**INTRODUCTION**

Information structure (IS) has been argued to constrain prosodic realization, particularly in the nuclear position of a prosodic phrase.

Information structure: relation between information in a sentence and the knowledge state of the participants in the discourse

Nuclear accent: right-most accented word in an intonational phrase

Our mother sang a lovely ME.Lody.

As the rightmost accented word, nuclear accents will frequently coincide with utterance-final position.

Both information status and utterance-final position conveyed via prosodic realization.

Several studies have indicated a probabilistic relation between IS and the realization of nuclear pitch accents, but there is limited evidence regarding:

- Levels of IS beyond focus conditions
- Individual variation (limited # of speakers)
- American English

- How utterance-final position and information status interact in the prosodic signal

Goal: Investigate the relative weighting of information status and utterance-final position in the acoustic-phonetic correlates of nuclear prominence in utterance-final and non-final positions

**SUMMARY**

Information structure* **probabilistically** modulates nuclear prominence**

Information structure overtly influences nuclear prominence** *more in non-final position than utterance-final position

Creaky voice strongly signals utterance finality and *givenness*, especially in utterance-final position, while modal voice signals *newness*

*consistent effects of givenness and contrastive focus on prominence

**consistent effects of pitch accent type, duration, relative amplitude, % voiced

**METHODS**

**EXPERIMENT 1: FINAL POSITION**

32 participants (23 F, 9 M)

20 sets of mini-stories (5 sentences each), 4 IS levels

Content sentence 1: Our sister Jamie spent all day Saturday in the kitchen.

Content sentence 2 (sets IS condition):

- Our sister Jamie spent all day Saturday in the kitchen.
- She made marmalade.

Target sentence: Our nana loved the marmalade she made.

4 blocks alternating between neutral and lively productions (affect)

Each participant received only one IS per story in the experiment

IS-story pairings counterbalanced every 4 participants

**EXPERIMENT 2: NON-FINAL POSITION**

Changes from Experiment 1:

32 participants (16 F, 16 M)

Updated mini-stories

Content sentence 1: Our sister Jamie spent all day Saturday in the kitchen.

Content sentence 2 (sets IS condition):

- Our sister Jamie spent all day Saturday in the kitchen.
- She said that she liked to make everything from scratch.

Target sentence: Our nana loved the marmalade she made.

Experiment 1: Final position

Experiment 2: Non-Final position