

# Preface & acknowledgments

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Pages ix–x of

**Consonant Structure and Prevocalization**

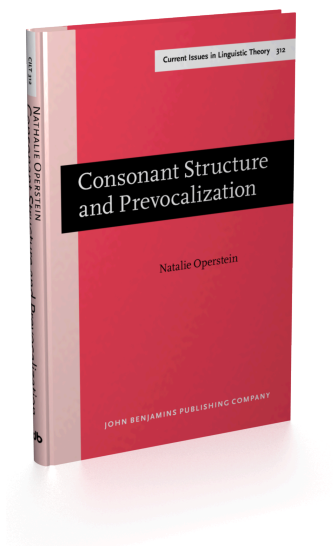
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## Preface & acknowledgments

This book proposes a new approach to intrasegmental consonant structure based on the first intra- and cross-linguistic study of consonant prevocalization, a set of phenomena which have in common the development of a vocalic prearticulation by consonants.

The proposed structural model represents consonant-level units as inherently bigestural in the sense of including both a consonantal and a vocalic component. The model is expressed in precise terms by using the representational apparatus of articulatory phonology (Browman & Goldstein 1986, 1988, and subsequent work until 2000)\* while also incorporating insights from other frameworks which deal with intrasegmental structure, primarily dependency phonology (Anderson & Ewen 1987) and feature geometry (Clements & Hume 1995). Consonant prevocalization is analyzed as sequential realization of the consonant's intrasegmental gestures, with the surfacing of a vocalic element not present in the original sound chain. The proposed structural model makes strong predictions relevant to diverse areas of phonological theory, diachronic linguistics, and articulatory evolution. The detailed study of consonant prevocalization provided in this work opens up new vistas for experimental and theoretical research in the areas of postvelar consonants, syllabic consonants, geminate consonants, retroflexion, and the synchronic and diachronic mechanisms of umlaut, vocalization, metathesis, vowel intrusion, and compensatory lengthening, among others.

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\* Full bibliographical details on these and other publications are to be found in the References at the end of the volume.

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