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Beats-and-Binding typology of the dispreferred clusters of RP.

The paper investigates some typological relations between bindings and phonotactics in RP English, exemplified on the so-called ‘dispreferred clusters’ within Beats-and-Binding syllable-less model as developed by Dziubalska-Kořaczyk (1995, 2002). I argue that word-initial and word-final dispreferred clusters have not been properly analyzed within generative and syllable-based models and B&B interpretation was able to capture some important generalizations.

In addition, the paper sketches the achievements of researchers whose ideas in my opinion are compatible with the B&B framework. The researchers are Ludwik Zabrocki (1960 [1980]) and Pierre Delattre (1966) and I will concentrate but on the fraction of their scientific interests, namely Zabrocki’s structural phonetics and Delattre’s syllable-cut. The paper also verifies and corroborates the predictions of B&B model against the work of these researchers.

The blueprint principle of clustering which I formulate within B&B framework stipulates that some dispreferred clusters, i.e. those that violate Level 2 preferences, tend to appear in exactly the same sequential order in all three phonotactic positions and the reverses of such clusters do not appear. I argue that as in any movement sequences, the position of articulatory organs naturally forms the starting point for a specific set of subsequent articulations, which in a sense ensue from such a position, as harmonically as for example, the continuum of movements in walking or running. Such a sequence is preferred regardless of the phonotactic position in a word, e.g.

1. /mn/ : Greek *mnēmē*, *mnemonic*, *calumny* OE *damn*, (Sp.) *mnemotécnico*,
(Pol.) *mnich* ‘monk’ , *mnożyć* ‘multiply’.
2. /ɔtɔ/ : *ściana*, *ościerznica*, *iść*, *ość*.
- 2a. /zdz/ : *ździerca* ‘extortioner’, *źdźbło* ‘stalk’, *październik* ‘October’ *paździerze*
‘harl of flax’, *gwóźdz*.
3. /pt/ : (Gr.) *pterón* ‘skrzydło’ *ptýalon* (saliva), (Pol.) *ptero daktyl*, *raptowny*, (E)
ptero dactyl (Sp.) *ptero dáctilo* (E) *chapter*, *apt*, *adapt*.

Word-initial dispreferred clusters are analyzed using Zabrocki’s structural phonetics and the results are compared with the predictions of the B&B model. With respect to word-final cluster repair strategies I suggest enumerating 3 main types, which are discussed in the paper using B&B model.

- (1) a. consonantal beat creation, e.g. *couple*, *button*, *excursion*, *hebdomadal*
- b. elision of a word-final consonant: *long*, *thumb*, *hymn*.
- c. elision of a penultimate cluster member: *sign*, *condign*, *align*.

I interpret the creation of consonantal beats in English as a functional preference, applying regardless of the phonotactic position: *Ngumi*, *student*, *bottle*. The suggested B&B taxonomy of RP’s consonantal beats according to sondis ratios is as follows:

[1]: VFL: [-f_l] *artificial*, [-f_l] *rifle*, [-s_l] *whistle* [-z_l] *muzzle* [-v_l] *festival* *octangle* [-ŋg_l].

[2]: VNL: [-n_l] *journal*, *heptagonal* [-m_l] *mammal*.

[3]: VSN [-d_n] *hidden* [-t_n] *button* [-p_m] *open*, *happen*

[4]: VAffN: [-t_f_n] *fortune*, [-d_z_n] *margin*

[5]: VFN: [-ðm̩] *rhythm*, ([- θm̩]) [-ðm̩] *fathom* [-fɪ] *excursion*, [-θɪ] *marathon*, [-ʒɪ] *equation*, [-zm̩] *capitalism*, [-fɪ] *often*, [-vɪ] *even*, [-sɪ] *Whitsunday*, *oxen*.

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