

Rendaku in the combined model

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In this talk I will first present a hybrid phonological model, combining characteristics of Optimality Theory (OT) and Exemplar Theory (ET). Such a hybrid theory has a number of advantages over both separate theories, in particular: (i) it naturally captures frequency and variation effects (like ET but unlike OT), (ii) it is well equipped to model production (like OT) as well as perception (like ET), (iii) it captures both intra- and interword phonological effects (like OT but unlike ET), (iv) it offers principled answers to questions of abstractness, and in general (v) offers a closer connection to (models of) psycholinguistics processing. To summarize, I present a surface-based model, in which constraints are acquired (not innate), and in which the lexicon is a multidimensional, richly specified network (not a list with idiosyncratic information). Production takes the shape of evaluation by way of constraints, which interact with word frequency values.

All these factors are crucial in our investigation of rendaku (sequential voicing), which forms the topic of the second part. In the surface-based model, there are no rules; instead, the question is whether speakers can discover patterns on the basis of the surface data, which are variable by definition. we will discuss the following aspects: (i) the main rendaku generalizations (perception, production and change), (ii) learning the relevant constraints; (iii) accounting for variability in rendaku patterns, (iv) implications for morphology, lexicon stratification and phrasal phonology.