

Transparency and blocking

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Today's Outline

- (1) a. The focus of this class is on transparent segments and blockers.
b. Transparency is a marked configuration. However, not all transparent segments are equally marked.
c. In the current approach, transparency is attributed to the targeted structure of alignment constraints.
d. Blocking differs in major ways from transparency.
e. Blocking is an inherently less marked than transparency. No constraint is violated by a transparent segment but not by a blocker.

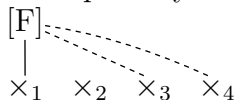
1 Introduction

- (2) Both transparent segments and blockers are traditionally described as lacking the spreading feature.
- (3) As we have seen several times so far, assimilation does not need to target a contiguous string of segments.
- (4) Vowel harmony, for example, typically does not affect consonants.
- (5) Example: Front/back harmony in Finnish does not affect consonants (Ringen 1975/1988:77; Ringen & Heinämäki 1999:305)

næh-kø:n	‘see-DIRECT.SG’	tul-kon	‘come-DIRECT.SG’
næk-ø	‘sight’	tul-o	‘coming’
pøytæ-næ	‘table-ESSIVE’	pouta-na	‘fine weather-ESSIVE’

- (6) In classic Autosegmental Phonology, transparency is represented as a gapped configuration (7).

- (7) Transparency as a gapped configuration



- (8) In the representation in (8), x₂ is not associated with the feature and transparent.

- (9) Blockers also lack the spreading feature. Blocking is standardly attributed to an incompatibility between the spreading feature and some other feature of the target.
- (10) Example: Stops block nasal harmony in Applecross Gaelic (Ternes 1973:134,135)
- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 'āhũç | 'neck' |
| friãv | 'root.PL.' |
| k ^h ɔ'vĩãt | 'how much/many?' |
| strãĩy̆ | 'to be luxurious' |
| k ^h ɔĩspaxk | 'wasp' |
| t ^h ãhũšk | 'fool' |
- (11) Blockers cannot be skipped by a feature.

2 Two case studies

2.1 Nasal harmony

- (12) Nasal harmony is likely one of the best understood assimilation patterns, both in terms of phonetics and phonology (Schourup 1973; Cohn 1990, 1993; Walker 1998/2000, 2003; Piggott & van der Hulst 1997; Piggott 2000, 2003, inter alia)
- (13) Blocking in nasal harmony involves an implicational pattern.
- (14) Blocking of nasal harmony
- Blocked by all consonants: Sundanese (Robins 1957:91,95)

mãwur	'to spread'
ŋãjak	'to sift'
mãro	'to halve'
ŋũliat	'to stretch (INTR.)'
ŋũdag	'to pursue'
ŋãtur	'to arrange'
 - Blocked by all consonants except glides: Johore Malay (Onn 1980:45)

baŋõn	'to rise'
mãjãŋ	'to cause to cry'
mẽwãh	'to be luxurious'
mõratappi	'to cause to cry'
mãkan	'to eat'
nãẽʔ	'to ascend'
 - Blocked by obstruents: Epena Pedee (Harms 1985:16; Harms 1994: 4–6)

mĩmĩõŋãã	'work a lot'
wãĩ ⁿ t ^h ee	'go.FUT'
nãwẽ	'mother'
peĩõrã	'guagua (animal)'
k ^h ĩ ⁿ siã	'think'
mẽ ⁿ dewe	'blind snake'

- d. Blocked by stops: Applecross Gaelic (Ternes 1973:134,135)

$\tilde{a}h\tilde{u}\tilde{c}$	‘neck’
$\tilde{f}r\tilde{a}\tilde{v}$	‘root.PL.’
$k^h\tilde{o}\tilde{v}\tilde{a}\tilde{t}$	‘how much/many?’
$\tilde{s}t\tilde{r}\tilde{a}\tilde{i}\tilde{y}$	‘to be luxurious’
$k^h\tilde{u}\tilde{i}\tilde{s}paxk$	‘wasp’
$t^h\tilde{a}h\tilde{u}\tilde{s}k$	‘fool’

VOWELS	GLIDES	LIQUIDS	FRICATIVES	OBS. STOPS	EXAMPLE LANGUAGE
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	German (no harmony)
	✓	✓	✓	✓	Sundanese
		✓	✓	✓	Johore Malay
			✓	✓	Epena Pedee
				✓	Applecross Gaelic

