

French

Transcription note: The symbol [ɥ] is the high front rounded glide (the glide version parallel to high front rounded vowel [y], as [w] is parallel to [u] and [j] is to [i]).

1. Explain the syllabification of the high segments (vowels=nucleus, glides=non-nucleus) in the data in a. (i.e., explain what motivates the alternations u~w, y~ɥ, and i~j):

	Spelling	phonetics	gloss	Spelling	phonetics	gloss
a.	il joue	[.il.ʒu.]	'he plays'	contribution	[.kɔ̃.tri.by.sjɔ̃.]	'tax'
	jouer	[.ʒwe.]	'to play'	contribuable	[.kɔ̃.tri.bɥa.bl]	'taxpayer'
	il tue	[.il.ty.]	'he kills'	colonie	[.kɔ̃.lɔ̃.ni.]	'colony'
	tuer	[.tɥe.]	'to kill'	colonial	[.kɔ̃.lɔ̃.njal.]	'colonial'
	il lie	[.il.li.]	'he ties'	lier	[.lje.]	'to tie'

2. Now compare the above data with the following. What do these new facts suggest about the structure of syllabic sub-constituents in French?

	Spelling	phonetics	impossible output	gloss
b.	plier	[.pli.e.]	*[.plje.]	'to fold'
	prier	[.pri.e.]	*[.prje.]	'to pray'
	clouer	[.klu.e.]	*[.klwe.]	'to nail'
	trouer	[.tru.e.]	*[.trwe.]	'to make a hole in'
	cruauté	[.kry.o.te.]	*[.kryɔ.te.]	'cruelty'
	influence	[.ɛ.fly.as.]	*[.ɛ.flɥas.]	'influence'

3. Compare a rule-based account without syllable structure to a rule-based account using syllable structure. How does the use of syllable structure help in analyzing the data and motivating the rules?

4. Assume that the input for both [glides] and [vowels] are /vowels/, and that there is a faithfulness constraint:

IDENT-VOWEL: Vowels in the input are vowels in the output (not glides)

Analyze the data in a. and b. using OT. State what constraints you need to use, providing a definition if you invent any constraints, and show how the constraints are ranked to account for this data.

Graduate Students: Typology

Explain how Optimality Theory accounts for the following generalizations:

- All languages syllabify a sequence of /...VCV.../ as [...V.CV...]
(To explain how this works in OT, check what happens when the input contains /...VCV.../; try the constraints ranked different ways)
- All languages that have syllables of the form V also have syllables of the form CV.
(what must be true for a language to have [V] as an output? what happens in that language if there is /...CV.../ in the input?)
- All languages that have syllables of the form .CVC. also have syllables of the form .CV.
- Languages tend to syllabify VC₁C₂V as V.C₁C₂V unless the sequence C₁C₂ would violate an onset phonotactic.

Refer to both markedness constraints and the faithfulness constraints in your explanation.