

## **The Control/Compensation model meets Brazilian Portuguese**

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In the past few years, a new approach to the modeling of natural language rhythm, called Control/Compensation, has been developed at Laboratorio di Linguistica of Scuola Normale Superiore (Pisa). The aim is to improve on the existing models, by attaining a higher degree of explicitness and falsifiability, thus circumventing the circularity charge that has been raised against this line of research.

The model has so far been applied to Italian, German and Mandarin Chinese. At the conference, new data on Brazilian Portuguese will be offered.

Although the model is still under development, the results obtained so far are both encouraging and challenging. In the author's view, the latter aspect (namely, challenge) should be regarded as the most important one. Any problematic issue raised by the model forces the researcher to refine the starting hypotheses and yields a deeper understanding of the foundations of speech rhythm.

The Brazilian Portuguese data stem from four elicited (semi-spontaneous) conversations, involving 8 speakers. The presentation will offer a comparison with the previously studied languages, as well as a discussion of the theoretical issues involved.