

The pitch component of intonation

Static and kinetic tones.

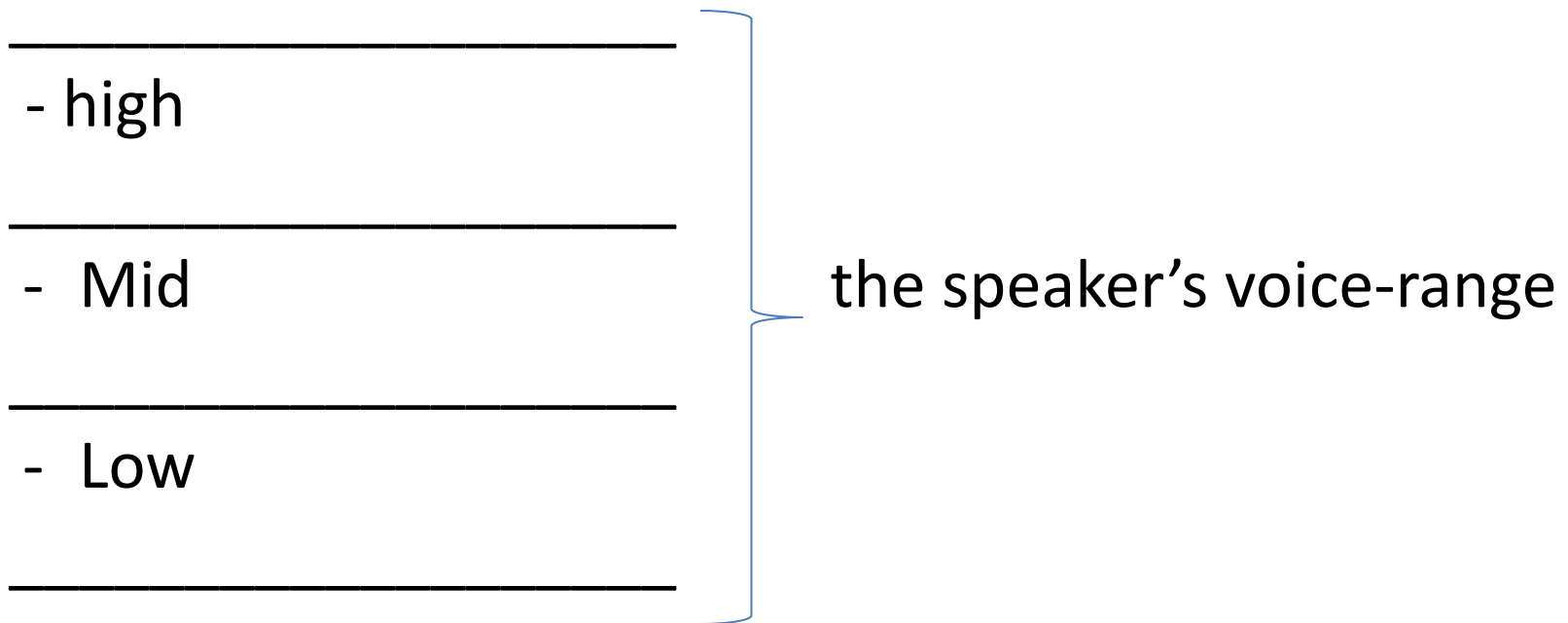
Anatomy of a tune

Speech melody (the pitch component)

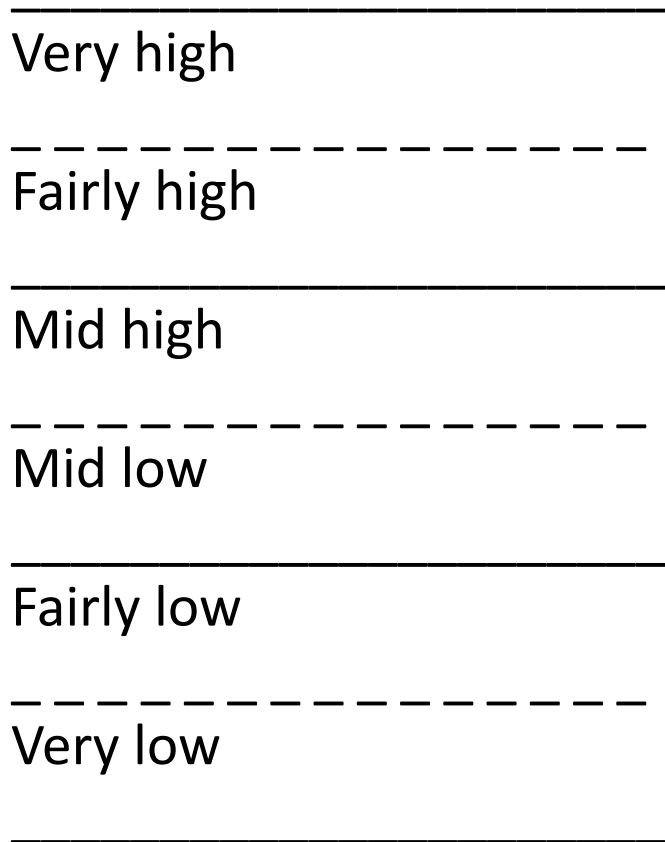
- Variations in the height of the voice during speech, described in terms of pitch-changes and levels.
- pitch-changes – perceptible variations in the height of the voice, based on changes of the fundamental frequency of voice within vowels and sonorants

