

Phonological Conditioning Allomorphy in Sport Commentary

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ABSTRACT:

The study is focused on the hypothesis that the boundary between morphology and phonology is where a large portion of allomorphic diversity is located. The basic assumption is that phonology can affect the choice of allomorphs for reasons pertaining to phonological naturalness, preferences in language with regard to syllable patterns, stress location, or both. Additionally, Optimality Theory is expected to provide a more satisfactory explanation for the phenomenon compared to Distributed Morphology, as it permits phonology to surpass morphology in both theoretical and practical aspects. Since Saturday is the most action-packed day of the football season and hosts many English Premier League matches at once, six "Saturday Football" pages from the BBC were included in the corpus obtained for this research. Though there is a phonological conditioning allomorphy in the past form (-ed), which can be articulated as /t/, /d/, or /ɪd/, it is only present in the six pages of "Saturday Football" sport commentary.

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Introduction

This research explores at instances of phonologically conditioned suffixation in sport commentary and suggests methods for analyzing them within the framework of Optimality Theory. Specifically, this study's findings illuminate how allomorphic variations are influenced by prosodic features of their surroundings, while also contrasting two contrasting grammatical perspectives, namely the Globalist approach and Optimality Theory.

Allomorphy is a complex example of morphophonological change since it plays an active role in the development of words. The grammatical of this phenomenon motivations are at the heart of the primary concerns that have recently come to light. The multi-faceted process of allomorphy and its relationships to other modules of phonology warrant substantial investigation, especially for morphologically rich languages. Allomorphy is worth studying both independently and in relation to other morphological phenomena. That manner, the argument on morphology's independence can have a more fruitful discussion.

It is the working hypothesis of the research that morphology-phonology interfaces contain a substantial amount of allomorphic variation. One major assumption is that phonology can influence allomorph selection. This could be because a language has a predilection for certain syllable patterns, foot shape and alignment, or stress location, or because it is phonologically natural. In addition, Optimality Theory is thought to provide a more effective explanation for the phenomenon compared to Distributed Morphology. This is because Optimality Theory permits phonology to surpass morphology in both theory and practice. Thus, the purpose of this study is to respond to the following questions:

1. What are the phonological conditions of Allomorphy on "Saturday Football" sport commentary page?

Sports Commentary

The kind of sports commentary is well-known and well-structured, according to Ferguson (1983, p. 154). Radio baseball commentators often adopt a style of speech known as "Sports Announcer Talk" when describing the game. Simple, inverted, using modifiers, routine, result expression, and tense are its six defining features of such a talk. He thinks the most striking features are the use of the present simple and present progressive tenses in describing the action in real time. "Unscripted, spontaneous talk aiming to capture the on-going excitement of the event" is how Beard (1998, p. 61) describes their style. "Specialist language in sports commentary" "may operate as a bond, a mutual relationship between those who play, those who commentate, and to a certain extent those who watch," he states in one of his arguments (1998, p. 63). If Beard is asked, the most popular way to describe an action is in the present simple tense.

Muller (2007) analyzed the way English and German football matches are reported on the radio in terms of time, tense, and aspect. Present progressive and present simple are the two most popular structures for live coverage, according to this data set, which confirms the

conclusions drawn by Ferguson and Beard. On the other hand, the narration shifts to past simple or, less often, present perfect when discussing instant replays.

Minute By Minute Commentary

Perhaps since MBM is still a relatively young genre, it has not garnered much attention from academics. Only three published papers that address the topic are known to the author. While Sandvoss (2004) does look at the region via a globalization lens, he doesn't really go into the genre's language characteristics.

Chovanec (2006) examined how MBM criticism on the Guardian website evolved over time and concluded that MBM sites offer a platform for reciprocal communication through pseudo-dialogical conversational interactions (2006, p. 26). This competitive element, according to Chovanec, is characteristic of male gossip and talk in general, and it is thought that this is how the interaction mostly manifests itself.

