
Resonance elements in Irish: Licensing and mutual interactions

Anna Bloch-Rozmej (John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin)

The presentation to be delivered will focus on the status and phonological behaviour of the resonance elements in the system of Connemara Irish. The theoretical model adopted in this study is that of Government Phonology (Kaye, Lowenstamm and Vergnaud 1985, 1989, 1990; Charette 1991, Harris 1990, 1994, 1997; Harris and Lindsay 1995, Kaye 1990, 1991/2, 1995; Brockhaus, 1995; Cyran 1997, 2003; Scheer 1997, 2004; Ploch 2003 and Gussmann 2002, 2007). The framework treats elements as minimal structural units building segmental expressions. Elements are autonomous entities which enjoy independent phonetic interpretability and participate in various inter-element relations. The resonance elements I, U and A, apart from defining vowels and the place of articulation of consonants, exhibit interesting phonological behaviour. I and U are capable of defining Onset-Nucleus sharing domains, whereas A primes enter into element bridges. Additionally, I and U require special licensing, especially when they are called upon to perform the function of segmental heads. It is this last property that we shall investigate in more detail. More specifically, the process of element spreading will be addressed and the capacity of I and U primes to be transmitted across governing domains will be subject to closer examination. We shall attempt at establishing the licensing requirements pertaining to and determining the phonological behaviour of the resonance elements in Connemara Irish.

Key words: resonance elements, licensing, head, governing relation, autosegmental licensing potential