Pitch-level

- – a certain height within the speaker's voice-range during the pronunciation of the given utterance
- Zones within the speaker's voice-range



Pitch-level



the speaker's voice-range

Functions of the pitch-level

- Marks the degree of semantic prominence attached by the speaker to this or that word or phrase in an utterance
- Conveys various shades of modal-attitudinal meanings and emotional colouring

Pitch-changes

- perceptible variations in the height of the voice, based on changes of the fundamental frequency of voice within vowels and sonorants
- May change in two directions: upward and downward.

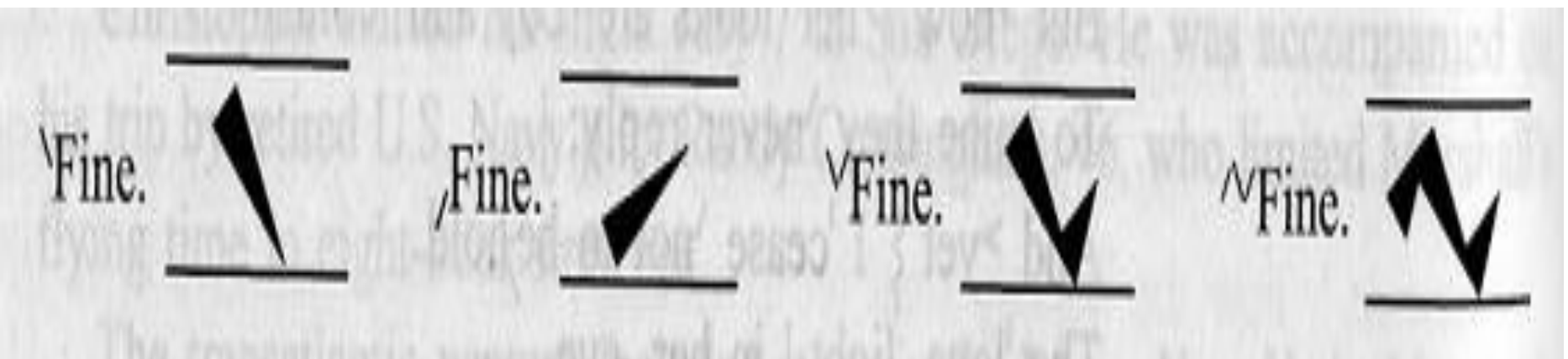
Pitch-change

fall

rise

fall-rise

rise-fall



tone

- A cooperation of pitch change or a pitch contrast, increased force of articulation and increased duration on phonetically prominent (stressed) elements of the speech chain.
- Static (level) tone – tone of unvarying pitch produced by keeping the vocal cords at a constant tension
- Kinetic (dynamic) tone - tone of varying pitch produced by varying the tension of the vocal cords

Static tones

- High
 - Very high
 - Fairly high
- Mid
 - Mid high
 - Mid low
- Low
 - Fairly low
 - Very low

Functions of tones

- Static tones give prominence to words in an utterance.
(the higher varieties give greater prominence and signifies greater semantic importance)

Kinetic tones

- Indicate the communicative type of an utterance
- Express the speaker's attitude towards the subject matter, the listener and the situation
- Single out the centre of new information in an utterance or the point of greater semantic importance as viewed by the speaker

- The nuclear tone – the tone carried by the most important word (generally the last notional word)
- The terminal tone – the last tone in an intonation group that serves as its boundary marker
- The tune – the pitch pattern of the whole intonation group