

Markedness Constraints, p. 1

Prominence Hierarchies

Vowel Height

Low > High > Mid

Active Articulator for consonants

Coronal > Labial > Dorsal

Constraints

Markedness can be expressed in the form of constraints marking certain features (or feature combinations) as dispreferred. We use an asterisk to mean 'dispreferred'.

Vowels

LOBK

Low vowels are preferentially back.

$$* \begin{bmatrix} -\text{cons} \\ +\text{lo} \\ -\text{bk} \end{bmatrix}$$

LOUNRD

Low vowels are preferentially unrounded

$$* \begin{bmatrix} -\text{cons} \\ +\text{lo} \\ +\text{rd} \end{bmatrix}$$

FTUNRD

Front vowels are preferentially unrounded.

$$* \begin{bmatrix} -\text{cons} \\ -\text{bk} \\ +\text{rd} \end{bmatrix}$$

BKRD

Back vowels are preferentially rounded.

$$* \begin{bmatrix} -\text{cons} \\ +\text{bk} \\ -\text{rd} \end{bmatrix}$$

SHORT

Vowels are preferentially short.

$$* \begin{array}{c} \mu \quad \mu \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ [:] \end{array}$$

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Consonants

ANT

Coronal consonants are preferentially anterior (dental/alveolar, not palato-alveolar or retroflex).

$$* \begin{bmatrix} +\text{cons} \\ -\text{ant} \end{bmatrix}$$

VEL

Dorsal consonants are preferentially velar (or palatal).

$$* \begin{bmatrix} +\text{cons} \\ -\text{hi} \end{bmatrix}$$

STOP

Obstruents are preferentially stops.

$$* \begin{bmatrix} -\text{son} \\ +\text{cont} \end{bmatrix}$$

STRID

Fricatives and affricates are preferentially strident

$$* \begin{bmatrix} -\text{son} \\ +\text{cont} \\ -\text{strid} \end{bmatrix}$$

*AFFR

Affricates are dispreferred.

$$* \begin{array}{c} \text{X} \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ [-\text{cont}] \quad [+cont] \end{array}$$

All

SONVD

Sonorants are preferentially voiced

$$* \begin{bmatrix} +\text{son} \\ -\text{voiced} \end{bmatrix}$$

OBSVLESS

Obstruents are preferentially voiceless

$$* \begin{bmatrix} -\text{son} \\ +\text{voiced} \end{bmatrix}$$

*NAS

Nasals are dispreferred

$$* [+nas]$$