

Singaporean English word-level tone assignment: An optimality theory account

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It has recently been proposed that Colloquial Singaporean English (CSE) possesses tone at the word level, predictable from stress and morphology. This paper presents a principled optimality theory account of tone assignment, using data supported by pitch tracks. The factorial typology is compatible with two tone patterns observed in Hong Kong English, as well as much observed variation in CSE. It turns out that cross-linguistically attested constraints require only slight adaptations to account for some of CSE's more unusual features, such as the high word boundary tone and the apparent affinity between stress and mid tone.