PAPER 2:

The centrality of creaky and other phonation in tone differentiation

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The paper focuses on the interaction of pitch and phonation in three languages, each from a different language family: Iu-Mien (Hmong-Mien), Hainan Cham (Austronesian), and Anong (Tibeto-Burman). In each case, the phonation could be ignored allowing the tones to be described as phonemicized pitch patterns, but a closer examination of each language shows that this is not the case. The study shows that when a tightly clustered pitch patterns occur in multiple tone languages, phonation differences not only provide a way to keep the tones separated but also a way by which tones merge through loss of pitch differences, and a way by which tones realign in acoustic space.