

The Cycle and Lexical Phonology (sketch)

Jeffrey Heinz

March 1, 2021

Words from Icelandic and Catalan have presented cases that appear to show rule-ordering paradoxes (Kenstowicz, 1994).

Catalan

	‘grind’	‘sell’
3sg.	mol	bɛn
2sg.	mol-s	bɛn-s
1sg.	mol-k	bɛŋ
3sg. past	mul-ía	bɛn-ía

★ Provide a rule-ordering account of the above.

Now consider the forms below. Note that the underlying form of ‘twenty’ is assumed to be /bint/.

bint-ó	‘twentieth’
bin	‘twenty’
bim pans	‘twenty breads’
biŋ kaps	‘twenty heads’

★ What does this data say about the ordering of the rules you provided?

Icelandic

Icelandic has a processes of [u]-epenthesis

dag+ur	‘day m.nom.sg.’	bæ+r	‘farm m.nom.sg.’
tek+ur	‘take 2/3sg.pres.ind.’	næ+r(ð)	‘reach 2/3sg.pres.ind.’

It also has a process of j-deletion.

bylj+ar	‘snowstorm gen.sg.’	krefj+i	‘request 2pl.’
bylj+ir	‘snowstorm nom.pl.’	krefj+a	‘request 3pl.’
bylj+i	‘snowstorm acc.pl.’	krefj+um	‘request 1pl.’
bylj+a	‘snowstorm dat.pl.’	kref	‘request 1sg.’
bylj+um	‘snowstorm dat.pl.’	kref+ur	‘request 2/3sg.’
byl	‘snowstorm acc.sg.’		
byl+s	‘snowstorm gen.sg.’		
byl+ur	‘snowstrom nom.sg.’		

★ What kind of relationship (interaction/ordering) are these two processes in?

Icelandic also exhibits a process of u-umlaut.

barn	‘child’	börn-um	dat.pl.
svangt	‘hungry’	svöng-u	dat.sg.
kall-a	‘I call’	köll-um	‘we call’

The data below suggests how u-umlaut interacts with u-epenthesis.

/harð+um/	hörðum	‘hard dat.pl.’
/kalla+um	köllum	‘call 1sg.’
/saga+ur/	sögur	‘sagas nom.pl.’
/dag+r/	dagur	‘day nom.sg.’

★ How do the two processes interact?

There is also a syncope process in Icelandic. While this process applies before case and derivational endings, it does not before the enclitic articles -inn and -ið.

	‘hammer’	‘acre’	‘head’	‘day’	‘place’
nom.sg.	hamar	akur	höfuð	dag+ur	fóður
dat.sg.	hamr+i	akr+i	höfð+i	dag+r+i	fóðr+i
inf.	hamr+a				fóðr+a
def.nom.sg.	hamar#inn	akur#inn	höfuð#ið	dag+ur#inn	fóður#ið
dat.pl.		ökr+um			
def.data.sg.					stað#num

★ Now what does the analysis look like?

References

Kenstowicz, Michael. 1994. *Phonology in Generative Grammar*. Blackwell Publishers.