

**COURSE CODE:** ENG 212

**COURSE TITLE:** INTRODUCTION TO GENERAL PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY 1

**COURSE LECTURER:** AKPATI, C. FRANKLIN

**LEVEL:** 200

**TOPIC:** INTONATION

### **INTRODUCTION:**

This is ENG 212 course offered by 200 level students. The topic that will be shortly considered here is intonation. At the end of the class students would be exposed to different patterns or tunes of intonation. These patterns will help the students to know when to apply them appropriately in their conversations. Intonation as an modulation or movement of pitch in an utterance is a suprasegmental feature of speech.

### **CONTENT**

#### **INTONATION**

This refers to the pitch change in an utterance i.e. the way in which the voice goes up and down when we speak. Intonation is a feature of the longest phonological unit called tone group. In this course, attention will be paid to just four patterns of intonation (Fatusin, 2007)

#### **(a) Falling tune**

The falling tune is basically used for wh questions. WH questions are questions that begin with “WH” elements such as “who”, “why”, where” etc. Examples are

Where are you? \

What is your name? \

Who is your father? \

Other uses of falling tones are statements e.g

I saw the boy yesterday \

John killed the goat \

I want to know everybody \

Commands

Examples:

Get out \

Go home now \

Exclamations

Examples:

What a beautiful day \

How happy the boy is today \

(b) Rising tone

The rising tone is used for Yes/No questions. These forms of questions are also referred to as polar questions. Examples are

Have you seen your brother? /

Do you know him? /

Is your uncle around? /

Rising tone can also be used for polite requests, for instance, would you please shut the door? /

It can also be used to show incomplete statements like “when we complete the assignment.... /

(c) Rising tune + Falling tune

Examples:

As soon as we get there / we will complete the assignment \

If you pay me ten millions / I will do the job \

(d) Falling tune + Rising tune

Examples:

You can come, \ if you can /

She is right, \ I think. / (Aremo, 2001)

**Works Cited:**

Fatusin, S. A. (2007). *An introduction to the phonetics & phonology of English*. Lagos: Greenfield Publishers

Aremo, B. (2001). *Spoken English*. Ibadan: Scribo Publications Limited

**Book for Further Reading:**

Daniel Jones’s Cambridge English Pronouncing Dictionary