Table 1: Blockers in nasal harmony

- (15) What about transparency?
- (16) So far we have looked at nasal harmony patterns that involve contiguous strings of segments.
- (17) Not all languages have such a pattern.
- (18) Some languages show transparent obstruents:
- Guaraní (Gregores & Suarez 1967; Walker 1999)
 - Barasano (Gomez-Imbert 1997),
 - Tuyuca (Barnes 1996)
 - Mòbà (Ajíbóyè & Pulleyblank 2008)
- (19) Example: Mòbà nasal harmony (Ajíbóyè & Pulleyblank 2008)¹
- Distributions

ri	‘drown’	$\tilde{r}\tilde{i}$	‘walk’
ru	‘carry’	$\tilde{r}\tilde{u}$	‘smell’
 - Alternations

VERB	NOUN		VERB	NOUN	
$j\epsilon$	$\underline{u}\text{-}j\epsilon$	‘eat’	$\tilde{r}\tilde{i}$	$\underline{\tilde{u}}\text{-}\tilde{r}\tilde{i}$	‘walk’
$f\epsilon$	$\underline{u}\text{-}f\epsilon$	‘like’	$\tilde{y}\tilde{i}$	$\underline{\tilde{u}}\text{-}\tilde{y}\tilde{i}$	‘praise’
- (20) Obstruents show a different pattern: they can occur in oral and nasal roots (21).
- (21) Transparent obstruents
- | | | | |
|-------------|----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| $u\epsilon$ | ‘bait’ | $\tilde{i}d\tilde{u}$ | ‘bed bug’ |
| $u\epsilon$ | ‘love’ | $\tilde{u}g\tilde{u}$ | ‘corner’ |
| uko | ‘basket’ | $\tilde{i}s\tilde{i}$ | ‘worship’ |
- (22) Table 2 shows the cross-linguistic typology of transparent segments in nasal harmony. Two patterns are attested.

¹Tones are omitted.

VOWELS	GLIDES	LIQUIDS	FRICATIVES	OBS. STOPS	EXAMPLE LANGUAGE
			✓	✓	Guaraní, Mòbà Applecross

Table 2: Transparent segments in nasal harmony

- (23) Crucially, no language shows transparent sonorants in nasal harmony (initiated by a vowel).
- (24) Summary: The attested patterns of blocking differ from the attested patterns of transparency.
- (25) Consequence: The accounts of blocking and transparency must be independent of one another.

2.2 RTR spreading

- (26) We will discuss three spreading patterns that involve a single feature, [Retracted Tongue Root]:
- Southern Palestinian Arabic has spreading to all segments.
 - Twi has vowel harmony that targets only vowels.
 - Wolof shows spreading to non-high vowels only.
- (27) Recall that in Southern Palestinian Arabic (SPalestinian) pharyngealization spreads leftwards from an underlying trigger. The trigger of the alternation is an underlying pharyngealized segment, which targets all preceding root nodes within the same prosodic word.
- (28) This pattern can be analyzed as [rtr] spreading (Davis 1995), which targets all segments. No segments are transparent.
- (29) Emphasis spread in Southern Palestinian Arabic (Davis 1995:473–474)
- | | |
|------------|--------------------------|
| BALLAAŞ | ‘thief’ |
| ħAǾǾ | ‘luck’ |
| ?ABSAṬ | ‘simpler’ |
| BAAṢ | ‘bus’ |
| MAJAŞŞAŞif | ‘it didn’t become solid’ |
| Ṭiin-ak | ‘your mind’ |
| ʕAṬjaan | ‘thirsty’ |
- (30) Twi exhibits tongue root vowel harmony. The tongue root position of affix vowels depend on root vowels. Lax affix vowels appear with lax root vowels, while tense affix vowels appear with tense root vowels. Consonants are transparent.

