

Topic: More on rule ordering

Reading: Kenstowicz, Chapter 5.

### 1. Strategies of rule application

Rules can be applied obligatorily or optionally whenever their environments apply. Yet, what happens when more substrings of an input match the same rule? Here is a case of potential “self-bleeding”:

Input:	<i>aaaa</i>		
Rule:	$a \rightarrow b / a \_ a$		
Output	of simultaneous rule application:	<i>abba</i>	
	of left-to-right rule application:	<i>abaa</i>	
	of right-to-left rule application:	<i>aaba</i>	
	(NB: Different languages seem to require different strategies.)		

**Recursive rule:** the output of the rule can serve as its own input. **Cyclicity** (cf. Lexical Phonology).

### 2. Opacity

Spirantization in Modern Hebrew:  $\{p, b, k\} \rightarrow [+continuant] / [+syllabic] \_$

Summary of the argument:

- [p] and [f] have complementary distribution (with marginal exceptions and minimal pairs).
- Usually [b] alternate with [v]. But in some words [v] is unchanged. Hence:  $/b/ \rightarrow [v] / V \_$ .
- In some words, [k] alternates with [x]. In other words, [k] unchanged. In other words again, [x] unchanged. Suggestion,  $/k_1/ \rightarrow [x] / V \_$ . Non-alternating [x] words have underlying  $/x/$ . Non-alternating [k] words have underlying  $/k_2/$  (for instance, uvular  $/q/$ ).
- NB: Is  $\{p, b, k\}$  a natural class? In Tiberian Hebrew (a.k.a. Biblical Hebrew), the class of phonemes undergoing spirantization was  $\{b, p, d, t, g, k\}$ , the non-pharyngealized stops.

But, let us look at further data:

	‘to be careful’	‘to fight’	‘to enter’	‘to be written’
Infinitive	<i>lehizaher</i>	<i>lehilaxem</i>	<i>lehikanes</i>	<i>lehikatev</i>
Past. Sg. 3 masc.	<i>nizhar</i>	<i>nilxam</i>	<i>nixnas</i>	<i>nixtav</i>
Future Sg. 3. mas.	<i>yizaher</i>	<i>yilaxem</i>	<i>yikanes</i>	<i>yikatev</i>
			<i>knisa</i>	‘entrance’
	‘to exempt’ (qal)	‘to get rid of’ (niphil)	‘to resign’ (hitpaal)	
Infinitive	<i>liftor</i>	<i>lehitpater</i>	<i>lehitpater</i>	
Past. Sg. 3 masc.	<i>patar</i>	<i>niftar</i>	<i>hitpater</i>	
Future Sg. 3. mas.	<i>yiftor</i>	<i>yipater</i>	<i>yitpater</i>	

“Famous” words contradicting the spirantization rule: *Kabbalah*, *Yom Kippur*, *Sukkoth*, *Hanukkah*...

Suggestion 1: morpheme ‘to enter’ has two allophones  $[k_1.n.s]$  and  $[k_2.n.s]$ .

Suggestion 2: the pattern of the niphil infinitive is  $/lehi = a \_ e \_ /$ ; niphil future Sg 3 m is  $/yi = a \_ e \_ /$ .

Here, the *ad hoc* notation = means that the root consonant inserted does not undergo spirantization.

Historical-comparative data, orthography and further pseudo-arguments suggest: = means germination.

Lexical items:	'to enter' Niphal Past	Niphal Inf.	'to atone'	Piel nomen actionis	
	/k.n.s/	/ni__a_/_/	/lehi = a _ e _/	/k.p.r/	/_i = u _/
Morphology:	/niknas/	/lehikkanes/	#/lehikkaper/	/kippur/	
Phonology:					
Spirantization:	[nixnas]	---	[lehikkafer]	---	
De-gemination:	---	[lehikanes]	[lehikafer]	[kipur]	

Alternative suggestion: [=] stands for [n\_], and *n*-deletion rule in coda position after spirantization:

Lexical items:	'to enter' Niphal Past	Niphal Inf.	'to atone'	Piel nomen actionis	
	/k.n.s/	/ni__a_/_/	/lehi n_a _ e _/	/k.p.r/	/_i n_u _/
Morphology:	/niknas/	/lehinkanes/	#/lehinkaper/	/kinpur/	
Phonology:					
Spirantization:	[nixnas]	---	[lehinkafer]	---	
n-deletion:	---	[lehikanes]	[lehikafer]	[kipur]	

Problem: neither the child-learner, nor the synchronic linguist has evidence for underlying geminates or [n] in coda position. The analysis crucially relies on something that is not observable on the surface.

**Opacity** (Kiparsky 1973): A phonological rule *P* of the form  $A \rightarrow B / C\_D$  is *opaque* iff there are surface structures with either of the following characteristics:

- a. instances of A in the environment C\_D
- b. instances of B derived by P that occur in environments other than C\_D.

