**Handout 10 Prosodic morphology /Morphology /*AS/31-May-23***

It deals with the interaction of morphology and prosodic structure.

Prosodic structure is particularly concerned with the timing units of languages,

for example, the word and syllable, and vowel length.

From this general category we present three phenomena: phonotactic constraints, root-and-pattern morphology, and reduplication.

**Phonotactic constraints**

Phonotactic constraints limit the possible phonological shapes of stems and words. Phonotactic constraints are often, but not always, connected with syllable structure.

phonotactic constraints determine the minimum length of content words in particular languages.

E,g Mohawk, each content word contains at least two syllables

Other languages require that content words consist of at least a heavy syllable, where heavy means that the syllable contains a long vowel, diphthong, or a vowel and a weight-bearing (moraic)[1] consonant.

Does English have a minimal word constraint? An analysis of nick-names suggests that it does (see McCarthy and Prince 1998

English nicknames

a. Alexander → Alex

Caroline → Carrie

Katherine → Cathy, Kitty

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|---|---|
| Josephine → Jo | . Beverly → Bev |
| Louisa, Louis → Lou | Christopher → Chris |
| Susan, Suzanne → Sue | Robert → Rob, Bob |

[1] Mora (n.) A term used in traditional studies of metrics to refer to a minimal unit of metrical time or weight, and now used in some models of non-linear phonology (e.g. metrical and prosodic phonology) as a separate level of phonological representation. The analysis of segments into moras is usually applied only to the syllabic nucleus and coda (the rhyme), and not to the onset ('onset/rhyme asymmetry'). Moraic structure accounts for many of the phenomena described in other models by such notions as the skeletal tier. In the prosodic hierarchy, the moraic level is symbolized by μ (□'mu'). The notion of mora counting is used to handle languages where there is an opposition between heavy (two-mora, or bimoraic) syllables and light (one-mora, or monomoraic) syllables, and the equivalence between various types of heavy syllable. In Latin, for example, a long vowel was equivalent to two short vowels or to a short vowel plus consonant.

| | |
|---|---|
| Tyler → Ty | Stephanie → Steph |

They are either polysyllabic (9a) (in this case, bisyllabic) names or monosyllabic names.

We also find that languages have restrictions on the possible shapes of roots.

Nida (1965: 66) reports that in the Mayan languages, roots are predominantly of the shape CVC and in Bantu they are generally CVCV. In Hebrew, Arabic, and other Semitic languages, roots generally consist of three consonants: CCC

**Root-and-pattern morphology**

Semitic languages such as Hebrew and Arabic, roots generally consist of three consonants.

To form words, vowels are superimposed on this consonantal pattern. We call this type of morphology root-and-pattern

- melex ‘king’
- malkah ‘queen’
- malax ‘he reigned’

**root-and-pattern** morphology, the root consonants in a given inflectional or derivational paradigm combine with vowels and sometimes consonants in a fixed pattern. It is possible to think of the consonantal root being superimposed on a template.

**segolate noun**

Segolate nouns consist of two syllables, and they are stressed on the penultimate (second-to-last) syl-lable.3 The group of segolate nouns can be subdivided into three different classes.

The root-and-pattern morphology of Hebrew and Arabic is reflected in their writing systems, which use the primary symbols to represent consonants and diacritics to represent vowels.

**Reduplication**

In reduplication, a continuous substring from either the beginning or the end of a word is copied. Languages may use reduplication for inflection or derivation.

Plural reduplication in Ilokano, an Austronesian language of the Philippines

kaldíŋ ‘goat’ kal-kaldíŋ ‘goats’

púsa ‘cat’ pus-púsa ‘cats’

kláse ‘class’ klas-kláse ‘classes’.

Reduplication bears an important similarity to root-and-pattern morphology. The reduplicant typically must follow a certain pattern or adhere to some other prosodic requirement. In Ilokano plurals, as you can see, the reduplicant is always of the shape C(C)VC or C(C)VV.

**Primary and Secondary Affixes**

Primary and secondary affixes, also known as level 1 and level 2 affixes or class 1 and class 2 affixes.

English, this distinction is intimately connected with language history. Primary affixes in English are often of Latin-Romance origin, while secondary affixes are often of native Germanic origin. (English is a Germanic language.)

Kiparsky English 1983

- Mendel → Mendelian
- Mongol → Mongolian primary suffix
- Mendel → Mendelism
- Mongol → Mongolism secondary suffix

Primary affixes cause a stress shift, while secondary affixes do not.

The stress in Mendel is on the first syllable, while in Mendelian, it is on the second

Primary and secondary affixes both occur in the same word, then The primary affix will occur closer to the stem than the secondary affix. Therefore, Parkinsonianism is a possible word, but *Parkinsonismian is not.

symbol ‘+’ to mark the juncture between a stem and a primary affix and to use ‘#’ to mark the juncture between a stem and a secondary affix.

reparable and repairable. Both have repair as their stem, but it is slightly disguised in the first.

Semantically, both mean ‘capable of being repaired’, but only the second would be used to describe a broken appliance.

Reparable has the additional sense of ‘liable to be paid back or recovered’ as with reparable damages.

These words show that the suffix -able in English is actually two suffixes.

One is primary, as in reparable, and the other is secondary, as in repairable.

Repair+able= reparable, repair# able= repairable