Phonology
Session 5c

BA Linguistics

2019/20

Final exam has been rescheduled!

The final exam will take place on **Tuesday December 17**, from 18:00 till 20:00, in Oudemanhuispoort, room D0.09

Recap and outlook

Last week:

- we started off with autosegments

What we are going to do today:

- a word on the group presentations

- more on autosegments

- representation of tones

Language Presentations

Contents:

- Short **introduction** of topic (what phenomenon exactly, why interesting for the three languages; ½ minute)

- **For each language** (approx. 1½ minutes each):

  - Extremely short intro of language (where spoken, what language family)

  - Elaborate phenomenon (illustrate with one or maximally two clear examples; abstract away from example; maybe provide formalization)

- Short **conclusion** (what can be said about cross-linguistics realization of phenomenon based on the three languages; ½ minute)

Form groups of different languages, to allow for interesting comparisons!

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Long-distance featural changes

In harmony processes such as umlaut or vowel harmony, the changed segments are not adjacent, but share the same feature. E.g. Turkish:

[kep]	"cap"	[kepim]	"my cap"
[son]	"end"	[sonum]	"my end"
[køj]	"village"	[køjym]	"my village"

What is the phonological shape of the possessive first pers. singular? High vowel, back and rounding specification depends on the preceding vowel.

Rule: [+syllabic, +high] → [αback, βround] / [αback, βround] C __ m#

One could also treat these vowel features as being adjacent on a tier:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \alpha\text{back} \\ \beta\text{round} \end{bmatrix}$$

V   C   V
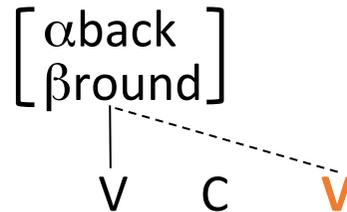
Autosegmental approach

- very useful for long-term assimilation processes (where details of intervening segments are variable)

- very useful for tonal processes

Discussion of quiz 7

Tones

Q2: What do the lines above the segments in (1) and (2) on page 148 represent phonetically?

(1)

a. ɓaa
'eight'

b. ɓaa
'pull up (grass)'

c. ɓaa
'grasp'

d. ɓaa
'father'

- fundamental frequency, f0
- pitch, pitch contour
- not: tone, because tone is an abstraction; it can be realized with different f0, slight differences in range, etc.

The tone-bearing unit (TBU)

Q3: The tone-bearing unit (TBU)…

- is always the syllable
- is always the sonorant mora
- can be the syllable or the sonorant mora, depending on the language
- can be the syllable or the sonorant mora, even within a language

Tone stability

Q4: What does 'tone stability' mean?

- A tone does not change in different intonational contexts
- A tone is preserved even though its corresponding vowel might be deleted
- A tone does not change independent of the length of the vowel
- A language with changing tones (contour tones) also has level tones

Tone association

Q5: The segmental sequence /ama/ is associated with the underlying tone pattern HLH. Surface [âmá] violates: (several answers possible)

- No crossing constraint (association lines do not cross)

- No crowding constraint (do not associate several tones with one TBU)

- The association convention that left-over TBUs should be associated with the last tone (7b; p. 148)

- The obligatory contour principle (identical adjacent tones not allowed)

```
H  L  H
 ⟍╱   |
  a   ma
 [âmá]
```

Obligatory Contour Principle

OCP: avoid adjacent identical tones within a morpheme or a word (language-dependent), e.g.

```
*L   L
 |   |
 ikpa        "cup"
```

Privative tone

Q6: Privative tone systems are most often assumed when on the surface we can observe a tone contrast, but underlyingly there is only one tone specified and this tone is:
- the only one that is active in phonological processes
- the only one that is assigned on the surface form
- the only one that is high

Example: Initial H doubling on verbs in **Northern Bemba** (Bantu; Zambia)

/bá-ka-fik-a/   'they will arrive (at the river)'

H   L
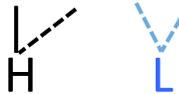
This process is blocked if it would result in an OCP violation:

/bá-ka-pít-a/   'they will pass (in the road)'

H L H L

OCP!

Tone stability

In Etsako: Niger-Congo language spoken in Nigeria (G&J 2016: 156f.)

Etsako has a rule of deleting a non-high vowel before another vowel. E.g. process of noun reduplication, meaning "every":

ìkpà	"cup"	ìkpìkpà	"every cup"
ówà	"house"	ówǒwà	"every house"
ɔ̀ɣɛ̀dɛ́	"banana"	ɔ̀ɣɛ̀dɔ̂ɣɛ̀dɛ́	"every banana"

Tone stability

```
L         L  L
|         |  |
ikp   +   ikpa          [ìkpìkpà]


H (L)     H  L
|         |  |
ow    +   owa           [ówǒwà]


L  L(H)   L  L  H
|  |      |  |  |
ɔɣɛd  +   ɔɣɛdɛ         [ɔ̀ɣɛ̀dɔ̂ɣɛ̀dɛ́]
```

Vowel deletion

Floating Tone

Gets associated with
neighbouring vowel
(to ensure **tone stability**)

Two identical tones
associated with one TBU
are reduced to one
(**twin sister convention**)

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Outlook

Homework:

- book sections 11.1 − 11.3 (on word stress) and chapter 12 (on the phonological word and above)
- Quiz 8