Winter 2013
Jaye Padgett

Time: MW 2-3:45
Place: Ling Cave
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Office Hours: Fri 10:30-12:00 or by appointment

Requirements

☆   "Adopt" several readings and present in class
☆   Do all readings and participate fully in discussion of them
☆   A final paper; work in progress presented in the last week of class.

This seminar will have three broad themes. We will read some other things just because.

I. Explanations for emergence of dispersion

There have been several attempts to explain dispersion in phonological inventories as an emergent phenomenon, rather than one controlled by "grammar", and moreover many of these avoid any reference to the desirability of maintaining perceptual distinctiveness. We will survey and evaluate these accounts. This relates to experimental work I am doing with Grant McGuire, Scott Seyfarth, and Tommy Denby, which I will discuss.

II. Status of phonetic naturalness in phonology

Though many phonological phenomena seem phonetically natural (in the sense of having documented phonetic "precursors"), there are well known phenomena that seem unnatural. Further, Ohala, Blevins, and others have claimed that we can explain naturalness without assuming a "UG" that cares about naturalness. The advent of artificial grammar experiments, as well as "underphonologization" studies like those of Moreton, offer hope of treating debates arising from these issues as empirical. What is the state of this recent research? What do artificial language experiments tell us about naturalness and "UG"? How convincing is work on "underphonologization"?

III. Experimental evidence for derivational opacity

Discussions of derivational opacity are another beaten path that might use the fresh air of experimental evaluation, but there isn't much of this on display. How amenable are claims of derivational opacity to behavioral testing, for example?

Course schedule

Date	Topic/Reading
1/7	Initial discussion of "considerate speaker" and "filtering listener"
	Reading: NYU slides
1/9	Discuss possible course readings. Emergent approaches to dispersion: Wedel 2004
	Some background on frequency and neighborhood density too
1/14	Exemplar theory. Testing the filtering listener idea: Tommy Denby presents
	Reading: Goldinger 1996, 2000
1/16	Filtering listener (cont)
	Reading: Wedel 2006
1/21	**Holiday**
1/23	Filtering listener (cont)
	Reading: Ettlinger 2007; Baese-Berk & Goldrick 2009
1/28	Filtering listener (cont)
	Reading: Scarborough 2010 (available as electronic resource through library); Buz & Jaeger 2012
1/30	Functional load; taking stock of everything
	Reading: Wedel et al. 2012
2/4	Paradigm effects
	Reading: Bethin 2012
2/6	Naturalness in phonology: Artificial phonology learning
	Reading: Moreton and Pater, Parts 1&2
2/11	Artificial phonology: complexity biases
	Reading: Cristià et al. 2008, Kuo 2009
2/13	Artificial phonology (cont)
	Reading: Myers and Padgett 2013
2/18	**Holiday**
2/20	Artificial phonology: complexity biases (cont)
	Reading: Moreton 2012
2/25	Artificial phonology: substantive biases
	Abstracts of final projects due. Reading: Pycha et al. 2003 and Finley & Badecker 2009
2/27	Artificial phonology: the latest
	Reading: Moreton & Pertsova 2012; Albright & Do 2013
3/4	Experimental opacity
	Reading: Ettlinger 2008, chap 5 (through Experiment 1)
3/6	(Jaye sick)
3/11	Experimental opacity (cont)
	Reading: Ettlinger 2008, chap 5 (Experiment 2)
3/13	**Student presentations**
3/18	**Student presentations (cont)**

Bibliography

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Baese-Berk, Melissa & Matthew Goldrick. 2009. Mechanisms of interaction in speech production. *Language and cognitive processes* 24.4: 527-554.

Bethin, Christina Y. 2012. On paradigm uniformity and contrast in Russian vowel reduction. Natural language and linguistic theory 30, 425-463.

Buz, Esteban & T. Florian Jaeger. 2012. Effects of phonological confusability on speech duration. Poster presented at the CUNY 2012 Conference.

Cristià, Alejandrina & Amanda Seidl (2008). Is Infants' Learning of Sound Patterns Constrained by Phonological Features? Language learning and development 4, 203-227.

Ettlinger, Marc. 2007. Shifting categories: an exemplar-based computational model of chain shifts. In *Proceedings of the 29th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*, 239-244. Lawrence Erlbaum.

Ettlinger, Marc. 2008. *Input-driven opacity*. Ph.D. dissertation, UC Berkeley.

Finley, Sara & William Badecker. 2009. Artificial language learning and feature-based generalization. *Journal of memory and language* 61: 423-437.

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Moreton, Elliott & Joe Pater (to appear). Structure and substance in artificial-phonology learning. Part 1: structure. Part 2: substance. Language and linguistics compass.

Moreton, Elliott & Katya Pertsova (2012). Pastry phonotactics: is phonological learning special? Handout of talk presented at NELS 43.

Myers, Scott & Jaye Padgett. 2013. Domain generalization in artificial language learning. Ms., UT Austin and UC Santa Cruz.

Pycha, Anne, Pawel Nowak & Ryan Shosted. 2003. Phonological rule-learning and its implications for a theory of vowel harmony. In *Proceedings of WCCFL 22*, eds. M. Tsujimura & G. Garding, 101-114. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press.

Scarborough, Rebecca. 2010. Lexical and contextual predictability: confluent effects on the production of vowels. In *Phonology and phonetics: Laboratory Phonology 10*, 557-586. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.

Wedel, Andy. 2004. *Self-organization and categorical behavior in phonology*. Ph.D. dissertation, University of California, Santa Cruz.

Wedel, Andrew. 2006. Exemplar models, evolution and language change. The linguistic review 23, 247-274.

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