

Class 6: Downward interfaces I

To do

- Manam assignment due Friday (Feb. 2)

Overview: Previously we looked at structure above the segment; next week, structure below the segment. In between, this week we consider the role of phonetic substance in phonology.

1 What is markedness, anyway?

- When we say that, e.g., complex onsets are **marked**, what does that mean?
- The idea predates generative linguistics, and seems to have varying interpretations:
 1. a structure is marked if it's rare cross-linguistically, or if its presence in a language implies the presence of an (unmarked) alternative
 - e.g., if a language allows complex onsets, it also allows simple onsets
 2. and/or a structure is marked if children acquire it later
 - e.g., children acquire simple onsets first, then complex
 3. and/or language learners and users actually disprefer the structure
 - not something we can observe directly
- Controversies
 - Do 1 & 2 go together? If so, does 2 cause 1?
 - Is 3 responsible for 1 and/or 2? How can we test 3?

2 Non-mental ways to explain typological rarity

- ? The article that you read for today (Moreton 2008) explains channel bias vs. analytic bias very well and cites the major works, so why don't we just discuss that for a few minutes.

3 Example of a markedness constraint driven by articulatory difficulty: *NC̥

(Pater 1996; Pater 1999; Pater 2001; cf. Archangeli, Moll & Ohno 1998);

The most famous example of a markedness constraint that different languages resolve differently (see Pater for original sources of data).

- Japanese (at least for Yamato vocabulary; from Pater)

| <i>present</i> | <i>past</i> | <i>gloss</i> |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|
| kats-u | kat-ta | ‘win’ |
| kar-u | kat-ta | ‘cut’ |
| wak-u | wai-ta | ‘boil’ |
| ne-ru | ne-ta | ‘sleep’ |
| mi-ru | mi-ta | ‘look’ |
| ſin-u | ſin-da | ‘die’ |
| jom-u | jon-da | ‘read’ |

In Yamato (native) vocabulary, no words like *ento or *kompu (Ito & Mester 1995)

- “Puyo Pongo” Quichua (Orr 1962) via Pater)

| | | | |
|------------|---------------|------------|--------------------|
| ſiŋki | ‘soot’ | tʃuntina | ‘to stir the fire’ |
| tʃuŋga | ‘ten’ | indi | ‘sun’ |
| pampalʃina | ‘skirt’ | nukantʃi | ‘we’ |
| hambi | ‘poison’ | pundʒa | ‘day’ |
| wasi-ta | ‘house’ | kan-da | ‘you’ |
| ajtʃa-ta | ‘meat’ | atan-da | ‘the frog’ |
| puru-ta | ‘gourd’ | wakin-da | ‘others’ |
| ali-tʃu | ‘is it good?’ | kan-dʒu | ‘you?’ |
| lumu-tʃu | ‘manioc?’ | tijan-dʒu | ‘is there?’ |
| mana-tʃu | ‘isn’t it?’ | tʃarin-dʒu | ‘does he have?’ |

- Magindanaw (Austronesian, 1,000,000 speakers in the Philippines; I lost the source info!¹)

| | | |
|---------------|-----------|----------------------|
| /pəŋ + báŋun/ | pəm-báŋun | ‘is waking up’ |
| /pəŋ + dila/ | pən-dila | ‘is licking’ |
| /pəŋ + gəbá/ | pəŋ-gəbá | ‘is destroying’ |
| /pəŋ + pása/ | pəb-pása | ‘is selling’ |
| /pəŋ + sígup/ | pəd-sígup | ‘is smoking’ |
| /pəŋ + tánda/ | pəd-tánda | ‘is marking’ |
| /pəŋ + kúpja/ | pəg-kúpja | ‘is wearing a kupia’ |

¹ I think it was a linguistics workbook for Pilipino-language teachers in training; there were phonology, morphology, and syntax exercises from various Philippine languages, with data contributed by program participants.

- Compare to Mandar (Austronesian, 200,000 speakers in the Indonesia; Mills 1975 via Pater)

| | | |
|---------------|-----------|------------|
| /maN + dundu/ | man-dundu | ‘to drink’ |
| /maN + tunu/ | mat-tunu | ‘to burn’ |

- Konjo—(related to Mandar—125,000 speakers in Indonesia; Friberg & Friberg 1991 via Pater). I don’t have the original; these data are schematic only:

| | | |
|---------------|-----------|------------|
| /maN + dundu/ | man-dundu | ‘to drink’ |
| /maN + tunu/ | man-nunu | ‘to burn’ |

