Natural Phonology as Part of Natural Linguistics

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The seminal work on Natural Phonology by David Stampe has treated phonology on its own, relating it to phonetics and opposing it to learned rules of morphology and morphonology. But the seventies and eighties have seen the rise of the sister disciplines of Natural Morphology, Natural Syntax and Natural Textlinguistics. These developments have opened the horizon of treating all these sister disciplines in a similar way, with similar concepts and consider them as parts of Natural Linguistics.

Therefore I have elaborated since 1984 a version of Natural Phonology (henceforth NPh) which envisages it on a par with its sister dicsiplines. Notably I have formulated NPh as a preference theory which consists of three subtheories.

The first subtheory of universal phonological preferences consists, on the one hand, of the universal phonological process types, and of the parameters of iconicity, indexicality, transparency, (bi)uniqueness, figure and ground, binarity, optimal size.

The second subtheory of typological adequacy has to show how universal preference parameters are fitted to phonological language types.

The third subtheory of language-specific system adequacy, has to state the relations between language-specific natural phonological processes to the universal phonological process types, plus the area of earlier concepts of basis of articulation and the distribution of phonetic space; also the language-specific relation to mophonology.

All this will be treated atleast passingly in the teach-in.