On structuring of Polish English Prosody

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This study investigates a Polish English (PE hencefore) Metrical system built by means of Optimality-theoretic constraints (McCarthy 2008, 2003) on English word stress to be proposed as a constraint-based model of learning English metrics (Marczak 2011) of which Polish learners form a new structured system. Traditional analysis concerning acquisition of metrical parameters in a second language (L2) focused either on the first language (L1) Transfer (Archibald 1993) or on Principles and Parameters (P&P) modification (Dresher & Kaye 1990). More recent theories concentrated on metrical grammar, propose inventory grammar (Hayes 2008, Kiparsky 2006) which generates metrical forms in Optimality-theoretic fashion. Following the line of reasoning of the inventory grammar set of output candidates which are generated from English Generator (Marczak 2011) and consequently translated into PE word stress structures seems to help modelling a consistent PE metrics. The PE metrical system consists of trochaic and dactylic foot structures indicating some segmental distortions. The PE metrical data obtained from several experiments (Marczak 2008, 2009, 2011) show that PE word stress production and perception follow trochaic and dactylic foot typology consistently. The experimental results indicate PE variation in stress production and perception location which primarily trigger segmental distortions. The PE stress model (Marczak 2011) proposes a regulation of binary and ternary foot formation of (non)
quantitative trochees and (non) quantitative dactyls by means of minimum and maximum simulated values to be shaped as syllable weight constraints, where feet are syllabic. However, weight sensitivity is shown to be positional (within the foot) with random values of minimum 13 and maximum 26 as simulated parameters. These parameters are represented via optimal constraints: \textsc{FtWeightMin-13}: ‘Foot weight is at least 13’ and \textsc{FtWeightMax-26}: ‘Foot weight is at most 26’. The weight constraints are introduced to control the PE language development with regard to English weight sensitivity parameter.

Variation in the PE model of stress location is repaired by a catalectic device (Kiparsky 1991) which seems to fulfil a requirement of PE footing. We assume that subminimal words are parsed at the underlying representations with their final segmental empty categories. A proposed PE constraint: *\textsc{UnaryFeet}: ‘Feet are not unary’ (Marczak 2011) may suggest that the stress location in the PE \textit{appen’dix} is perceived as penultimate since ‘\textit{dix} is followed by a catalectic syllable which means that we have a left headed trochaic foot. Other PE variations in ‘\textit{develop}, ‘\textit{entrust} and ‘\textit{prevail} have dactylic stress patterns with final catalectic syllables in the last two examples and with an extrametrical syllable $<p \_o>$ in ‘\textit{develop}.

In this presentation we will attempt to sketch a partial ranking model of PE word stress variation with its systematic patterning in Polish English model.

\textbf{Key words:} L2 Phonology, \textit{Optimality Theory, learnability, variation, English, Polish}
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