



## USING ENGLISH AND FRENCH PROVERBS AS COMPARATIVE PAIRS TO TEACH THE TERMINAL JUNCTURES

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Junctures are pauses used in speech separating thought-groups from one another in order to give the listener time to digest the utterance to signal the end. Where junctures are present, hearers find it easier to understand what is said as they are able to discern the individual words between such verbal breaks. Junctures being universal suprasegmental features in all languages, learners of foreign languages should also be made aware of their existence and importance while trying to capture the skill of conveying their oral messages intelligibly. In an innovative approach to teach the three forms of junctures, namely, the sustained junctures (short or long pauses in sentences), the falling junctures (pauses after statements) and the rising junctures (pauses after questions) could be demonstrated in a “comparative pairs technique”. This technique may involve the matching of some famous proverbs common in both languages (the source and the target languages, i.e. L1 vs. L2) to prove the universality of such suprasegmental elements. For instance, “the sustained juncture” could be taught using such a match as “Friends → may meet →→ but mountains → never greet↓” vs. “Il n'y a que les montagnes → qui ne se rencontrent jamais↓” As an example of a “falling juncture”, another identical proverb-pair such as: “Rome wasn't built → in a day↓” vs. “Paris ne s'est pas fait → en un jour↓” could be given. And finally for “the rising juncture” yet another pair in the question form this time could be used: “Which → came first →→ the chicken → or the egg↑ / Qui est venu → en premier →→ la poule → ou l'œuff↑” Thus, in this presentation, the functions of the terminal junctures will be shown both through English and French proverb examples as suprasegmental phonemes in the intonation of English. We often encounter the challenge of teaching suprasegmentals to foreign language students in Turkey as a serious problem. So comparing identical proverbs while teaching students junctures could increase their awareness of such a feature of oral communication and thus allow them express themselves more clearly and understandably.

**Keywords:** Juncture, Sustained juncture, Falling juncture, Rising juncture, Suprasegmental, Pauses.

### **Junctures and Their Universality**

Junctures, in other words terminal junctures are pauses in speech that introduce, accompany, or replace a new idea or separate thought-groups from one another to give the audience time to digest them (Van Riper, 1996). They are called terminal junctures because they show somehow the end of an utterance. So junctures refer to the relative closeness with which syllables follow each other within the words or phrases of an utterance (Peggy, 2009).

When junctures are present in an utterance, hearers find it easier to understand what is said as they are able to discern the individual words between such “subtle cues in the speech signal” (Peggy 2009).

Junctures are essential for speakers in any language to convey the message intelligibly. The French language is not unfamiliar with this concept, and our hosts here in Paris call it “frontière”, “jointure” or perhaps better as “joncture phonétique” as we will get to know its French version with many examples today (Mounin, 1975).

There are basically three forms of junctures in both languages, namely the *sustained juncture* [la joncture-phrase] (a short or long pause within a sentence), the *falling juncture* [la joncture-période] (a pauses after an affirmative statement) and the *rising juncture* [la joncture-question] (a pauses after a question sentence). [Junctures are defined in French just as in English as “*les frontières linguistiques à valeur démarcative, qui définissent la limite entre deux unités consécutives (syllabes, morphèmes, syntagmes, phrases).*”] (Larousse, 2012)

Junctures being a very important part of speech, their proper use must therefore be taught to L2 students at all stages of training in different forms (Demirezen, 2009). Junctures could also be presented as an innovation in a comparative way to the learners of English and French bilingually in proverb-pairs. This technique could involve the matching of some famous proverbs common in both languages in order to demonstrate the universality of this suprasegmental element. I will soon share with to you some examples of such identical proverb-pairs from both languages categorized in the relevant juncture types to be used in bilingual classes in order to help students speak either of these two languages clearly (Yurtbaşı, 2012).

