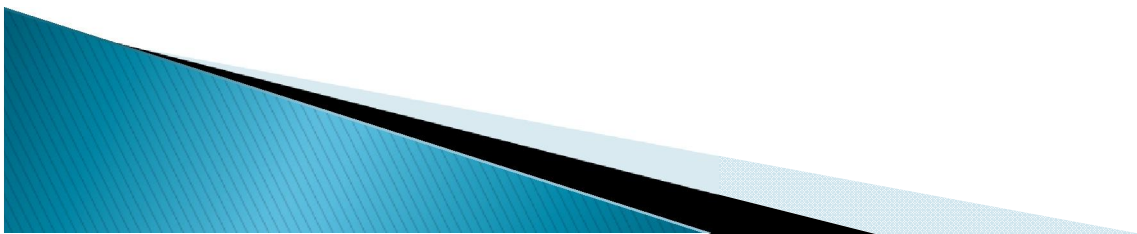
- ▶ Level tones that signal meaning differences are called *register tone* of which norm is two or three register tones (low, high or low, mid, high).
- ▶ A single tone may be associated with more than one syllabic element, eg. Mende, a language spoken in West Africa.

pélé 'house'  
háwámá 'waistline'

E.g. Nupe (spoken in Nigeria)

H	M	L
[ba]	[ba]	[ba]
'be sour'	'cut'	'count'

- ▶ This type of notation is known as *autosegmental notation*.



# Contour Tone

- ▶ changes pitch on a single syllable

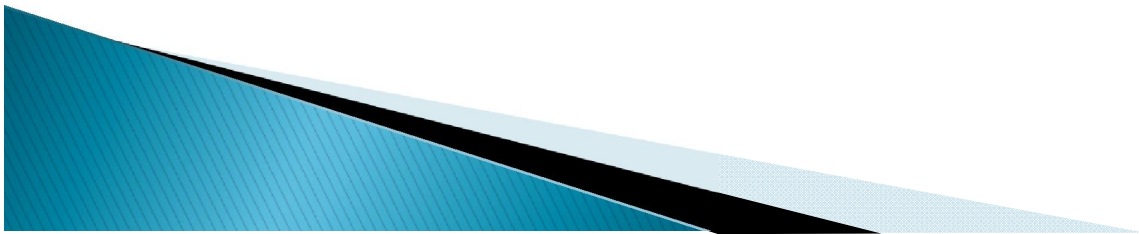
e.g. Mandarin

ma *'mother'* (high level)

ma *'hemp'* (high rising)

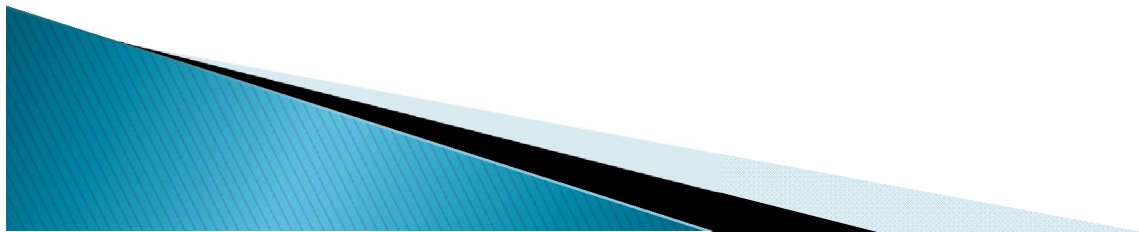
ma *'horse'* (low rising)

ma *'to scold'* (falling)



# Contour Tone

[˘]	L	low tone	[nà:]	“a nickname”
[ˉ]	M	mid tone	[nā:]	“rice paddy”
[ˊ]	H	high tone	[ná:]	“young maternal uncle or aunt”
[ˆ]	HL	falling tone	[nâ:]	“face”
[ˋ]	LH	rising tone	[nǎ:]	“thick”



# Register vs Contour

H  
|  
[ma]

register

MH  
\  
|  
[ma]

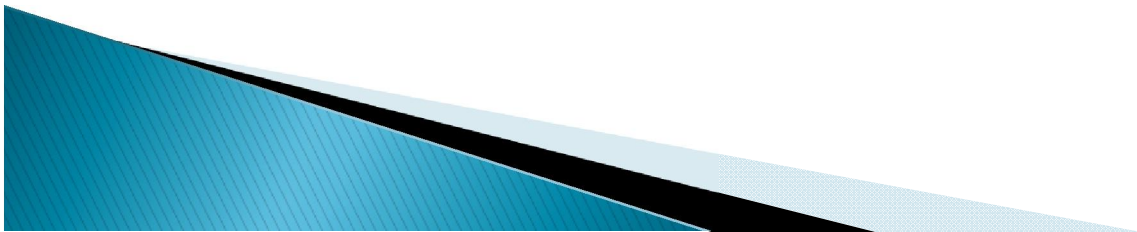
contour

MLH  
\  
|/  
[ma]

contour

HL  
\  
|  
[ma]

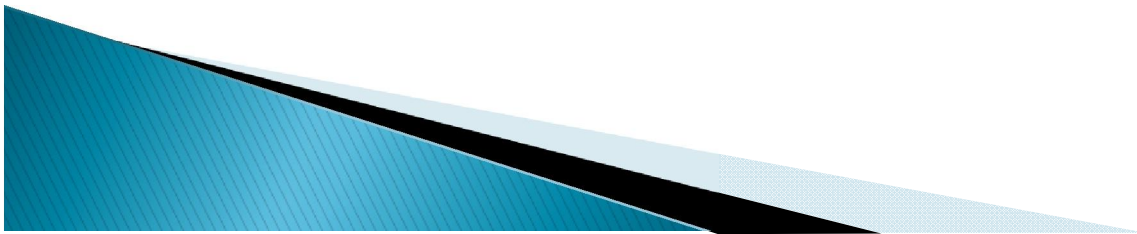
contour





# Intonation

- ▶ Languages of which pitch movement does not differ the words meaning, although intonation serves to convey information to broadly meaningful nature.
- ▶ *Terminal contour*: falling intonation at the end of an utterance
- ▶ *Non-terminal contour*. rising intonation often signals incompleteness.



# Length

- ▶ The auditory feature of a sound that enables us to place it on a scale that ranges from short to long.
- ▶ A vowel can be lengthened by prolonging it; a consonant is lengthened by maintaining the closure or obstruction longer.
- ▶ Length is indicated by the use of colon [:]

e.g. Finnish:

*laki* [k] 'law'

*lakki* [k:] 'cap'

*tuli* [u] 'fire'

*tuuli* [u:] 'wind'

Dannish:

*bunde* [bʊnə] 'bottoms'

*bundne* [bʊnnə] 'bound' (pl.)

*bundene* [bʊnnə] 'the bottoms'

# Stress

- ▶ The auditory feature of a sound that enables us to place it on a scale that ranges from soft to loud.
- ▶ It can be seen in stressed vowels or syllables; stressed vowels will be louder than unstressed ones.
- ▶ Stress is indicated by an acute accent [ ´ ] to show primary stress and a grave accent [ ` ] to show secondary stress, or <sup>1</sup> for a primary and <sup>2</sup> for a secondary.
- ▶ Eg. [t<sup>h</sup>eləgræfɪk] or [t<sup>h</sup>eləgræfɪk]
  
- ▶ Representation:
  - Primary stress : an acute accent [ ´ ] ; <sup>1</sup>
  - Secondary stress : a grave accent [ ` ] ; <sup>2</sup>