*Counterfeeding* order creates opacity:

	/CED/		/EAD/
$A \rightarrow B / C\_D$ :	---	$A \rightarrow B / C\_D$ :	---
$E \rightarrow A / C\_D$ :	[CAD]	$E \rightarrow C / \_A$ :	[CAD]

*Counterbleeding* order creates opacity:

	/CAD/		/CAD/
$A \rightarrow B / C\_D$ :	[CBD]	$A \rightarrow B / C\_D$ :	[CBD]
$C \rightarrow E$ :	[EBD]	$D \rightarrow E$ :	[CBE]

**Displaced contrast** in minimal pairs (Hayes, p. 146): *writing* ['ɹɪɪɪŋ] vs. *riding* ['ɹaɪɪŋ]

Structuralist approach: argument for [ɹɪ] and [ɹaɪ] being different allophones.

Underlying *write* /ɹɪɹ/ vs. *ride* /ɹaɹ/? But this contrast only appears before tap.

Alternative analysis: Underlying *write* /ɹaɪɹ/ vs. *ride* /ɹaɪd/ (as hinted by orthography).

No need for underlying /r/ segment in the "alphabet employed to encode the lexical items".

### 3. Extrinsic and intrinsic rule orders

**Extrinsic rule order:** order must be specified explicitly (e.g. tapping and Canadian raising: both attested).

**Intrinsic rule order:** general principles define order. (Easier for linguist and learner; less memory needed.)

**Elsewhere condition** (Kiparsky 1973): if rule A is applicable to a subset of the forms to which rule B is applicable, then the more specific A is applied first, blocking the application of the more general rule B.

Example: Finnish deletes word final [k], unless C follows word boundary, to which [k] totally assimilates.

(1) [k] → ∅ / \_ #

(2) [k] → C / \_ # C

Elsewhere condition: (2) must be applied before (1). Therefore:

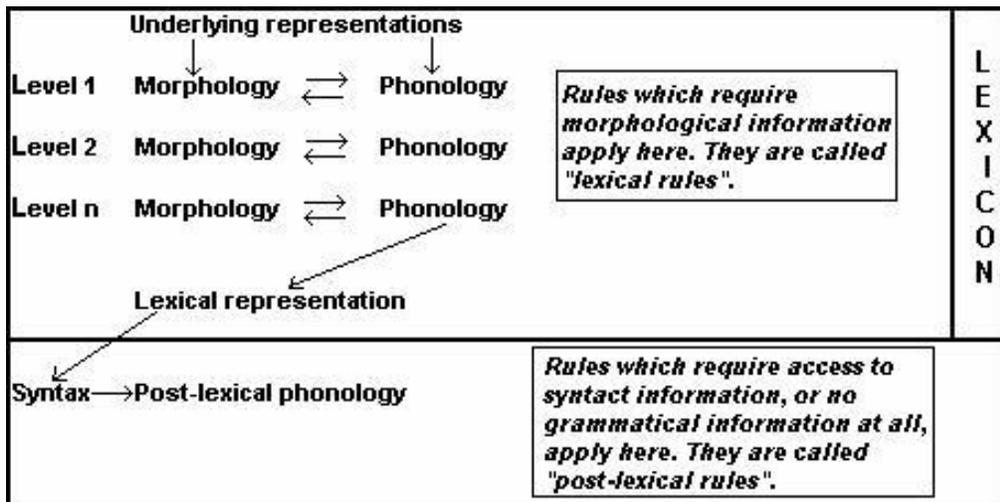
/menek/	→	[mene]	'go'
/menek##alas/	→	[mene##alas]	'go down'
/menek##pois/	→	[menep##pois]	'go away'
/menek##kotiin/	→	[menek##kotiin]	'go home'

**4. Contrastive Underspecification**, extending *underspecification* to all predictable features:

- Predictable (redundant) features in each language are absent from underlying representations.  
For example, sonorants would be unspecified for voicing.
- Only contrastive, distinctive features are stored in underlying representations.  
For example, obstruents would be specified for [±voice].
- **Redundancy rules** apply *late* in the derivation to fill in predictable features:  
For example, [+son] → [+voice]  
Prediction: only obstruents trigger and undergo voice assimilation (e.g. Russian).

**5. Lexical Phonology** (Kiparsky 1982; Mohanan 1982)

(<http://www-01.sil.org/linguistics/GlossaryOfLinguisticTerms/lexphon.jpg>)



**Lexical rules**

- apply before all post-lexical rules
- apply before syntax
- apply only within words
- may require morphological information
- can have exceptions
- may not be phonetically natural
- must be structure preserving
- Cyclic
- only in derived context (Strict Cycle Condition)

**Post-lexical rules**

- apply after all lexical rules
- apply after syntax
- apply within and across word boundaries
- does not access morphological information
- do not have exceptions
- phonetic motivation apparent
- need not be structure preserving
- Not cyclic
- not subject to the Strict Cycle Condition (SCC)