

Integrating preconditions of parasitic vowel harmony

Adam Wayment
Johns Hopkins University

I test the prospects for a similarity-based analysis of parasitic vowel harmony and explore how to integrate similarity effects with the locality issues fundamental to vowel harmony. The present survey indicates that 1) harmonic features are phonetically similar to parasitic features, and 2) locality is another kind of similarity - proximate segments being more similar than distal segments. Using proposed ATTRACTION constraints, these preconditions are integrated within an Optimality Theoretic framework. ATTRACTION designates a similarity-based feature 'tier', a harmonic region embedded in a phonetic space that extends across vowel sequences.