- Standard Indonesian/Malay (Lapoliwa 1981 via Pater)

| | | |
|-------------|----------|----------------------|
| /məN+pilih/ | məmilih | ‘to choose’ |
| /məN+tulis/ | mənulis | ‘to write’ |
| /məN+kasih/ | məŋasih | ‘to give’ |
| <hr/> | | |
| /məN+bəli/ | məmbəli | ‘to buy’ |
| /məN+dapat/ | məndapat | ‘to get, to receive’ |
| /məN+ganti/ | məŋganti | ‘to change’ |

note also in Indonesian/Malay

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| əmpat | ‘four’ |
| untuk | ‘for’ |
| muŋkin | ‘possible’ |

- Kelantan dialect of Malay—I haven’t been able to track down the real data, but it should look schematically like this (Teoh 1988 via Pater):

| | | |
|-------------|----------|----------------------|
| /məN+pilih/ | məpilih | ‘to choose’ |
| /məN+tulis/ | mətulis | ‘to write’ |
| /məN+kasih/ | məkasih | ‘to give’ |
| <hr/> | | |
| /məN+bəli/ | məmbəli | ‘to buy’ |
| /məN+dapat/ | məndapat | ‘to get, to receive’ |
| /məN+ganti/ | məŋganti | ‘to change’ |

- English

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| ɪmp ^h asəbəl | ‘impossible’ |
| ɪnt ^h empərət | ‘intemperate’ |
| ɪŋk ^h ælkjələbəl | ‘incalculable’ |
| <hr/> | |
| ɪmbɜːb | ‘imberb’ |
| ɪndisənt | ‘indecent’ |
| ɪŋglɔːriəs | ‘inglorious’ |

- Kwanyama (a.k.a. OshiKwanyama; Niger-Congo language with 421,000 speakers in Angola, and an unknown number in Namibia—data from Pater)

Loans:

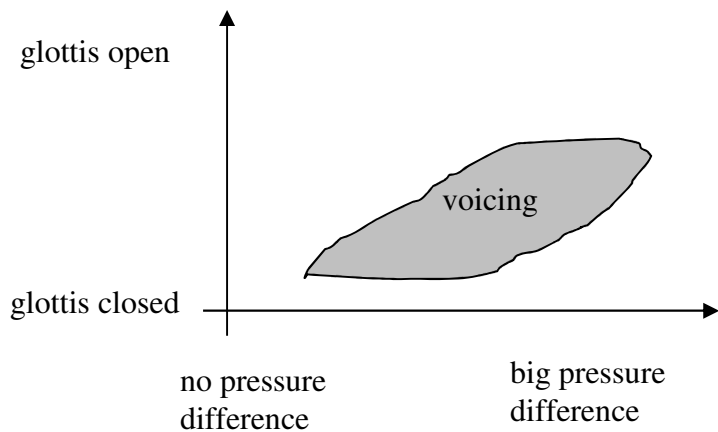
| | |
|---------|---------|
| sitamba | ‘stamp’ |
| pelenda | ‘print’ |
| oinga | ‘ink’ |

Prefixes:

| | | |
|------------|--------|--------------------|
| /e:N+pati/ | e:mati | ‘ribs’ |
| /oN+pote/ | omote | ‘good-for-nothing’ |
| /oN+tana/ | onana | ‘calf’ |

4 Phonetic basis for *NC̥

- Hayes & Stivers 1996 (aerodynamic model simulations and experiments with English speakers): **velar pumping** and **nasal leak**
- To have voicing, you need higher air pressure below the glottis than above (so that air flows), and the vocal folds in the right position (so they can vibrate).
 - What range counts as “the right position” depends on the pressure difference. Schematically, with apologies to phoneticians:



- To **stop** voicing, you must move out of the zone.
- In a transition from [m] to [p], velum raises.
- The percept of nasality ends before velum actually makes closure → air is **leaking out the nose**, maintaining air pressure difference across the glottis → voicing is encouraged
- After velum does make closure, it tends to keep rising → “**velar pumping**”: further encourages airflow across glottis by expanding oral cavity

Analytic bias theory: humans are predisposed towards grammar that includes *NC̥

Channel bias theory (following Blevins 2003 Evolutionary Phonology): Output of parents’ phonology is [ampa], but sounds a bit like [amba], so children may mistakenly learn *NC̥.

- ? Let’s try to sketch out how this or a different channel-bias theory will work for the various repairs we saw above.