- (31) Tongue root harmony in Twi (Berry 1957:127–128,130)
- | | | | |
|------|----------------|--------------|--------------------|
| biri | ‘black’ | o-biri | ‘3P-black’ |
| | | wu-biri | ‘2P-black’ |
| biri | ‘red’ | ɔ-biri | ‘3P-red’ |
| | | wu-biri | ‘2P-black’ |
| se | ‘say’ | o-se | ‘3P-say’ |
| | | o-be-se | ‘3P-FUT-say’ |
| sɛ | ‘resemble’ | ɔ-sɛ | ‘3P-resemble’ |
| | | ɔ-bɛ-sɛ | ‘3P-FUT-resemble’ |
| firi | ‘lend, borrow’ | mi-be-firi-i | ‘1P-FUT-borrow-it’ |
| firi | ‘fail, miss’ | mi-be-firi-i | ‘1P-FUT-miss-it’ |
- (32) Wolof (33) has RTR vowel harmony that targets only non-high vowels, ignoring not only consonants but also high vowels (Ka 1988/1994; Archangeli & Pulleyblank 1994; Kenstowicz 1994; Pulleyblank 1996; Krämer 2003).
- (33) In (34-a) we see that root vowels determine the prefix vowel: tense root vowels are followed by tense suffix vowels, while lax root vowels are followed by lax suffix vowels. However, (34-b) shows that high vowels are not targeted and do not alternate. High vowels can be flanked by tense or lax vowels .
- (34) Wolof tongue root harmony (Ka 1988/1994:13–16,31–35)
- | | | | | |
|----|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| a. | door- <u>e</u> | ‘to hit with’ | xɔɔl- <u>ɛ</u> | ‘to look with’ |
| | reer- <u>e</u> | ‘to be lost in’ | dɛm- <u>ɛ</u> | ‘to go with’ |
| | gən- <u>e</u> | ‘to be better in’ | xam- <u>ɛ</u> | ‘to know in’ |
| | ʒeeg- <u>o</u> | ‘step’ | mɛl- <u>ɔ</u> | ‘aspect’ |
| | sofoor- <u>əm</u> | ‘his/her driver’ | tɔɔl- <u>am</u> | ‘hie/her field’ |
| | bəgg- <u>əntɛ</u> | ‘to love e.o.’ | raw- <u>antɛ</u> | ‘to complete’ |
| b. | wedd- <u>i</u> | ‘to straighten up’ | lɛmm- <u>i</u> | ‘to unfold’ |
| | ɲoox- <u>it</u> | ‘residue’ | dɔg- <u>it</u> | ‘bit’ |
| | dəkk- <u>si</u> | ‘to come and live’ | wax- <u>si</u> | ‘to come and say’ |
| | lett- <u>u</u> | ‘to braid hair’ | sɛɛt- <u>u</u> | ‘to look in the mirror’ |
| | sələm- <u>u</u> | ‘to wash face’ | raxas- <u>u</u> | ‘to wash hands’ |
| | deg- <u>lu</u> | ‘to listen’ | tɛɛj- <u>lu</u> | ‘to act with caution’ |
| c. | lett <u>u</u> -leen | ‘braid your hair!’ | tekk <u>i</u> -lɛɛn | ‘untie!’ |
| | toxi- <u>leen</u> | ‘go and smoke!’ | səppi- <u>lɛɛn</u> | ‘change!’ |
| | gəst <u>u</u> -leen | ‘do research!’ | wat <u>u</u> -lɛɛn | ‘have a haircut!’ |
| | seenu- <u>woon</u> | ‘tried to spot’ | tɛɛ <u>u</u> -wɔɔn | ‘welcomed’ |
| | soox <u>i</u> -woon | ‘went and sank’ | xoll <u>i</u> -wɔɔn | ‘peeled’ |
| | təri- <u>woon</u> | ‘went and slept’ | raxasi- <u>wɔɔn</u> | ‘went and cleaned’ |
- (35) Wolof can be analyzed as spreading of the feature [RTR], with transparent high vowels and consonants.
- (36) Transparent segments in RTR spreading show an implicational pattern:
- Transparent vowels imply transparent consonants.
 - Transparent non-high vowels imply transparent high vowels (and consonants).
- (37) The following patterns are unattested:
- RTR spreading targeting consonants, but not vowels.

