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# The time course of speech act recognition conveyed by prosody: A gating study

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## Abstract

The present study employed the gating paradigm to investigate when listener recognize speech acts conveyed by prosody as speech unfolds. We compared cross-spliced and naturally spoken sentences with a final falling or rising pitch expressing statements and questions. These data show that the most pronounced pitch modulation and its position at the final-sentence word are the main markers for the recognition process, with question recognized slightly later than statements regardless of the sentence type. These findings provide important insights into the role of prosody and the timing of conscious recognition of different speech acts in communication.

**Keywords:** Prosody, Speech Acts, Gating Paradigm, Time course

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