

Positional Transparency in c'Lela

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This paper presents an account of vowel height harmony in c'Lela, a Benue Congo language spoken in Nigeria, in which high vowels participate in harmony when word final, but are transparent to harmony elsewhere. By providing a straightforward analysis of c'Lela using the constraints NoGap and align, I provide a more parsimonious account than analyses that are forced to rely on other mechanisms (Pulleyblank 2002) to account for non-local harmony. Although some researchers have rejected NoGap as too powerful, I argue that a NoGap/align analysis actually predicts the existence of systems like c'Lela.