

## **Morphonology as constrained interaction between Natural Morphology and Natural Phonology**

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The paper will start with a justification why Natural linguistics seems particularly adequate for the study of morphonology, when compared with other, especially earlier models which will be briefly reviewed. This includes a brief exposure of the semiotic basis with the deduction of the priority of morphology over phonology and the co-signalling function of morphonology.

Next a process model of phonology and morphology will be justified. For phonology, the most compelling evidence comes from phonostylistics (note, e.g., the scale of G. *haben* 'to have', from [ˈha:bən] over several intermediate steps such as [ˈham] to [m]), for morphology from the addition of morphological meanings and thus (provided that the separation thesis is refuted) of morphological rule applications. Hence we derive a rule format for morphonology as well.

Next I will argue against models of simple interactions between phonological and morphological patterns, as both in GB and OT, since then, in principle, any phonological pattern could interact with any morphological pattern. This flies into the face of maximally restricting epistemology, as highlighted by Noam Chomsky again and again. From the perspective of Natural Linguistics, a very restricted number of morphonological rules (MPRs) is assumed in regard to much more numerous phonological rules (PRs) and morphological rules (MRs). As a consequence, the interaction between morphology and phonology is very constrained (cf. Dressler 1985, 1996). This involves the contraposition of prelexical and postlexical rules and its comparison with rule blocks in Lexical Phonology/Morphology. Synchronic and diachronic illustrations will come from German umlaut, palatalizations and assibilation in various languages, diphthongization and vowel modifications in Romance languages, as well as Lithuanian prosody.

Dressler, Wolfgang U.

1985 *Morphonology*. Ann Arbor: Karoma Press.

1996 A functionalist semiotic model of morphonology. In: R. Singh (ed.) *Trubetzkoy's Orphan*. Amsterdam: Benjamins. 67–83, 102–105.