

STUDY QUESTIONS FOR QUIZ #2

November 23, 2004

OPTIMALITY THEORY

1. INTRODUCTION

- a. Define the following concepts:
 - form
 - pronunciation
 - selection of the optimal candidate

2. ASPIRATION (in English)

Demonstrate your understanding of the derivation of *pie* and *spy* by

- a. defining the constraints relevant to the derivation
- b. representing the derivation by using the formal devices of Optimality Theory

3. FAITH, RANKING

- a. Explain the concept of FAITH. Illustrate your discussion with an example.
- b. Discuss the two interpretations of ranking.
- c. Faith decomposed: define this concept and list the constraints relevant to Aspiration. Show the derivation of *pai* with respect to all the relevant constraints.

4. THE FORMAL MODEL OF OPTIMALITY THEORY

List and define the relevant concepts here. Demonstrate your understanding of the model by presenting the derivation of *pai*.

What is the Universal Constraint Set? How is CON related to *all* languages? Explain.

5. “RICHNESS OF BASE”

Explain this concept by referring to language specific constraints in relation to markedness.

6. ANALYSIS OF VOWEL NASALIZATION

Present the analysis of the word *ran* by employing the formalism of Optimality Theory. Make sure that your analysis will not result in outputs such as *rãt, rkt. rav, dat* by referring the relevant constraints.

7. OT and GENERATIVE GRAMMAR

Summarize the differences between constraint based (Optimality Theory) and derivational (Generative Grammar) theories in relation to (i) violation of constraints and (ii) universal grammar.

8. PROBLEMATIC ISSUES ADDRESSED BY OT

- a. universal vs. language specific constraints
- b. rules vs. ranking