### The Sustained Juncture

The “*sustained juncture*” [la joncture-phrase] [→] are found between "thought groups" within a sentence, indicating brief level pauses. In writing a comma (,) is usually represented by a short sustained juncture [→] and sometimes a semi-colon (;) by a longer one [→→] in oral utterance (Williams, 1986). To demonstrate the universal occurrence of sustained junctures in both English and French languages here are some identical proverbs examples in conceptual parallels:

1. “Prevention → is better than → cure↓” vs. “Mieux vaut prévenir → que guérir↓”
2. “Friends → may meet →→ but mountains → never greet↓” vs. “Il n’y a → que les montagnes →→ qui ne se rencontrent → jamais↓”
3. “If youth could know → if old age could do, and →→ the world would → never go wrong↓” vs. “Si jeunesse savait, et → si vieillesse pouvait →→ le monde → ne faillera → jamais↓”
4. “The pitcher goes → so often → to the well →→ that it breaks → in the end ↓” vs. “Tant va → la cruche à l'eau →→ qu'à la fin → elle se casse↓”
5. “He who laughs → on Friday →→ will cry → on Sunday↓” vs. “Tel qui rit → vendredi →→ dimanche → pleurera↓”
6. “Where → there's a will → there's always → a way↓” vs. “Vouloir →→ c'est → pouvoir↓” (Glusky, 1971)

### The Falling Juncture

The “*falling juncture*” [la joncture-période] [↓] are the long pauses used after affirmative “statements” to signal their final termination. In writing a period (.), an exclamation mark (!) or a colon (:) is usually represented by a falling juncture in a oral utterance (Williams, 1986). To demonstrate its universal occurrence in both English and French proverbs here are some identical examples:

1. “If ifs and ands → were pots and pans →→ there'd be no work for tinkers' hands↓” vs. “Avec des si → et des mais → on mettrait Paris en bouteille↓”
2. “Rome wasn't built → in a day↓” vs. “Paris ne s'est pas fait → en un jour↓”
3. “Nothing is impossible → to a willing heart↓” vs. “À cœur vaillant → rien d'impossible↓”

4. "You should never say →→ Fountain → I will never drink → your water!" vs. "Il ne faut jamais dire →→ "Fontaine → je ne boirai pas → de ton eau !"
5. "There is no such word → as "can't↓" vs. "Impossible → n'est pas français↓"
6. "There is → no such thing as →→ "impossible↓" vs. "Impossible" →→ n'est pas → français↓"
7. "Desperate diseases →→ must have →→ desperate remedies↓" vs. "Aux grands maux →→ les grands remèdes↓"
8. "Misfortune →→ never comes → singly↓" vs. "Un malheur →→ ne vient → jamais seul↓"
9. "The best →→ is the enemy → of the good↓" vs. "Le mieux →→ est l'ennemi → de bien↓"
10. "Better to bend →→ than to break↓" vs. "Mieux vaut plier →→ que rompre↓"
11. "The reasoning of the strongest →→ is always → the most favored↓" vs. "La raison du plus fort → est toujours → la meilleure↓" (Glusky, 1971)

### The Rising Juncture

The "rising juncture" [la joncture-question] [↑] are the long pauses used after question statements to signal their final termination. are the long pauses used after affirmative "statements" to signal their final termination. In writing a question mark (?) represents the rising juncture of the oral utterance (Williams, 1986). To demonstrate its universal occurrence in both English and French here are some identical proverb examples:

1. "When Adam delved → and Eve span →→ who was then → the gentleman↑" vs. "Quand Adam bêchait → et qu'Ève filait →→ qui était alors → le gentilhomme↑"
2. "All are → good lasses →→ but whence come → the bad wives↑" vs. "Tous sont → de bonnes filles →→ mais d'où viennent → les mauvaises femmes↑"
3. "East → or west↑ home → is best↓" vs. "Est → ou ouest ↑ la maison → est la meilleure↓"
4. "Which came first →→ the chicken → or the egg↑" vs. "Qui est venu → en premier →→ la poule → ou l'œuf ↑"
5. "Where are → the snows of yesteryear↑" vs. "Mais où sont → les neiges d'antan↑"
6. "Who's minding → the store↑" vs. "Qui s'occupe → du magasin↑" (Glusky, 1971)

### Conclusion

Thus in this presentation, the functions of the terminal junctures have been explained and demonstrated in many examples both in English and French proverbs as an important suprasegmental phoneme emphasizing the intonation. We often encounter in Turkey the dilemma of our L2 students either learning English or French when it comes to expressing themselves orally. As we have seen in the examples in this presentation that the remedy for such ills lies mostly in breaking the "thought groups" by relevant terminal junctures namely by either short or long sustained junctures within the sentences, and falling or rising junctures at the end.

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