
Assignment 2 – Hebrew

Due: March 12, 2008

March 5, 2008

Instructions

The following data are a subset of a Modern Hebrew problem from Kenstowicz and Kisseberth (1979) text *Generative Phonology: Description and Theory*. Invent and present an Optimality theoretic analysis. Be sure your analysis can rule out the candidates given at the end of the problem.

Please use *OTSoft* software to verify your analysis. A working copy is on the PC in the graduate study room, on the PC in 42 E. Delaware under the login “Linguistics”, and on the iMac in the Phonology and Phonetics Lab. You can also download the program to a Windows computer from <http://www.linguistics.ucla.edu/people/hayes/otsoft/>. You can get an Excel file with the candidates from the course website.

Notes on Modern Hebrew

The Hebrew data comes from Kisseberth and Kenstowicz (1979). The data are verbs in the “itpa’el” binyan. A binyan is a template of consonants and vowels, and are central to Semitic verbal morphology. In traditional terms, you will find processes of vowel lowering, voicing assimilation, syncope, and metathesis.

[c] is an alveolar affricate, IPA [t͡s]; and [ħ] is a voiceless pharyngeal fricative.

Some analytic suggestions

The Faithfulness constraint that is violated when the surface form has segments in a different order from the underlying form is commonly called LINEARITY.

Faithfulness constraints often come in two flavors: the generic one, and one limited to stem segments. You may assume that Modern Hebrew has no surface geminates (= adjacent identical consonants).

Hebrew Data

	<i>1 sg.</i>	<i>3 sg. masc.</i>	<i>3 sg. fem.</i>	
a)	itparnasti	itparnes	itparnesu	‘earn’
b)	itparsamti	itparsem	itparsemu	‘become famous’
c)	idbalbalti	idbalbel	idbalbelu	‘be confused’
d)	idgalgalti	idgalgel	idgalgelu	‘revolve’
e)	ithamakti	ithamek	ithamku	‘turn away’
f)	itlabafti	itlabef	itlapfu	‘get dressed’
g)	idbadarti	idbader	idbadru	‘make fun’
h)	idgarafti	idgaref	idgarfu	‘divorce’
i)	itpalalti	itpalel	itpalelu	‘pray’
j)	itxamamti	itxamem	itxamemu	‘warm’
k)	itʔofafti	itʔofef	itʔofefu	‘recover consciousness’
l)	istaparti	istaper	istapru	‘get a haircut’
m)	istarakti	istarek	istarku	‘comb hair’
n)	iftaparti	iftaper	iftapru	‘improve’
o)	ictalamti	ictalem	ictalmu	‘have one’s photo taken’
p)	izdakanti	izdaken	izdaknu	‘age’
q)	izdarasti	izdarez	izdarzu	‘hurry’
r)	idardarti	idarder	idarderu	‘decline’

List of Forms to Derive and Rival Candidates

- | | | | | | |
|-----|--------|---------------|-----|--------|-------------|
| (1) | UR | it-parnes-ti | (4) | UR | it-balbel |
| | Winner | it.par.nas.ti | | Winner | id.bal.bel |
| | Rival | it.par.nes.ti | | Rival | id.bal.bal |
| | Rival | it.parns.ti | | Rival | id.balbl |
| | Rival | it.par.nsti | | Rival | id.bab.lel |
| (2) | UR | it-parnes | (5) | UR | it-hamek-u |
| | Winner | it.par.nes | | Winner | it.ham.ku |
| | Rival | it.parns | | Rival | it.ha.me.ku |
| (3) | UR | it-parnes-u | (6) | UR | it-palel-u |
| | Winner | it.par.ne.su | | Winner | it.pa.le.lu |
| | Rival | it.parn.su | | Rival | it.pal.lu |
| | Rival | it.par.nsu | (7) | UR | it-labef-u |
| | Rival | it.par.nes | | Winner | it.lap.fu |
| | Rival | it.par.su | | Rival | id.lap.fu |
| | Rival | it.par.nus | | Rival | it.lab.fu |
| | Rival | it.par.nus | | Rival | it.lab.zu |
| | Rival | it.par.nus | | Rival | it.la.be.fu |

(8) UR it-saper
 Winner is.ta.per
 Rival it.sa.per
 Rival is.tapr
 Rival i.sa.per
 Rival i.te.sa.per

(9) UR it-zarez
 Winner iz.da.rez
 Rival it.za.rez
 Rival iz.ta.rez
 Rival is.ta.rez
 Rival id.za.rez

(10) UR it-darder
 Winner i.dar.der
 Rival it.dar.der
 Rival id.dar.der
 Rival i.tar.der
 Rival it.tar.der