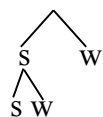


Linguistics 312/712	Phonology I	MMTH SP98
	The Stuff We Never Covered	

Those of you going on in linguistics, especially the Linguistics graduate students who have to take a comprehensive exam in phonetics/phonology, deserve to know what is sometimes covered in Phonology I but wasn't this time.

Lexical Phonology. Some phonological processes, such as those involved in word-formation, belong in the lexicon rather than in the phonological rules. These lexical processes can be further subdivided into levels. Level 1 phenomena in English includes the attachment of *-ity*, *-al*, *--eer*, *-ence*, *ex-*, *dis-*, *in-*, etc., as in *pérson* → *pérsonal* → *personáality* and Trisyllabic Shortening as in *div[ar]ne* ~ *div[ɪ]nity*. Level 2 phenomena include the attachment of productive affixes like *-ness*, *-hood*, *-ship*, *-like*, *-less*, *-er*, *-ism*, *un-*, etc., and regular inflections like the plural [s ~ z ~ ðd] or /n/ deletion as in *condemn*, *column*. Some rules apply only in one level: Degemination is a Level 1 process, so *in-* affixed to a stem beginning with /n/ doesn't produce a geminate /nn/: *i[n]umerable*, but *un-*, a Level 2 affix, produces /nn/: *u[nn]atural*. Some rules apply at both levels: *face* + *-ial* is *fa[f]ial* without exception (Level 1), but *miss* + *you* varies between *mi[s] you* and *mi[f] you*.

Metrical Phonology. Syllables are organized not only into words, but also into **feet**, consisting of a stressed syllable and associated unstressed syllables to its left (like French) or right (like English). Feet can be either bounded, containing a maximum number of rhymes, or unbounded, though some say even English, in principle unbounded, has a maximum of three unstressed rhymes, as in *éleva-tor*. Feet are represented as binary trees, as in



or in a grid, as in

*
* *
* * *
e le phant

elephant

Autosegmental Phonology. Phenomena such as tone are not features of individual vowels, but exist on their own tier. They are associated with syllables via association lines. Some tones are found without an association, and have to get associated with the appropriate segment, or be deleted. In some languages, a specific **tonal melody** is found, such as LHL. In a three-syllable word, each syllable gets a tone; but if there are only two syllables, two of the tones may be combined to produce a third tone: A language might have the forms *bàlákà* and *mbènádù*, showing the melody expanded, but a two-syllable word would still carry all three tones, as in *kpàkpâ*, with the second syllable carrying a contoured representation of the high-low tones, which otherwise would have had a syllable each.

Optimality. The phonology (and every other component) of a language can be viewed as a set of constraints on surface representations, rather than as a set of processes. Given a particular underlying form, all possible outputs are examined, and the one violating the fewest constraints is selected. In phonology, this theory is applied mostly to reduplication (which is very difficult to describe with standard linear phonology), but it has been successful at describing other phenomena.

Here are some suggested readings if you want to pursue any of the above.

Archangeli, Donna. 1988. Aspects of underspecification theory. *Phonology* 5.183-207.

Clements, George. 1985. The geometry of distinctive features. *Phonology Yearbook* 2.223-50.

Goldsmith, John. 1976. An overview of autosegmental phonology. *Linguistic Analysis* 2.23-68.

_____. 1990. *Autosegmental and metrical phonology*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Kiparsky, Paul. 1982. From cyclic phonology to lexical phonology. H. van der Hulst & N. Smith, eds., *The structure of phonological representations (Part I)*. Dordrecht: Foris.

Prince, Alan, & Paul Smolensky. 1993. *Optimality theory*. RuCCS TR-2: New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers U.