REPRESENTING TONE (Part 3)

STABILITY

The tone melody is preserved despite modifications in the syllable structure.

(32)   V → Ø / —— V

V-Deletion Rule

Expected: The tonal specifications of the vowel are deleted together with all the other properties.

But: We need to save the tonal information of the deleted vowel *because it shows up on the surface*.

Solution (??)   Problems!!

Solution #1

"Tone copy" rule: copies the tone of the to-be-deleted vowel onto its neighbour.

(33) (34) Explain!

Solution #2

"Derivational constraint": applies to all tonal rules.

But: it introduces a rule that is outside the set of ordered rules!

CRISIS POINT! Solution #1 : not general (why?)

Solution #2: Weakens the theory of phonology (why?)

Paradoxical situation -- Explain!

Three questions:

     1.   Why are tonal features copied but not other features?
     2.   Is there a connection between 'contour tones' and 'stability' ?
     3.   Why do vowel assimilation rules copy all features but not tonal features?   (35)

An example showing the existence of the stability of the tone melody (textbook pp.129-130):

Etsako (Niger-Kordofanian, Kwa family; a language spoken in Nigeria)

When a [-high] vowel is deleted before another vowel, its tone appears on the following vowel as a *contour tone* (except when the tone of the deletyed vowel is the same as the tone of the next vowel).

Study (14)

Comment on Rule (16) – refer to the relationship between the deleted vowel and its tone.

> The autosegmental approach accounts for the fact that it is only the vowel and not its tone that is deleted – Study (18

TWIN SISTER CONVENTION: Study (17)

The OBLIGATORY CONTOUR PRINCIPLE (OCP) – it forbids the occurrence of identical adjacent tones in the same morpheme: Study (20), (21), (22), (23).

Arguments:

- Adjacent syllables having the same tone do not have to be specified separately for tone -- spreading!
- Changing or deleting tones delete whole strings of what on the surface show up as sequences of identical tones

Note: OCP is *not* a universal constraint – languages may have tonal patterns not conforming to the Obligatory Contour Principle.