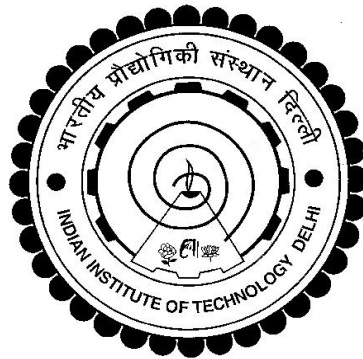


**PROSODIC WORDS IN MEITEILON: MORPHO-SYNTACTIC
INFLUENCE ON MORPHO-PHONOLOGICAL WELL-
FORMEDNESS**

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**DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DELHI
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FORMEDNESS**

by

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Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

Submitted

in fulfillment of the requirements of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

to the



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DELHI

OCTOBER 2018

Dedicated to my Parents and my Bobi

Certificate

It is to certify that the thesis entitled “**Prosodic Words in Meiteilon: Morpho-syntactic influence on morpho-phonological well-formedness**” being submitted by **Ms. Reena Ashem** to the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi for the award of **Doctor of Philosophy** in Department of Humanities and Social Sciences is a record of the bonafide research work carried out by her. She has worked under my supervision in conformity with rules and regulations of the Indian Institute of Technology of Delhi. She has fulfilled the requirements for the submission of this thesis, which to the best of my knowledge has reached the requisite standard.

The research reports and results presented in the thesis have not been submitted in part or full for the award of any degree or diploma in any other University or Institutes.

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Mistakes in the thesis are my own.

Reena Ashem

Abstract

While the idea of interface between grammatical modules namely phonology, morphology and syntax is an established notion (Halle and Marantz, 1993), the debate about how exactly the interface works is still an on-going one. A well-accepted theory which illustrates how morpho-syntactic configuration interacts with morpho-phonology is Distributed Morphology (DM) (Halle and Marantz, 1993; Embick and Noyer, 2007; Borer, 2013; Embick, 2015). According to this theory, linguistic items such as word, phrases, and clauses are constructed elements formed through syntactic operations which interact with the other modules of grammar. From a phonological perspective, a theory which captures the interface idea is Prosodic Hierarchy Theory (PHT) (Selkirk, 1982, 1986, 1996, 2011; Dobashi 2003, Ishihara, 2003, Nespor and Vogel, 2007). According to PHT, phonological units are arranged in a hierarchical manner where the units bigger than the prosodic word are established by reading of morpho-syntactic information. Precisely, the morpho-syntactic units are mapped onto prosodic units.

Taking DM and PHT as the entry point, this thesis aims (a) to understand what kind of morpho-syntactic information has an effect on determining the phonological unit of Prosodic Word, and (b) to explore the construction of Prosodic Words in Meiteilon. In purview of the theoretical arguments, the primary claim of this thesis is that the difference in morphosyntactic configuration will manifest difference in realization of Prosodic word characteristics. This is because the phonological domain of prosodic units such as Prosodic Word and higher levels will reflect structural information. Employing the mechanism of linguistic elements construction proposed in DM along with the mapping mechanism argued in Generalized Alignment Theory (McCarthy and Prince, 1995), this thesis presents three crucial findings: (1) the notion of Root plays an important role in the construction of Prosodic Word in Meiteilon, (2) morphological words constructed with roots plus inflectional suffixes illustrate different Prosodic Word characteristics from those constructed from compounds, and (3) structural

difference in generation of compounds also leads to manifest different phonological characteristics in the Prosodic Words formed from compounds.

The thesis begins by discussing the theories of generative grammar pertaining to the phenomenon of word formation. Chapter 1 critically assesses the theoretical understanding of words as compact learned units stored in the lexicon. Based on empirical evidence found in natural languages, the chapter validates Distributed Morphology's argument of understanding words to be constructed elements. The chapter also discusses the theory that argues how phonological correlates of words are established, namely PHT. Following the theoretical arguments of DM and PHT, this chapter presents the following main arguments: one, difference in morpho-syntactic configurations results in difference of characteristics within prosodic domains: and, two, the algorithm of Meiteilon Prosodic Word construction is a mapping mechanism done by aligning the left edge of categorized roots to the left edge of Prosodic Words. Chapter 2 discusses the phonological characteristics of Meiteilon using the constraint mechanism of Optimality Theory and illustrates that the application of voicing assimilation, nasal place assimilation, and deaspiration are co-indexed to certain morpho-syntactic configurations in the language. Chapter 3 and chapter 4 present the detailed discussion for identifying such morpho-syntactic configurations co-indexed to the phonological processes in verbal and nominal domain respectively. Precisely, the phonological process of voicing assimilation is co-indexed to the word generated through categorized roots and inflectional suffixes, namely, Inflectional words. Further, the application of all the three processes is analyzed to be co-indexed to syntactic sisters configuration. Chapter 4 also illustrates that Positional Faithfulness (Lombardi, 1999) starts to play a crucial role when there is a merge between two categorized roots. Chapter 5 concludes the thesis by stating the findings of the current study i.e. morpho-syntactic information can affect morpho-phonological well-formedness.

