

Study questions for Goldsmith 1990, ch. 1¹
due Thursday, Nov. 13

Notes/tips

- p. 10: The item in (2) might be a word like [tánàkà] (using ´ to represent High tone and ` to represent Low tone), with H on the first vowel and L on the second and third.
- p. 11: The item in (3) would have a falling tone (represented ^): [bô]
- p. 13: Note that (9) is a rule: in one swoop, it gives both the structural description and the structural change.
- p. 20: In the Mixtec data, mid tones are marked by putting no accent mark over the vowel letter.
- p. 24: (34) has a “skeletal tier” of Cs and Vs that provides a docking point for both tonal features and features like [+back] and [–round]. The Cs and Vs could also be thought of as [–syll]s and [+syll]s.
- p. 25: “Their physical locus of articulation is, of course, identical”: i.e., tones and glottal stops are both articulated by the larynx.
- p. 27: Presumably these floating Ls dock onto a preceding word, which is how we’d know they’re there.
- p. 28: In the KiRundi data, no accent means L tone and acute accent ´ means H tone.
- p. 29: Why should voiced obstruents lower tone? It’s been proposed that obstruent voicing involves slack (as opposed to stiff) vocal folds, which all else being equal oscillate at a lower frequency.
- p. 45: I think a better way to write it than {[+syllabic],Ø} would be ([+syllabic],[]), since Ø normally means “no segment” and [] means “any segment”.

Questions

1. Just checking that you understand the new rule notation: in (24c), which is derived from (21d), why does rule (22) allow the second H to move over but not the first (there are a couple of reasons)?

2. Something like the conjunctivity condition (p. 39) comes up a lot—usually the principle is stated as “association lines are interpreted exhaustively” (the Linking Constraint). Explain why this principle would prevent the rule $k \rightarrow x / V_$ from applying to /takki/, represented like this

t a k i
| | / \ |
C V C C V

¹ Goldsmith, John (1990). *Autosegmental and metrical phonology*. Oxford & Cambridge, MA: Blackwell.