



Iterative infixation and vowel copying in Löfflisch



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Introduction

Yu's (2008) analysis of iterative-infixing ludlings cannot account for certain facts of Löfflisch, a language game based on German exhibiting vowel copying across a fixed [ə]. The constraint governing the alignment of the [-ləv-] infix must be promoted in order to prevent its iterative application within a single foot. A restricted domain of vowel correspondence and game-specific constraints penalizing reduced vowels generally but protecting the reduced infixal vowel can explain the inertness of the [ə] with respect to vowel copying.

Data

Iterative-infixing ludlings

Infix appears one time for each source language syllable
One or multiple copies of source nucleus appear in output foot
Strict output metrical alternation
Output foot corresponds to single input syllable

Hausa habaʔaba game (Yu 2008)

Infixation of [-b-]; non-final source syllables surface as trochees

[màs.kíí] → [má.bàs.kíí]
[màì.mú.nà] → [mái.bài.mú.bù.ná]
[hát.síí] → [há.bàt.síí]

Löfflisch

Infixation of [-ləv-]; source syllables surface as anapests

[gut] → [gʊ.lə.'vut]
[lɔf.lɪf] → [lɔ.lə.'vɔf.li.lə.'vɪf]
[bə.'zux] → [bɛ.lə.'vɛ.zʊ.lə.'vux]

Löfflisch data sources

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vq7P8dgNQTo>

Title: "loefflisch msg"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LcOllqwIWqc>

Title: "Löffelisch"

Acknowledgements

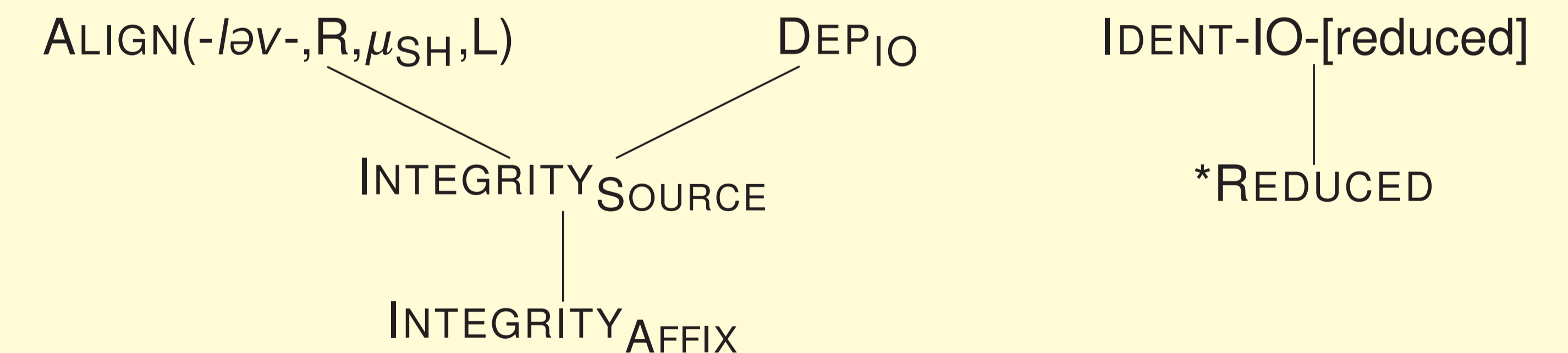
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Analysis

	habaʔaba (Yu 2008)	Löfflisch
Output metrical alternation	FOOT-BINARITY (RHYTHMTYPE=TROCHEE)	FOOT=ANAPEST (currently undefined constraint family; mandates anapest rhythm in output)
Morpheme subcategorization	ALIGN(-b-,L,μ _{SH} ,R)	ALIGN(-ləv-,R,μ _{SH} ,L)
Source syllable anchoring	ANCHOR(σ)L	ANCHOR(σ)L; ANCHOR(σ)R
Template-based compensatory reduplication	DEP _{IO} >> INTEGRITY	DEP _{IO} >> INTEGRITY
Vowel copying mechanism	SCORRI _L	CORR-VV _{NONMINPROM} (Walker 2014) IDENT-XX-([bk],[hi],[rd]) IDENT-IO-[reduced] >> *REDUCED (assumes [ə] is allophone of /ε/; actual constraints depend on features)
Affixal copying (over source segment copying)	INTEGRITY _{SOURCE} >> INTEGRITY _{AFFIX}	INTEGRITY _{SOURCE} >> INTEGRITY _{AFFIX}
Affixal iterativity (exactly one infix per foot)	ONSET	ALIGN(-ləv-,R,μ _{SH} ,L) >> INTEGRITY _{SOURCE}

Summary: Löfflisch constraint ranking

Undominated:
FOOT=ANAPEST
ANCHOR(σ)L
ANCHOR(σ)R
CORR-VV_{NONMINPROM}
IDENT-XX-([bk],[hi],[rd])



References

- Walker, R. (2014, May). *Prominence-control and multiple triggers in vowel harmony: An ABC analysis*. Presented at the Conference on Agreement by Correspondence, Berkeley, CA. Handout retrieved from http://www-bcf.usc.edu/~rwalker/Walker/Publications_files/ABCC_Handout.pdf.
- Yu, A.C.L. (2008). On iterative infixation. In C.B. Chang and H.J. Haynie (eds.), *Proceedings of the 26th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, 516-524. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project.