सार

जबकि व्याकरण संबंधी मॉड्यूल अर्थात् फोनोलॉजी, मोर्फोलॉजी, और सिंटेक्स के बीच इंटरफ़ेस का विचार एक स्थापित धारणा (हैले और मारांटेज, 1993) है, परन्तु वास्तव में यह इंटरफ़ेस कैसे होता है यह अभी भी चर्चा का विषय है। एक पूर्णरूप से स्वीकार्य सिद्धांत जो मोर्फो-सिंटेक्टिक कॉन्फ़िगरेशन मॉर्फो-फोनोलॉजी के साथ कैसे इंटरैक्ट करता है, वो डिस्ट्रिब्यूटेड मॉर्फोलॉजी (डी.एम. (हैं) हैले और मैरांटेज, 1993; एम्बिक और नोयर, 2007; एम्बिक, 2015; बोरेर, 2013)। इस सिद्धांत के अनुसार भाषाई वस्तुओं जैसे कि शब्द, वाक्यांश, और खंड सिंटेक्टिक परिचालनों द्वारा बनाये गए भाषाई तत्व हैं, जो व्याकरण के अन्य मॉड्यूल के साथ इंटरैक्ट करते हैं। फोनोलॉगिकल नज़रिए से, एक सिद्धांत जो इंटरफ़ेस विचार को कैप्चर करता है वह प्रोडोडिक हायरार्की थ्योरी (पी.एच.टी. (हैं) सेल्किर्क, 1982, 1986, 1996, 2011; दोबाशी 2003, ईशिहर, 2003, नेस्पोर और वोगल, 2007)। पी.एच.टी. के मुताबिक, फोनोलॉगिकल इकाइयों को एक हिऐरार्चिकल तरीके से व्यवस्थित किया जाता है जहां प्रोसोडिक शब्द से बड़ी इकाइयां मॉर्फो-सिंटेक्टिक सूचनाओं को पढ़कर स्थापित की जाती हैं। संक्षिप्त रूप से, मोर्फो-सिंटेक्टिक इकाइयों को प्रोसोडिक इकाइयों पर मैप किया जाता है।

डी.एम. और पी.एच.टी. धारणाओं को लेते हुए इस थीसिस के उद्देश है (यह समझने के लिए कि किस प्रकार की मॉर्फो-सिंटेक्टिक जानकारी फोनोलॉगिकल इकाई के प्रोडोडिक शब्द को निर्धारित करने पर प्रभाव डालती है, और)॥ (मीटिलॉन) भाषा (में प्रोडोडिक शब्दों का निर्माण कैसे होता है। इन थैयोरिटिकल तर्कों के दायरे में, इस थीसिस का प्राथमिक दावा यह है कि मोर्फो-सिंटेक्टिक कॉन्फ़िगरेशन का अंतर प्रोसोडिक शब्दों में भी प्रकट होगा। ऐसा इसलिए है क्योंकि प्रोडोडिक इकाइया जैसे कि प्रोसोडिक शब्द और उच्च स्तर की प्रोसोडिक इकाइयों में संरचनात्मक जानकारी को प्रतिबिंबित करेगा। डी.एम. धारणा का मैकनिज़म और जनरेलाइज अलैमेंट थैओरी (मकार्थी और प्रिंस, 1995) के मैपिंग तंत्र को नियोजित करते हुए, यह थीसिस तीन महत्वपूर्ण निष्कर्ष निकालती है:) 1) रूट की धारणा मीटिलॉन में प्रोडोडिक शब्द के निर्माण में एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती है, (2) मोर्फोलॉजिकल शब्द जो रूटों और इंप्लेक्शनल प्रत्यय के साथ निर्मित किए गये हैं उनके प्रोडोडिक शब्द की विशेषताएं कंपाउंड शब्द के प्रोडोडिक शब्द की विशेषताओं से भिन्न होती हैं और,) 3)

कंपाउंड शब्दों का निर्माण करते समय जो मॉर्फो-सिंटैक्टिक कॉन्फिगरेशन में अंतर होगा वह प्रोडोडिक शब्द की विशेषताओं में प्रकट होगा।