- No matter where we rank the markedness constraint in relation to the faithfulness hierarchy, winner is *b* or *a*:

| /an+pa/ | AGREEPLACE | MAX-C/___V | MAX-C/___C | IDENT(place)/ ___ V -son | IDENT(place)/ ___ C +nas |
|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>a</i> [anpa] | *! | | | | |
| <i>b</i> [ampa] | | | | | * |
| <i>c</i> [anta] | | | | *! | |
| <i>d</i> [ana] | | *! | | | |
| <i>e</i> [apa] | | | *! | | |

7 Some things to ponder about the P-map

- Exactly what is being compared in $\Delta(X, Y)$, to give a faithfulness constraint its default ranking?
 - Output vs. input? That's kind of funny because the input isn't a pronounced form, so its perceptual properties are hypothetical.
 - Output vs. faithful output (candidate *a* in the above)?
 - Output vs. related output? E.g., [rat] vs. [rad-im].
 - Those are both real, pronounced forms, but it's tricky because the target segments are in different contexts.
 - Do we measure $\Delta(d/V_V, t/V_#)$?
- How well connected is the P-map?
 - Can $\Delta(X, Y)$ be measured for absolutely any *X, Y*? Or only for close-enough pairs?
- Does $\Delta(X, Y)$ really act like a number, so that we can always compare $\Delta(X, Y)$ and $\Delta(Z, W)$?
 - Or is the "greater than" relation sparser than that, so that some distances can't be compared?
- How specific are the *Xs* and *Ys*?
 - MAX-C, MAX-OBSTRUENT, MAX-VOICELESSOBSTRUENT, MAX-p...
 - Maybe they all coexist

8 In general, the P-map is good for the "too-many-solutions" problem

- Some markedness constraints have a variety of "solutions"
 - *NC₀, as we saw
 - OCP-labial in various Western Austronesian languages (Zuraw & Lu 2009)
 - *{L,U} in Romance metaphony (Walker 2005)
 - *INITIALGEMINATE (Kennedy 2005)

⇒ This is what we expect in OT

- But some don't—that's the "too-many-solutions problem":
 - *CC deletes *C*₁, not *C*₂ in VC₁C₂V (Wilson 2000; Wilson 2001)
 - * $\begin{bmatrix} -\text{son} \\ +\text{voice} \end{bmatrix}$ # causes final devoicing, but not deletion, epenthesis, etc.

⇒ predicted, if P-map imposes difficult-to-overturn ranking: MAX-C, DEP-V >> IDENT(voice)/_#

9 Discussion: why sometimes just one solution, sometimes many?

- I think the diachronic/Blevinsian perspective is helpful here.
 - If the motivation for $*\begin{bmatrix} -\text{son} \\ +\text{voice} \end{bmatrix} \#$ is a phonetic force causing final obstruents to devoice, there's a natural direction of language change
 - (learner mistakes lack of phonetic realization of voicing for a lack of voicing in phonological output)
- So what if motivations are different in nature? Let's discuss what we'd expect...
- ? **OCP-labial** (Zuraw & Lu 2009): suppose having similar consonants nearby causes difficulties for motor planning (see Frisch 1996; Frisch, Pierrehumbert & Broe 2004, Walker, Hacopian & Taki 2002)

Attested changes:

- a. change place of stem: /p-um-.../ → [k-um...]; violates IDENT(place)/stem
 - b. change place of infix: /p-m-.../ → [k-n...]; violates IDENT(place)/affix
 - c. change consonantality of infix: /C-m-...p.../ → [C-w...p...]; violates IDENT(cons)
 - d. fuse stem and infix consonants: /p-um-.../ → [m...]; violates UNIFORMITY
 - e. move infix out of constraint's domain of application: /p-um-.../ → [mu-p...]; LINEARITY
 - f. delete the infix: /p-m-.../ → [p...]; violates MAX, REALIZEMORPH
 - g. paradigm gap: /p-m-.../ → *unpronounceable*; violates MPARSE ("pronounce the input")
-
- ? ***{I,U}** (Walker 2005): perhaps motivation is insufficient perceptual distance from [e,o], [i,u] (see Flemming 1996)
 - Different ways to handle $*\{I,U\}$ in Romance metaphony when raising /ε,ɔ/ ((Walker 2005))
 - h. /ε,ɔ/ raise to [i,u]; violates IDENT(tense)
 - i. /ε,ɔ/ fail to raise; violates HARMONY(high), HARMONY(tense)
 - j. /ε,ɔ/ raise to [e,o]; violates HARMONY(high)
 - k. /ε,ɔ/ raise to [ie,uo] or [ie, ue]; violates INTEGRITY (no splitting)

? *INITIALGEMINATE: This one's harder...

