



Doctoral School of Linguistics Pazmany Peter Catholic University

Doctoral office

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COMPLEX EXAM

Topics in Phonology

1. Phonetics and phonology. Areas of phonetics. Scope of phonology: rules and representations. Markedness, implicational relations. Types of phonological processes (assimilation vs lenition/fortition, allophonic vs neutralising, obligatory vs optional, synchronic vs diachronic, automatic/phonological vs morphophonological, segmental vs suprasegmental).
2. A brief history of phonological theory in the 20th century. Structuralist phonology: distribution; phonemes and allophones; neutralisation; minimal pairs and complementary distribution. Generative Linguistics: mental grammar, Universal Grammar, derivation; the place of phonology in the “T-model” of grammar.
3. SPE-type linear analyses (Classical Generative Phonology): rules, derivation, rule format and rule ordering. Opacity.
4. Syllable theory: syllable structure, syllabic constituents; the skeleton. Open and closed, heavy and light syllables, mora theory. Extrasyllabicity, ambisyllabicity. Phonotactics, accidental gaps in the lexicon. Sonority, the Sonority Sequencing Principle.
5. Autosegmental Phonology: hierarchical structure, autonomous levels/dimensions (tiers), the timing tier. Assimilation, compensatory lengthening, liaison, hiatus filling: spreading, empty categories and floating segments. The Obligatory Contour Principle (OCP).
6. Special structural dimensions in phonology: tones, contour tones, tonal phenomena; stress (Metrical Phonology; metrical trees and grids); templatic languages, other templatic phenomena, Prosodic Morphology.
7. Modelling the internal structure of speech sounds: subsegmental components, lenition, natural classes. Distinctive and redundant features, underspecification. Classes of phonological features (major class features, place, manner, source features).
8. Melodic structure in generative theory: Classical Generative Phonology (binary features, feature matrix, unordered feature bundle), Autosegmental Phonology (feature geometry), unary/privative phonological features (particles, elements; Element Theory).
9. The phonology–morphology and phonology–syntax interface: Lexical Phonology (lexical and postlexical rules, cyclicity, derived environment rules) and Prosodic Phonology (the prosodic hierarchy, phonological domains, sandhi phenomena).
10. Models of grammar in phonological frameworks: principles and parameters (e.g., Government Phonology) vs constraint ranking (Optimality Theory). The mechanism of OT (GEN, EVAL, tableaux, markedness and faithfulness constraints, factorial typology).



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Recommended reading

Durand, J. (1990) Generative and nonlinear phonology. London & New York: Longman.

Ewen, C. – H. van der Hulst (2001) The phonological structure of words. An introduction. Cambridge: CUP.

Giegerich, H. (1992) English phonology: An introduction. Cambridge: CUP.

Gussenhoven, C. – H. Jacobs (2011) Understanding phonology. 3rd edition. Abingdon UK: Routledge.

Hannahs, S.J. – A. Bosch (eds.) (2017) The Routledge handbook of phonological theory. London & New York: Routledge.

Katamba, F. (1989) An introduction to phonology. London: Longman.

Kenstowicz, M. (1994) Phonology in generative grammar. Oxford: Blackwell.

Kula, N. – B. Botma – K. Nasukawa (eds.) (2011) Continuum companion to phonology. London & New York: Continuum.

Nespor, M. – I. Vogel (1986) Prosodic phonology. Dordrecht: Foris.

Odden, D. (2005) Introducing phonology. Cambridge: CUP.