

Preface

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Aspects of Dynamic Phonology

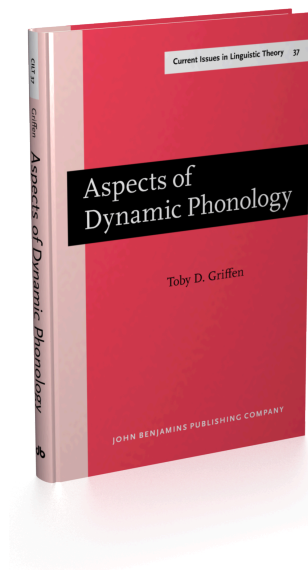
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PREFACE

Dynamic phonology is the natural consequence of the combination of the latest developments in physiological and acoustic phonetics and the traditional structural/functional theories of linguistics. In phonetics, the old segmental approach has long since given way to dynamic phonetics, leaving linguists in the position of either ignoring the dynamic evidence and continuing with segmental and semisegmental phonology or of adopting the dynamic evidence within their overall theories of language structure and function. As the name of this model of phonology implies, I have chosen to take the latter course, believing this to be the only path available to the phonologist who claims to be abstracting phonology from phonetic observation.

Insofar as the underlying linguistic theory is concerned, I have stuck quite closely to the traditional approaches that have offered the most flexibility and opportunity for incorporating the dynamic phonetic observations into the linguistic structure. Accordingly, one should see the rather strong influences of the Prague School, particularly the concepts and theories of Trubetzkoy; of the Copenhagen School of Hjelmslev, as well as the stratificational descendant typified by the works of Lamb and others; and perhaps most strikingly of the London School in the tradition of Firth. Indeed, while the incorporation of dynamic phonetics into phonology was initially carried out deliberately within Prague-School theory, the prosodic analysis of the London School came to be drawn upon more and more frequently and to the point that at its present level of development, dynamic phonology may in many ways be considered an outgrowth of Firthian theory.

With the basic observational evidence in dynamic phonetics and the theoretical foundations in traditional structural/functional linguistics, it should be emphasized that what I am proffering here is nothing more than a model of phonology: It represents no new theory, nor does it pretend to discover new phonetic evidence. Rather, this model of phonology offers the linguist a method of analyzing the sound structure of a language in keeping with the newest, most reliable findings of dynamic phonetics and within the traditional framework of linguistics -- the framework within which the rest of the linguistic structure is analyzed.

While many volumes could be written on the precise points of relationship between this model and the observations of dynamic phonetics as well as between the model and the overall theoretical framework, the scope of the present volume is deliberately limited. Inasmuch as the rather widespread and firm resistance to the incorporation of dynamic phonetics into phonology appears to be based upon the notion that there is no need for the abandonment of the familiar segmental approach, the purpose of this work is first briefly to describe the dynamic model within the traditional relationship between phonetics and phonology and then to offer analyses that unambiguously demonstrate that the dynamic phonology can indeed account for the evidence (can relate phonetic observation with linguistic theory) where segmentalism cannot. In so doing, I present the case that the segmental approach to phonology must be replaced with a dynamic approach.

The analyses themselves are often drawn from previously published articles and papers that various colleagues and I consider to present the most convincing argument for the dynamic model over the segmental. Of course, these analyses have been altered to varying degrees so that they might better be incorporated into this single work and so that they might also reflect the continuing development of the model. As such, they include much new material and lack much material considered extraneous to the present volume, and they should therefore by no means be considered as reprints. Thus, the reader who is interested in one or another analysis is encouraged to refer to the original, which is more likely to stand on its own and include more detailed information pertinent to the isolated analysis.

As the titles listed in the reference section may not always give the reader interested in a particular analysis enough guidance to find the original analysis and its supporting material, I offer the following list of major analyses by date (as they appear among the references): Chapter 1 - 1975a, 1978a, 1981a; Chapter 2 - 1975a, 1981a, 1976b, 1976a; Chapter 3 - 1978b, 1977c; Chapter 4 - 1982a; Chapter 5 - 1975a, 1977a, 1975c, 1980b; Chapter 6 - 1981b; Chapter 7 - 1975a, 1983a, 1976b, 1976a, 1977b; Chapter 8 - 1974; Chapter 9 - 1984; Chapter 10 - 1981d; Chapter 11 - 1982b; Chapter 12 - 1983b, in press; Chapter 13 - 1981c. Once again, I must stress that these analyses have been changed and in many instances combined to present them within the scope and limitations of this volume and also to reflect advances made over the years. Particularly with the former reason for altering the analyses, I would urge the reader interested in a particular analysis to check the original for further information.

In the various analyses, I use both broad and narrow phonetic transcription, as the particular problem under study may warrant. No attempt is made, moreover, to develop some sort of new nonsegmental transcription notation, for I recognize that the segments used in transcription are nothing more nor less than precise alphabetical letters. As such, they serve the purpose of reading and writing quite efficiently. In recognizing that segments are more suited to reading and writing while dynamic analysis is more suited to the description of actual speech, I have no inclination to remove the segment from its graphic use -- only from its analytical use.

I owe a great debt of gratitude to Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville for a considerable amount of support. Especially, I should like to thank Dr. Carol A. Keene, Dean of the School of Humanities during the development of this book, for her generous support for trips to conferences as well as for her encouragement. I should further like to thank Dr. Vaughnie J. Lindsay, Dean of the Graduate School, for her considerable support in these areas as well and also for the most appreciated support in the form of competitive awards.

I should also like to thank Dr. Adam Makkai, Dr. Valerie Becker Makkai, and the members of the Linguistic Association of Canada and the United

States (LACUS) for providing me with a forum for presenting various aspects of this model. At the annual conferences, the many linguists in attendance have given me valuable and incisive constructive criticism. For his encouragement and personal interest, I thank Dr. D. Ellis Evans, Language and Literature Editor of the Bulletin of the Board of Celtic Studies, in which several analyses have appeared. The opportunity he afforded me of presenting this model in the description of Welsh in a special lecture at Oxford University has likewise had a considerable effect on the development of this dynamic phonology.

Finally, I certainly wish to express my gratitude to the firm of John Benjamins for agreeing to publish this work, and especially to E. F. Konrad Koerner, Editor of this series, for accepting this work for publication in the series and for his many helpful suggestions on the typescript. Moreover, I am very grateful to E. Wyn Roberts, Simon Fraser University, for his much valued criticisms of earlier drafts of this work. The attention and effort he put into this volume have far exceeded what one might expect of a referee.

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T.D.G.