

Study questions on McCarthy & Prince 1994

Notes

- p. 10 and later: **PARSE** and **FILL** are names for “don’t delete” and “don’t insert” that were only in use for about 1993-1994, soon replaced by MAX and DEP
 - The general idea is that nothing is ever truly inserted or deleted
 - The output is different from the input only in its prosodic structure
 - In order to be pronounced, consonants and vowels (and whatever) have to be attached to a higher level of prosodic structure, like a syllable
 - PARSE: all segments should be attached to syllable structure (and if they’re not, they don’t get pronounced)

$$\begin{array}{c} \sigma \\ / \quad | \quad \backslash \\ t \quad a \quad l \quad k \end{array}$$

is pronounced [tak] and violates PARSE-SEGMENT

- FILL: all syllable positions should be filled with a segment (and if they’re not, a default segment gets pronounced instead)
- You can skip the appendix!

$$\begin{array}{c} \sigma \\ / \quad | \quad \backslash \\ \text{onset} \quad \text{nucleus} \quad \text{coda} \\ | \quad \quad \quad | \\ p \quad \quad \quad t \end{array}$$

is pronounced [pət] and violates FILL

Question

1. Different languages (and even different morphemes in the same language) require reduplicants of different shapes/sizes. Some of this can be taken care of by markedness constraints like NOCODA, as in McCarthy & Prince’s tableau (19). But not all: for example, in tableau (18), what rules out *[ʔu’i:-ʔu’i:ħ]? This is addressed for the Diyari case, but not for all the cases in the paper.

Make a proposal (it’s okay if it’s one you’ve seen before in the literature) about what could take care of this size problem and illustrate it with a tableau. Consider whether your proposal changes the typology. In particular, take a look at tableaux 18 and 38b—under the constraints there, which candidates can win under some ranking? Under your proposal (especially if it adds or redefines a constraint), which candidates can now win under some ranking? Be sure to consider candidates like (in tableau 18) *[ʔu-ʔu] (in tableau 18) and *[tʰilpa-tʰilpa] in tableau (38b).

One page is plenty.

McCarthy, John J & Alan Prince. 1994. The emergence of the unmarked: Optimality in prosodic morphology. In Merce Gonzalez (ed.), *Proceedings of the North East Linguistic Society 24*, 333–379. Amherst, Mass.: GLSA Publications.