

STUDY QUESTIONS FOR THE FIRST MID-TERM EXAM (June 20, 2007)

A. TONES AND AUTOSEGMENTAL PHONOLOGY

1. Consider the realization of tone in Vata phonology. Why cannot the appearance of the low tone in the perfective forms be satisfactorily explained by employing the SPE approach? In what way does autosegmental phonology appear to be superior in accounting for the realization of tone in Vata phonology?
2. Consider the realization of tone in Igbo phonology. Why cannot the appearance of falling tone before a low tone be satisfactorily explained by employing the SPE approach? What is the solution offered by autosegmental phonology? In what way does this approach appear to be superior to that of linear phonology?
3. What is the Absolute Slicing Hypothesis? Why does the Absolute Slicing Hypothesis fail? Discuss.
4. List those phonological phenomena that are difficult or impossible to account for in the SPE framework. Clarify briefly each of these phenomena.
5. Justify the concept of “autosegmental level”.
6. Contour tones:
 - a. Why does the presence of two tonal specifications in a single vowel contradict the Standard Theory?
 - b. What is the view of autosegmental phonology concerning tonal features? Provide an example to illustrate this point.
 - c. What is the Well-Formedness Condition?
7. Stability:
 - a. Define the concept of “stability”.
 - b. Why do Tone Copy and “derivational constraints”, as presented in connection with Bantu phonology, have to be considered unsatisfactory? Why is this a “paradoxical situation”?
 - c. Argue for the existence of “stability” as a natural consequence of the autosegmental system. Illustrate your discussion with the analysis of the Etsako example.
8. Define the “Obligatory Contour Principle”. Provide an example to illustrate this concept. Is the OCP a universally obeyed constraint?

Readings:

- a. Goldsmith (1976): those sections discussed in class
- b. Textbook: Chapter 9
- c. Lecture notes

B. PHONOLOGICAL PROBLEMS: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ARGUMENTATION

On the basis of the exercises analyzed in class (*Hypothetical Language, Icelandic*), be prepared to demonstrate your argumentative skills by answering questions relevant to (i) the underlying representations, (ii) phonological processes, (iii) rule ordering, and (iv) phonological derivations pertaining to the data from these languages. The data will be reproduced on the exam sheet.