यह थीसिस जेनरेटिव व्याकरण के सिद्धांतों जो कि शब्द गठन की थियोरीओं से संबंधित हैं, उनकी चर्चा से शुरू होता है। पहले पाठ में, शब्दों जिन्हें कॉम्पैक्ट इकाइयां समझा जाता हैं जिसे लेक्सिकॉन में संग्रहीत करते हैं इस विचार पर सैद्धांतिक चर्चा की गई हैं। प्राकृतिक भाषाओं में पाए जाने वाले साक्ष्य के आधार पर, यह पाठ डिस्ट्रिब्यूटेड मॉर्फोलॉजी के प्रस्ताव को मान्यता देता है। यह पाठ शब्दों का फोनोलोगिकल कोरेलेट कैसे स्थापित किया जाता हैं, उस थेओरीयो) पी. एच. ती. (की चर्चा भी करता हैं। डी. एम. और पी. एच. ती. थेओरियों के प्रस्ताव को अनुसरण करते हुए यह पाठ निम्नलिखित मुख्य तर्क प्रस्तुत करता है: 1. मॉर्फो-सिंटैक्टिक कॉन्फिगरेशन में अंतर के परिणामस्वरूप प्रोसोडिक डोमेन का अंतर होता है; और, 2, मीटिलोन प्रोसोडिक शब्द निर्माण का एल्बोरिदम वर्गीकृत जड़ों के बाएं किनारे के बीच प्रोडोडिक शब्दों के बाएं किनारे पर मैपिंग तंत्र है। दूसरे पाठ में मीटिलॉन की फोनोलोगिकल विशेषताओं पर ऑप्टिमैलीटी थ्योरी के मेकनिज़म का उपयोग करते हुए चर्चा करता है और यह दिखाता हैं कि वोक्सिंग एसिमिलेशन, नेज़ल प्लेस एसिमिलेशन और दिएसिपेशन कुछ मॉर्फो-सिंटैक्टिक कॉन्फिगरेशन के साथ सह-अनुक्रमित होता है। तीसरे और चौथे पाठ में, जो मॉर्फो-सिंटैक्टिक कॉन्फिगरेशन फोनोलोगिकल प्रक्रियाओं से सह-अनुक्रमित हैं उसकी वर्बल और नोमिनल डोमेन पर पहचान करता हैं। निश्चित रूप से, फोनोलोगिकल प्रक्रिया जो की वोक्सिंग एसिमिलेशन हैं, उसे वर्गीकृत रूट और इन्फ्लेक्शनल प्रत्यय, अर्थात्, इन्फ्लेक्शनल शब्दों के माध्यम से सह-अनुक्रमित किया जाता है। इसके अलावा, सभी तीन प्रक्रियाओं के अनुप्रयोग का विश्लेषण सिंटैक्टिक सिस्टर्स कॉन्फिगरेशन से सह-अनुक्रमित है। चौथा पाठ यह भी दिखाता है कि दो वर्गीकृत रूटों के बीच मर्ज़ होने पर पोजिशनल फेथफुल्नेस) लोम्बार्डी, 1999) एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है। पांचवा पाठ इस थीसिस का निष्कर्ष बताते हुए यह कहता हैं, मॉर्फो-सिंटैक्टिक इन्फौर्मेशन मॉर्फो-फोनोलोगिकल वेल-फोरमेटनेस को प्रभावित करता हैं।

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Abbreviations

1 = 1 person

1P/ 2P/ 3P = First/ Second/ Third Person Marker

Acc = Accusative Marker

Adv = Adverb Marker

Asp = Aspectual Marker

Asso = Associative Marker

Attr. adj = Attributive adjective Marker

Caus = Causative Marker

Cop = Copula

CRS = Currently Relevant State

Dat = Dative

Decl = Declarative Marker

Deic = Deictic Marker

Def = Definite article

Dem = Demonstrative Marker

Dir = Directional Marker

Erg = Ergative

Evid = Evidential Mood Marker

Foc = Focus Marker

Fut = Future Marker

Gen = Genitive Marker

Hon = Honorific Marker

Imp = Imperative Mood Marker

Ind = Indicative Mood Marker

Loc = Locative Marker

Neg = Negative Marker

Nom = Nominative

Nzr = Nominalizer

Past = Past tense Marker

Perf = Perfective Aspect

Perf = Perfective aspectual Marker

Pl = Plural

PosP = Post Position

Prog = Progressive aspectual Marker

Refl = Reflexive affix

rV = Verbal extension

Subj Mkr = Subject Marker

Th = Theme

Top = Topic Marker

VHM = Verbal Honorific Marker

Vol = Volitional Mood Marker

VR = Verbal Reflexive Marker