- Kennedy 2005:
 - In various Micronesian languages, initial geminate Cs were created by reduplication.
 - Word-initial position is a tough place to maintain a C-length distinction
 - especially for stops, because you need to perceive when the consonant begins
 - [pa] vs. [ppa], as opposed to [apa] vs. [appa]

| | | | | |
|-------------------|--------|---|--------|-------------------|
| Pohnpeian | *ppek | > | mpek | IDENT(nasal) |
| Marshallese—Ratak | *kkan | > | kekan | DEP-V/C__C |
| Marshallese—Ralik | *kkan | > | yekkan | DEP-V/#__C |
| Pingelapese | *ttil | > | iitil | IDENT(syllabic) |
| Woleaian | *kkaše | > | kkaše | IDENT(continuant) |
| | *kaše | > | xaše | |

10 P-map case study: Löfstedt 2010's analysis of Swedish paradigm gaps

(see other chapters in Löfstedt 2010 for additional tests and applications of the P-map)

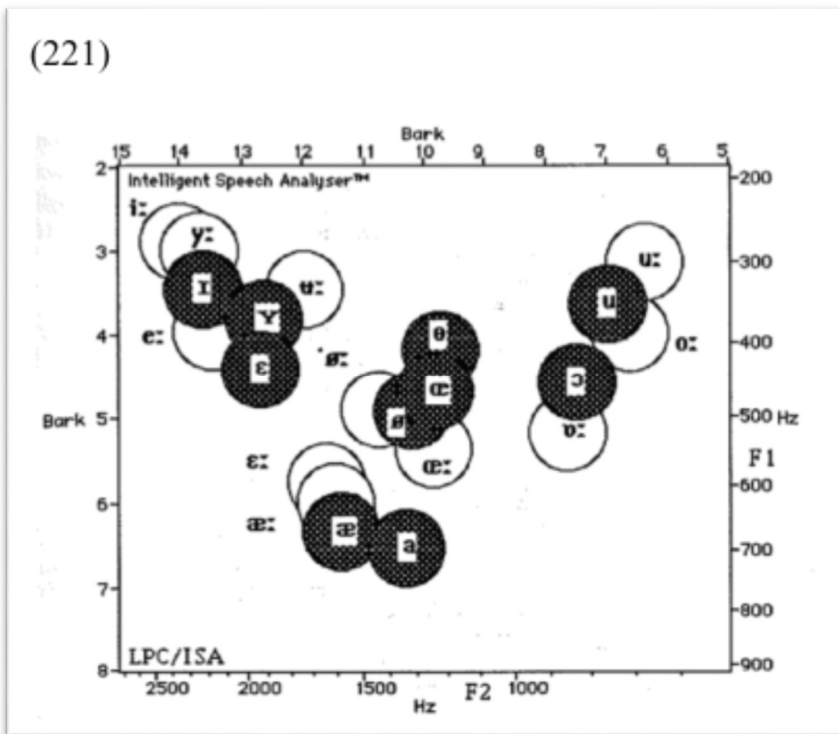
- Swedish short and long vowels come in pairs—we can see this in nicknames (and elsewhere):

| (192) | <u>FULL NAME</u> | <u>NICKNAME</u> |
|-----------|---------------------|--------------------|
| | <u>(LONG V)</u> | <u>(SHORT V)</u> |
| Δ (ɑ , a) | kl[ɑ:]s [ɑ:]gøst | kl[a]s:ə [a]g:ə |
| Δ (ɤ , ø) | kn[ɤ:]t | kn[ø]t:ə |

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| | h[ɤ:]bert | h[ø]b:ə |
| Δ (ɛ , ɛ) | p[ɛ:]r | p[ɛ]r:a |
| Δ (y , ʏ) | st[y:]rbjørn | st[ʏ]b:ə |
| Δ (e , ɛ) | st[e:]fan | st[ɛ]f:ə |
| Δ (o , ɔ) | r[o:]land p[o:]l | r[ɔ]l:ə p[ɔ]l:ə |
| Δ (u , u) | [u:]lof b[u:] | [u]l:ə b[u]s:ə |
| Δ (i , i) | m[i:]kael s[i:]gfrid | m[i]k:ə s[i]g:ə |
| Δ (ø , ø) | j[ø:]ran | j[ø]r:ə |

(pp. 88-89)

- Some of these pairs are more distant in formants from others:



(p. 110, from Kuronen 2000's p. 119)

- Normally, the neuter of a /t/-final adjective is formed by lengthening the /t/, which shortens the preceding vowel:

| | | | |
|------|---------|-------|--------------|
| vi:t | 'white' | vi:t: | 'white-neut' |
| sø:t | 'sweet' | sø:t: | 'sweet-neut' |

 - But [lɑ:t] 'lazy' and [flɑ:t] 'flat' simply lack neuter singular forms!
- Löfstedt's analysis: $\Delta(\alpha:, a)$ is just too big.
 - Better to not say the word (violating MPARSE) than to violate faithfulness that badly.