Again using The Guardian's MBM feed, he surveys the linguistic features of MBM in a second essay (Chovanec, 2009). It is essential that MBM exists at the nexus of orality and literacy is crucial (2009, p. 115). Numerous spoken language patterns are evident in it, including imperatives, slang, expletives, rhetorical inquiries, and pragmatics in discourse.

Phonologically Conditioned Allomorphy

Lexical items can display allomorphy in the inflectional or derivational systems of many languages when two or more allomorphs compete for the same location in a morphological context. According to Lauterbach (1983:16), an allomorph is a "morph that is phonetically, lexically, or grammatically conditioned to represent a particular morpheme". Because allomorphy requires that their distributions be complementary, you cannot have the context of one morpheme be that of the other. The evolution of the past tense in the English language is a prime example of allomorphy.

"Morphological allomorphy," as demonstrated in (1) and unrelated to phonological norms, is distinguished from "phonological allomorphy" (the focus of the present study) by Booij (1997). In phonologically conditioned allomorphy, prosodic and phonological aspects of the surrounding environment regulate the morphological changes that occur within words. When we examine prosodic, syllable, or segmental levels of speech, we can identify phonological features that may impact allomorph selection. When a certain phonological requirement dictates morpheme selection, there is typically a default morpheme that is appropriate for the majority of circumstances, and any additional morpheme that is more context-specific is considered an optimiser (Nevins, 2011).

There is a difference between "suppletive allomorphy" and predictable phonological allomorphy (non-suppletive), according to Paster (2014). When certain phonological conditions are met by an affix, we get the first kind of regular allomorphy. It follows the morphological order since the affix is added to the stem first and then phonological rules are applied. According to Paster (2014), the non-suppletive allomorphy involves many surface forms that have different underlying forms but distributions that complement each other. These forms share semantic, syntactic, and morphological features. As an alternative to morphosyntactic and lexical factors, phonologically conditioned suppletive allomorphy (PCSA) can be the outcome when deciding on suppletive allomorphy. In phonologically

conditioned suppletive allomorphy, the prosodic features and phonological structure of the context decide the distribution of two or more allomorphs, as opposed to phonologically conditioned non-suppletive allomorphy, which relies on phonological rules like deletion or assimilation.

It was Carstairs (1988) who first brought attention to the significance of phonologically conditioned allomorphy, distinguishing it from grammatically conditioned allomorphy. Mester (1994) considered prosodic elements when analyzing Latin allomorphy. A large number of languages have had phonologically conditioned allomorphy studied, including French (Perlmutter 1998), Polish (Rubach & Booij 2001), Panoa (González 2005), Surmiran (Anderson 2008), and countless more. Some phonological elements that may be necessary for allomorphy to take place include stress location, syllable count, and the featural qualities of stems and affixes. Mascaró (2007) states that there are two types of phonological conditioning: one that happens internally within the lexicon and another that happens externally driven by phonology. To be more precise, Mascaró cites two cases of allomorphic variation: one in Tzeltal, where it is internally dependent on the stem syllable number, and another in Northwestern Catalan, where it is externally dependent on the markedness of the CV syllable structure.

Since the distribution of allomorphs follows some universal preferences on syllable structure, phonologically conditioned allomorphy often aims to maximize a morphophonological form (Inkelas 2014). In the Korean nominative case marker, for example, syllabification is improved due to the distribution of the two allomorphs /-i/ and /-ka/, as stated by Odden (1993), cited in Paster (2006).

Conversely, seemingly random pairings of allomorphs with certain phonological contexts don't necessarily lead to optimization. According to Paster (2006), who cited Hall (1953), the distribution of the determiners /-a/ and /-al/ in Haitian Creole does not support the CV syllable structure. Instead, it causes pauses or clusters of consonants.

