

Optimality Theory and the Typology of Word Stress

Linguistics 492A: Seminar in Phonology
Spring 2004, UMass, Amherst

Instructor: Joe Pater

Tel.: 577-1308

E-mail: pater@linguist.umass.edu (best way to reach me)

Office: South College 122

Office hours: F 12-1 (OK?)

Overview

This undergraduate seminar follows up on topics in phonological theory introduced in Ling 402. The theme of the seminar varies from year to year, since it focuses on current phonological theory. This year we will be discussing Optimality Theory, with a special focus on the typology of stress systems. Languages differ in their patterns of stress placement: French has stress on the final syllable of the word, while English and Spanish place stress on one of the last three syllables of the word. The question we will address is: What are the constraints that are responsible for the similarities and differences that we find across the world's languages?

We will begin with an overview of the basics of stress and of Optimality Theory, and then go on to discuss recent literature in this area, and come up with our own analyses of stress systems. The course will be run in a seminar/discussion format - I will present the readings, but I will assume that you have read them, and are ready to talk about them. There will also be problem sets that will inform our class discussions. The course will end with presentations of term papers, in which students can share with each other the results of their research.

Requirements

1. Do the readings before class, and be ready to critically discuss them
2. Hand in the problem sets *on the date they are due*: we will be discussing them in that class!
You can work on these with your classmates, but you must write them up on your own
You are strongly encouraged to work on them before meeting with others; doing this will develop your skill in dealing with new data, which is essential for the term paper
3. A critique
A short summary and critique of a paper on stress or related issues not covered in class
4. A term paper
This will likely involve providing an analysis of the stress pattern of a language.
I will hand out a set of topics you can choose from, but you can also come up with your own if you'd like (though we need to consult about this).
5. Presentation of the term paper - a chance to share your results with your classmates

Grading

Problem sets	40%
Critique	15%
Final Paper	35%
Participation	10%

Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Your responsibilities</u>
Jan. 29	Course Overview	
Feb. 3 Feb. 5	Introduction to a parametric theory of stress	Read Hayes Ch. 2 Read Hayes Ch. 3
Feb. 10 Feb. 12	<i>Last day to add/drop with no record</i>	Problem Set 1 Due Read Hayes Ch. 4
Feb. 17 Feb. 19	Review of basic principles of Optimality Theory	Read Kager Ch. 1. Problem Set 2 Due
Feb. 24 Feb. 26	Stress in OT: Generalized Alignment	Read McCarthy and Prince 1993/2004 Problem Set 3 Due
March 2 March 4	OT and parametric theory compared	Read P&S Ch. 4, Hayes pp. 270-78
March 9 March 11	English stress and OT	Read Pater 2000, Problem set 4 due
March 16 March 18	<i>No class - Spring Break</i>	
March 23 March 25	Ternary stress in OT <i>Last day to drop with 'W'</i>	Read Elenbaas and Kager 1997/2004, Critique due
March 30 April 1	'Directional stress' reexamined	Reading TBA Problem set 5 due
April 6 April 8	The Iambic/Trochaic Law and OT	Reading TBA, Term paper topics handed out
April 13 April 15	Unbounded stress in OT	Read Bakovic 1998/2004
April 20 April 22	Stress and Epenthesis No class - Monday schedule	Read Alderete 1999/2004 Meet with me this week to discuss term paper
April 27 April 29	Prosodic Morphology	Read McCarthy and Prince 1994/2004
May 4 May 6	Child Prosody	Read Pater 1997
May 11 May 13	Presentations	

References

- Alderete, John. 1999. Faithfulness to prosodic heads. In *The Derivational Residue in Phonological Optimality Theory*. Ben Hermans and Marc van Oostendorp, pp. 29-50. Amsterdam, John Benjamins. (As excerpted in McCarthy 2004).
- Bakovic, Eric. 1998. Unbounded Stress and Factorial Typology. In *RuLing Papers I: Working Papers from Rutgers University*, ed. Ron Artstein and Madeline Holler. 15-28. New Brunswick, NJ. (As excerpted by McCarthy 2004)
- Elenbaas, Nine and René Kager. 1999. Ternary Rhythm and the *LAPSE constraint. *Phonology* 16: 273-330. (As excerpted in McCarthy 2004).
- Hayes, Bruce. 1995. *Metrical Stress Theory: Principles and Case Studies*. University of Chicago Press.
- McCarthy, John. 2004. *Optimality Theory in Phonology: A Reader*. Blackwell.
- McCarthy, John, and Alan Prince 1993. Generalized Alignment. In G.E. Booij and J. van Marle, eds. *Yearbook of Morphology 1993*. Dordrecht, Kluwer. (As excerpted in McCarthy 2004).
- McCarthy, John, and Alan Prince. 1994. The emergence of the unmarked: Optimality in Prosodic Morphology. In *Proceedings of the North East Linguistic Society 24*, ed. Mercè González, 333-79. (As excerpted in McCarthy 2004).
- Pater, Joe. 2000. Nonuniformity in English stress: the role of ranked and lexically specific constraints. *Phonology* 17:2. 237-274.
- Pater, Joe. 1997. Minimal Violation and Phonological Development. *Language Acquisition* 6:3. 201-253.
- Prince, Alan, and Paul Smolensky 1993. *Optimality Theory: Constraint interaction in generative grammar*, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. Report RUCCS TR-2.