Sympathetic Stress

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Abstract

A phonological process is opaque if its triggering environment
is not apparent in the phonological output. The placement of
main stress in Cairene Classical Arabic exhibits opacity since
it crucially relies on prosodic structure that does not appear in
the surface form. While McCarthy's (1998a) Sympathy
Theory is a response to explaining opacity within parallel
Optimality Theory, it is demonstrated that it cannot account
for Cairene Classical Arabic stress. To resolve this, it is
argued that Sympathy must be extended; specifically,
markedness constraints must be able to select the sympathetic
form (i.e. the form that approximates the intermediate stage in
a serial derivation).