

Nasality, voice and more

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The Phonological Spectrum: Volume I: Segmental structure

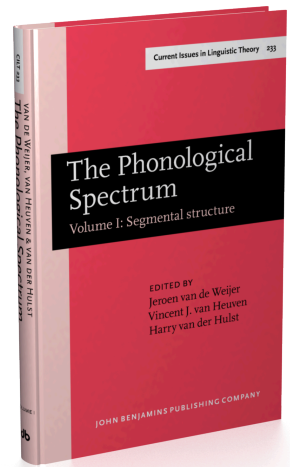
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This volume is concerned with segmental structure, and focuses on nasality (Section 1), voicing and other laryngeal features (Section 2), as well as segmental timing (Section 3).

With respect to nasality, questions such as the phonetic underpinning of a distinctive feature [nasal] and the treatment of nasal harmony are treated. In the first article ('Nasal harmony in functional phonology') by Paul Boersma, the claim is made that processes of nasal harmony should be approached from both an articulatory as well as a perceptual point of view, unlike previous approaches to the different types of nasal harmony that occur cross-linguistically. Rachel Walker ('Reinterpreting transparency in nasal harmony') examines variation in nasal harmony, which has long been known to vary considerably cross-linguistically in terms of undergoing segments. These differences can be described as corresponding to different constraint rankings in the OT framework, and bear on the analysis of transparency and locality in feature spreading. Finally, the paper by Stefan Ploch explores the question of whether phonological 'nasality' can be derived from phonetic nasality. His conclusion is that it is not possible to predict on the basis of phonetic measurement of the nasal airstream whether a phonological unit of nasality should be postulated, and thus proposes that this element has an abstract, 'cognitive' status.

In Section 2, the behaviour of voicing assimilation in Dutch is covered while its application in German is examined with an eye to its implications for the stratification of the German lexicon. In her article 'The role of phonology and phonetics in Dutch voice assimilation', Mirjam Ernestus shows that the categorial status of the different rules for voicing in Dutch may well have to be refined giving the large range of factors that affect the phonetic outcome of certain inputs. Caroline Féry ('Final Devoicing and the stratification of the lexicon in German'), like Ernestus, deals with the well-known phenomenon of

final devoicing in German and argues that an adequate analysis requires a stratification of the phonological lexicon in terms of native, foreign, loan, etc. Finally, Eon-Suk Ko ('The laryngeal effect in Korean: Phonology or phonetics?') also focuses on the laryngeal features, but here the distinctions between lenis, aspirated and tense consonants in Korean are specifically at stake. Ko argues that the phonetic segmental effects associated with these consonants belong to the phonetics, not the phonology.

In the final section of Volume I, the structure of diphthongs is examined, as well as the treatment of lenition and the relation between phonetics and phonology in sign language. Diphthongs in Swabian are the topic of Markus Hiller's paper. He discusses the question whether minute details regarding timing should be specified in underlying representation or left to the phonetic implementation. Philipp Strazny ('Depression in Zulu: Tonal effects of segmental features') examines the interaction of laryngeal quality and tone in Zulu. K. G. Vijayakrishnan examines lenition processes and claims that Optimality Theory provides a better angle on these than previous autosegmental frameworks, focusing on Tamil specifically. Finally, Onno Crasborn and Els van der Kooij ('Base joint configuration in: Phonetic variation and phonological specification') show that the status of the base joints in the hand does not have to be specified in the underlying representation of signs in Sign Language of the Netherlands: the phonetic output of these joints can in all cases be derived from other factors.