A workshop on

New Perspectives in Element Theory

Sapporo Gakuin University, Sapporo, 3.00pm-5.30pm, 20 August 2013

Topic

Many of the phenomena that phonological theory tries to explain can be related to segmental organisation. In recent years, such phenomena have been described using phonological primes which are monovalent and which can stand alone without support from other primes; both these properties aim to enhance theoretical restrictiveness by controlling the number of unattested phenomena that can be described. This approach is adopted in frameworks such as Dependency and Government Phonology, which use a system of melodic structure called Element Theory (ET: Backley 2011; Botma, Kula & Nasukawa 2011, and elsewhere). A further attempt at theoretical parsimony has been made in some versions of ET, involving a reduction in the number of primes. Recent work in ET has converged on a set of six elements (cf. nine elements in earlier models), each of which may enter head-dependency relations that control the phonetic realization of a melodic expression. This workshop will address some recent developments in Element Theory by analysing data from a range of languages, thus highlighting the continuing theoretical significance of formal work in segmental structure for our understanding of phonology as a whole.

Speakers

Speakers will each have around 30 minutes to talk, followed by 10 minutes for questions and discussion.

    Hidetoshi Shiraishi (Sapporo Gakuin) and Bert Botma (Leiden)
        Asymmetries and attractors in Nivkh vowel sequences

    Kuniya Nasukawa (Tohoku Gakuin)
        Recursion in melodic structure

    Yuko Yoshida (Doshisha)
        Vowels and phonological elements

Information

There is no charge for attending the workshop, and no registration is necessary. The workshop will start at 3.00pm and should finish by 5.30pm.

Venue: 札幌学院大学 社会連携センター（札幌市中央区大通西 6 丁目）301 教室
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