

Walpiri Stress

The following data are taken from Walpiri, a language of Australia. Part 1 of the problem presents the stress pattern of Walpiri in bare stems (i.e. unaffixed words). Part 2 of the problem complicates matters by presenting the stress pattern of affixed words. You will write your analysis in Optimality Theoretic (OT) terms.

Note that in Part 1 I've marked the syllabification for you. In part 2, I haven't marked syllabification (but you can figure out the syllable boundaries from the data in Part 1). Rather, I've marked morpheme boundaries, which you'll need to take into account in order to account for how stress is placed in this language.

For the morphologically curious, a couple of notes on the abbreviations for case endings:

- LOC means "locative"
- ERG means "ergative"
- ELAT means "elative"

One more thing: No, I don't know what "spinifex" means. Okay, the data:

Part 1:

- | | | |
|----|--------------|------------------|
| 1) | wá.ti | 'man' |
| 2) | wá.ti.ya | 'tree' |
| 3) | má.na.ŋkà.la | 'spinifex plain' |

Part 2:

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 4) | wáti-ŋka | 'man-LOC' |
| 5) | wáti-ŋkà-lu | 'man-LOC-ERG' |
| 6) | yápa-làŋu-lu | 'person-for example-ERG' |
| 7) | wátiyà-la | 'tree-LOC' |
| 8) | wátiya-là-lu | 'tree-LOC-ERG' |
| 9) | yápa a-ŋù u | 'father's mother, ELAT' |
| 10) | mánaŋkà a-la | 'spinifex-LOC' |
| 11) | mánaŋkà a-là-lu | 'spinifex-LOC-ERG' |

Instructions for the write-up:

- a) As always, begin with **description**. Specifically, state the generalizations governing the placement of stress, first in bare stems and then in suffixed words. Be careful not to confuse description and analysis. Your description characterizes the data in such a way as to lead to your analysis, which will formally account for the patterns you describe. For example, if you say that "words in language X always have primary stress on the penultimate syllable and that, counting from the penultimate syllable backwards, every other syllable has secondary stress" you would begin to describe a pattern in a neutral way. If you immediately assert that the language is ranking the constraint Parse-syllable above All-Feet-Right, you would be diving straight into an analysis. Make sure your description clearly lays out the basic stress pattern in Part 1 and that it also clearly explains the difficulties raised when morphological boundaries come into play in Part 2. Do not underestimate the importance of good, clear description. As I have stressed throughout the semester, it is the foundation upon which the credibility of your analysis rests.
- b) Once you've described the data clearly and laid out the pattern that your analysis must account for, posit the constraints and show the constraint ranking necessary to account for the pattern of stress placement that you find in the bare stems. Support your analysis by providing tableaux for *wá.ti.ya* and *má.na.ŋkà.[a]*.
- c) **After** you've accounted for the pattern of stress placement in the bare stems, turn your attention to the suffixed forms in Part 2. Using the notion of **Alignment**, add a constraint to your analysis that will enable you to account for how stress is placed in Part 2. Integrate this constraint into the ranking you've posited to account for the data in Part 1. Make sure you exemplify and support your analysis of the data in Part 2 works by providing tableaux for *wátiyà-[a]*, *wátiya-[à-[u]*, and *yápa-[àŋu-[u]*.
- d) Consider and **discuss** possible forms that are not found in the data set. Specifically, show what your analysis predicts about a word of the following type: trisyllabic stem + trisyllabic suffix (e.g. ta.na.ka - pi.di.gi). How does this issue bear on the ranking of your alignment constraint? This section will give you a chance to show that you are really in control of how your analysis works.
- e) Make sure to provide a conclusion stating what you've done, what questions remain open (if any do), how the data set has extended your understanding of stress systems and possible OT constraints and so forth.
- f) Have fun!