Parentheticals in Spoken English: The Syntax-Prosody Relation (Studies in English Language)

By Nicole Dehé

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Taking both an empirical and a theoretical view of the prosodic phrasing of parentheticals in English, this book reviews the syntactic and prosodic literature on parentheticals along with relevant theoretical work at the syntax-prosody interface. It offers a detailed prosodic analysis of six types of parentheticals - full parenthetical clauses, non-restrictive relative clauses, nominal appositions, comment clauses, reporting verbs, and question tags, all taken from the spoken part of the British Component of the International Corpus of English. To date, the common assumption is that, by default, parentheticals are prosodically phrased separately, an assumption which, as this study shows, is not always in line with the predictions made by current prosodic theory. The present study provides new empirical evidence for the prosodic phrasing of parentheticals in spontaneous and semi-spontaneous spoken English, and offers new implications for a theory of linguistic interfaces.

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Review
'This book is not only the most detailed study of spoken parentheticals to date, but should be required reading for anyone relying on phrasal segmentation for their prosodic analysis.' Anne Wichmann, University of Central Lancashire

'With this careful and thorough investigation into the prosody of parentheses, Nicole Dehé underlines the relevance of studying spoken language data, providing an important contribution to research on the syntax-phonology interface.' Mark de Vries, University of Groningen

About the Author
Nicole Dehé is a Professor of General Linguistics at the University of Konstanz.

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