

# FROM NUCLEAR STRESS AND COMMUNICATIVE DYNAMISM TO FOCUS PROJECTION: TRADITIONS, TRANSITIONS AND FUTURE RESEARCH

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**Abstract:** *This paper brings together traditions, transitions and future research concerning the study of focus from a phonetic and phonological point of view. The introductory section reviews the hallmarks of the nuclear stress approach and the communicative dynamism approach as two competing traditions dealing with focus. Then, the phenomenon of focus projection is introduced and discussed as a combination of and a transition to a compromise between the nuclear stress view and the communicative dynamism view. This transition is supported by both theoretical considerations and empirical evidence.*

*Next, the paper argues that the transition to focus projection is incomplete and further research is necessary. This part of the paper offers ideas on details which have failed to receive due attention in previous studies. The proposals comprise a set of transitions which in their turn take particular traditions as a point of departure. More precisely, the discussion is narrowed down to the following transitions: from off-line to on-line experiments, from SVO sentences to other syntactic structures, from studying focus projection in one language to contrastive analysis of the phenomenon in different languages, and from controlled-material analysis to corpora analysis.*

*The final section summarizes the main lines of reasoning. It concludes the study by attaching weight to the claim that both traditions and transitions are necessary since signs of the progress of linguistic studies such as transitions are hardly possible without traditions.*