Research Methodology

This study aims to investigate the phonological conditioned allomorphy of two sport commentary. Prior research by Prince and Smolensky (1993) and McCarthy and Prince (1993) used the Optimality Theory to interpret the results. A foundational tenet of this theory is that a certain shape is revealed when certain restrictions are applied and interacted upon. These constraints are thought to reflect morphemes. The best output form is then determined by ranking the constraints. The six "Saturday Football" pages from the BBC were used as a corpus for this study, as Saturday is the busiest day of the football season and hosts numerous concurrent English Premier League matches. The corpus consists of 101,138 words that span 51.5 hours. Anthony (2011) utilized the concordance software AntConc to examine the corpus.

Optimality Theory

This study aims to investigate the phonological conditioned allomorphy of two sport commentaries. Universal Grammar is based on Optimality Theory, a phonological analysis framework (Prince & Smolensky 1993, McCarthy & Prince 1993). This hypothesis states that the interplay between morpheme and syllable elements or segments is constrained by specific rules. Languages' preferred and forbidden forms are revealed by markedness restrictions, and changes to the output form of the underlying structures are forbidden by fidelity requirements.

Although these limitations apply to all languages, the relative importance of each one varies. Applying strict hierarchical ranking restrictions to find the optimal representation of an input form as an output is the main principle of Optimality Theory. Specifically, one can use the phonology of a language to generate an endless number of forms (Gen) from a given input form and then assess their quality (Eval). The most suitable forms for output are those that break the lower-ranked, less-important limitations. To handle complete allomorphy scenarios, Gen needs what's called a "Multiple Inputs" analysis, which means it needs more than one input form (Perlmutter 1998).

Drachman et al. (1996) and Rubach and Booij (2001) are only two of many studies that have used the OT model to investigate allomorphic changes that are conditioned by phonology. The reason behind this is that the model effectively takes into consideration the phonological environment's natural influence on allomorph distribution by implementing typical prosodic constraints (Lapointe 1999). The theory of OT has embraced the Prosody Morphology scheme (McCarthy & Prince, 1993) to explain morphology as being driven by phonology. This scheme puts prosodic restrictions higher than morphological ones. One possible optimization that could result from phonologically conditioned allomorphy is represented by a constraint based model, which has constraints on output well-formedness (Nevins, 2011).

Results and Discussion

With six "Saturday Football" sites to choose from, it's clear that Saturday is football's most prolific day of the week, hosting many English Premier League matches at once. The corpus spans 51.5 hours and contains 101,138 words. Anthony (2011) used AntConc, a concordance software, to analyze the corpus because it shows the classification of words in which it helps the data. Throughout the analysis it id found that there are three phonological conditioning of the verb + suffix (-ed past) which are /t/, /d/, /ɪd/ are showed in Table 1 below;

Table 1: The Analysis of verb /ed /

Verbs	Analysis	Transcription
1. played	y+ -ed	/pleɪd/
2. rested	t + -ed	/rɛstɪd/
3. dropped	p + -ed	/drɒpt/
4. scored	r+ -ed	/skɔːd/
5. slipped	p+ -ed	/slɪpt/
6. ended	d + -ed	/ɛndɪd/
7. handed	d + -ed	/hændɪd/
8. equalized	l + -ed	/iːkwəlaɪzd/
9. parted	t + -ed	/pɑːtɪd/
10. moved	v + -ed	/muːvd/
11. leveled	l + -ed	/lɛvːld/
12. boosted	t + -ed	/buːstɪd/
13. cancelled	l + -ed	/kænsəld/
14. headed	d + -ed	/hɛdɪd/
15. defended	d + -ed	/dɪˈfɛndɪd/
16. rewarded	d + -ed	/rɪˈwɔːdɪd/
17. reduced	c + -ed	/rɪˈdjuːst/
18. started	t + -ed	/stɑːtɪd/
19. does	o+ -ed	/dʌz/
20. pushed	sh + -ed	/pʊʃt/
21. showed	w + -ed	/ʃəʊd/