11 Investigating channel bias vs. analytic bias

- Looking at the basic data in a language, often both channel-bias and analytic-bias explanations are available.
 - To test an analytic-bias hypothesis, we often need to go beyond basic data.

- All these methods have their pros and cons [citations far from complete!²]:
 - Teach people an artificial language, holding back crucial cases, and see how they then treat those crucial cases
 - Do they choose the “natural” option or not? (Wilson 2006, White 2012, Kim 2012, for an overview Moreton & Pater 2012)
 - Find a real language that lacks crucial cases, make up words to instantiate those cases, and see what speakers do (Zuraw 2007)—a.k.a. Lise Menn’s idea of “Bach testing” (Halle 1978)
 - Same thing but arising naturally when borrowing words or speaking L2 (Broselow 1983)
 - See how fast and accurate speakers are in applying “natural” vs. “unnatural” rules that already exist in their language (Zhang, Lai & Sailor 2006), (Zhang & Lai 2006)
 - See what choices people make in composing poetry/lyrics (Steriade 2003, Kawahara 2007) or puns (Fleischhacker 2006, Kawahara 2010)
 - See how well people have learned the natural vs. unnatural patterns that happen to be present in their lexicon (Hayes et al. 2009, Carpenter 2010, Becker, Ketrez & Nevins 2011, Becker, Nevins & Levine 2012, Jarosz & Rysling, Garcia 2017)

12 How about *unnatural* but real phonology?

- Bach & Harms 1972: “crazy rules”
- E.g., Japanese coronals undergo affrication before certain vowels:

| | | |
|----|-----|-----|
| ta | tʃi | tsu |
| da | dʒi | |
| sa | ʃi | su |
| za | | zu |

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{-sonorant} \\ \text{+coronal} \\ \text{<+voice>} \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{+del rel} \\ \text{+strident} \\ \alpha\text{anterior} \\ \text{<\alphacontinuant>} \end{array} \right] / \text{---} \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{V} \\ \text{+high} \\ \alpha\text{back} \end{array} \right]$$

- Affrication before [u] seems very unnatural.
 - B&H propose the following series of events. (see over)

² I just cited the first ones that came to mind, so naturally there is an overrepresentation of UCLA.

1. Somebody innovates a rule that's phonetically reasonable:³

$$\begin{bmatrix} -\text{sonorant} \\ +\text{coronal} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} +\text{del rel} \\ +\text{strident} \\ +\text{anterior} \end{bmatrix} / _ \begin{bmatrix} \text{V} \\ +\text{high} \\ -\text{back} \end{bmatrix}$$

? What does the syllable inventory look like now?

2. The rule gets generalized a little in a way that's structurally (if not phonetically) reasonable:

$$\begin{bmatrix} -\text{sonorant} \\ +\text{coronal} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} +\text{del rel} \\ +\text{strident} \\ \alpha\text{anterior} \end{bmatrix} / _ \begin{bmatrix} \text{V} \\ +\text{high} \\ \alpha\text{back} \end{bmatrix}$$

? What does the syllable inventory look like now?

3. Now a new, also reasonable rule is innovated...

$$\begin{bmatrix} -\text{sonorant} \\ +\text{strident} \\ +\text{voice} \\ +\text{anterior} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \quad [+continuant]$$

4. ...then generalized:

$$\begin{bmatrix} -\text{sonorant} \\ +\text{strident} \\ +\text{voice} \\ \alpha\text{anterior} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \quad [\alpha\text{continuant}]$$

4. And it all gets collapsed into the one “unholy” rule (p. 15). So each step is reasonable, but the result is rather unnatural.

? Let's discuss what constraints we'd need for an OT analysis—some of them might be phonetically unmotivated.

³ I hope this is right—I'm changing what I think was a typo from old notes; I don't have the chapter handy.

- The dream of a universal constraint set probably can't be completely fulfilled. We probably need to equip the learner with the ability to learn constraints (see Hayes & Wilson 2006).

To sum up

- Phonetics certainly plays a role in shaping phonological typology, but exactly how it does it remains controversial

Next time

- “Phonologization”: how does a language get from phonetic motivation to an abstracted phonological pattern?

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