

**Consonant harmony and non-local metathesis in phonological
development: The
acquisition of consonant feature sequences**

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Consonant harmony involving major place of articulation as in coat [kok] is prevalent in child phonology. Non-local metathesis of these features as in cup [pak] is also reported. Both processes are unattested in adult languages. Using constraints on sequences of features for both tier and root adjacency (Bernhardt and Stemberger 1998), I present an analysis of longitudinal data in which both harmony and metathesis occur prior to cluster acquisition. The progression from non-local to local assimilation and metathesis and the fact that CVC precedes CCV syllable acquisition are both predicted since root adjacency entails tier adjacency, but not vice versa.