22. stayed	y + -ed	/steɪd/
23. defended	d + -ed	/dɪ'fɛndɪd/
24. added	d + -ed	/ædɪd/
25. spotted	t + -ed	/spɒtɪd/

Table 1: shows that there are three phonological conditioned pronunciation of the ed form. There are as follows; first, /t/ are found in the following verbs that ends with voiceless sounds such as (dropped /drɒpt/, slipped /slɪpt/, reduced /rɪ'dju:st/, pushed /pʊʃt/). Second The -ed is pronounced as /d/ in the following verbs that ends with voiced sounds such as (played pleɪd/, scored /skɔ:d/, equalized /i:kwəlaɪzd/, moved /mu:vɪd/, leveled /levəld/, cancelled /kænsəld/, does /dʌz/, pushed /pʊʃt/, stayed /steɪd/). Third, /ɪd/ realization is found in the following verbs that ends with /t, d/ such as (rested /rɛstɪd/, ended /ɛndɪd/, handed /hændɪd/, parted /pɑ:tɪd/, boosted /bu:stɪd/, headed /hɛdɪd/, defended /dɪ'fɛndɪd/, rewarded /rɪ'wɔ:dɪd/, started /stɑ:tɪd/, defended /dɪ'fɛndɪd/, added /ædɪd/, spotted /spɒtɪd/).

However, it is found that the six of "Saturday Football" sport commentary pages contains just one kind of phonological conditioning allomorphy which is the past form (-ed) that are divided into three types of pronunciation which are; /t/, /d/, /ɪd/.

Conclusion

Focusing on the intersection of morphology and phonology, the study aims to demonstrate that allomorphic variation is present there. A language's preference for certain syllable patterns, foot shape and alignment, or stress location, as well as phonological naturalness, are the primary reasons why phonology is expected to influence allomorph selection. It is anticipated that Optimality Theory, as opposed to Distributed Morphology, will provide a more satisfactory explanation of the phenomenon, since it permits phonology to surpass morphology in both theory and practice.

Although there is a phonological conditioning allomorphy in the past form (-ed), which can be articulated as /t/, /d/, or /ɪd/, it is only present in one of the six pages of "Saturday Football" sport commentary.

التكليف الصوتي للوحدة البنوية الصرفية في التعليق الرياضي

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الكلمات المفتاحية | الشكل الصوتي المشروط، التعليق الرياضي، التعليق دقيقة بدقيقة، نظرية المتالفة.



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ملخص البحث:

تركز الدراسة على الفرضية القائلة بأن الحد الفاصل بين علم التشكل وعلم الأصوات هو حيث يقع جزء كبير من التنوع التماثلي. الفرضية الأساسية هي أن علم الأصوات يمكن أن يؤثر على اختيار الأشكال المتغايرة لأسباب تتعلق بالطبيعة الصوتية، أو التفضيلات في اللغة فيما يتعلق بأتماط المقاطع، أو موقع التشديد، أو كليهما. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، من المتوقع أن تقدم نظرية المتالفة تفسيراً أكثر إرضاءً لهذه الظاهرة مقارنةً بالمورفولوجيا الموزعة، لأنها تسمح لعلم الأصوات بالتفوق على الصرف في الجوانب النظرية والعملية. نظرًا لأن يوم السبت هو أكثر الأيام المليئة بالإثارة في موسم كرة القدم ويستضيف العديد من مباريات الدوري الإنجليزي الممتاز في وقت واحد، فقد تم تضمين ستة صفحات "Saturday Football" من هيئة الإذاعة البريطانية (BBC) في المجموعة التي تم الحصول عليها لهذا البحث. على الرغم من وجود تكيف صوتي في صيغة الماضي (-ed)، والذي يمكن صياغته ك/ت/، /d/، أو/id/، إلا أنه موجود فقط في الصفحات الست من رياضة "Saturday Football".