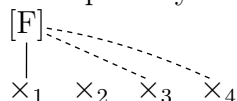
- b. RTR spreading targeting high vowels, but not all other segments.
- (38) Transparency is restricted.
- (39) Blocking does not exhibit the same pattern.
- (40) Example 1: Emphasis spread in Southern Palestinian Arabic (Davis 1995:473–474)
- a. Leftward unbounded
- | | |
|----------|----------------|
| BALLAAṢ | ‘thief’ |
| ħAḏḏ | ‘luck’ |
| ʔABSAṬ | ‘simpler’ |
| BAAṢ | ‘bus’ |
| XAYYAAṬ̣ | ‘tailor’ |
| NAʃAAṬ | ‘energy’ |
| TAMJIIṬA | ‘hair styling’ |
- b. Rightward blocked by {i, y, j, ʃ}
- | | |
|------------|--------------------------|
| ṢABAAħ | ‘morning’ |
| ʕAṬFAAL | ‘children’ |
| ṬUUB-AK | ‘your blocks’ |
| ṬWAAL | ‘long.PL.’ |
| ṢOOT-AK | ‘your voice’ |
| ṬEEF-AK | ‘your sword’ |
| Ṭiin-ak | ‘your mind’ |
| ʕAṬʃaan | ‘thirsty’ |
| MAJAṢṢAṢiʃ | ‘it didn’t become solid’ |
| ṢAyyaad | ‘hunter’ |
| DAjʃat | ‘type of noise.PL’ |
- (41) The observation: {i, y, j, ʃ} are blockers, but not other segments.
- (42) Another example comes from Yoruba (Bamgboṣe 1966, 1967; Awobuluyi 1967; Awobuluyi & Bamgboṣe 1967; Archangeli & Pulleyblank 1989, 1994; Pulleyblank 1996; Baković 2000; Krämer 2003, among many others) vowel harmony. The pattern resembles Wolof, with the difference that high vowels are blockers.
- (43) Example 2: Yoruba vowel harmony
- a. Mid vowels alternate (Awobuluyi 1967:2–4; Archangeli & Pulleyblank 1989: 177; Pulleyblank 1996:297,306)
- | | | | |
|------|------------------|--------|----------------------|
| ʃewe | ‘publish a book’ | ɔ-ʃewe | ‘publisher’ |
| ʃowu | ‘be jealous’ | ɔ-ʃowu | ‘jealous person’ |
| kɔse | ‘refuse’ | ɔ-kɔse | ‘person who refuses’ |
| ʃeũ | ‘eat’ | ɔ-ʃeũ | ‘glutton’ |
- b. High vowels block (Awobuluyi 1967:2–4; Archangeli & Pulleyblank 1989: 184,210,211; Pulleyblank 1996:306,311)
- | | | |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| ew <u>u</u> ɾe | ‘goat’ | *ɛw <u>u</u> ɾe |
| el <u>u</u> bɔ | ‘yam flour’ | *ɛl <u>u</u> bɔ |
| ok <u>u</u> ɾɔ | ‘palm kernel’ | *ɛk <u>u</u> ɾɔ |
| or <u>u</u> kɔ | ‘name’ | *ɛr <u>u</u> kɔ |
| er <u>u</u> pɛ | ‘earth’ | *ɛr <u>u</u> pɛ |
| od <u>i</u> dɛ | ‘Grey Parrot’ | *ɛd <u>i</u> dɛ |
- (44) High vowels block spreading in Yoruba, yet consonants do not.

- (45) There is no implicational pattern in RTR blocking.
- (46) We can conclude that transparency and blocking are very different, and need separate accounts.

3 Representations

- (47) Recall that in classic Autosegmental Phonology, transparency is represented as a gapped configuration (48).

- (48) Transparency as a gapped configuration



- (49) This representation implies that transparent segments are not affected by the spreading feature. However, there seems to be ample evidence to the contrary.

- (50) Vowel harmony is grounded in the fact that one vowel can affect another even across a consonant (Öhman 1966; Recasens 1987; Fowler 1981; Magen 1997; Beddor et al. 2002; Modarresi et al. 2004; Benus 2005; Benus & Gafos 2007). In some languages these effects are phonologized.

- (51) What about (transparent) consonants? The coarticulatory effect among vowels does affect consonants and transparent vowels.

- (52) Boyce (1990)

... compares lip rounding of transparent non-labial consonants flanked by round vowels. She finds that Turkish speakers exhibit a plateau pattern in which lip rounding is retained in consonants. English speakers, on the other hand, show a decreased rounding on consonants, which can be characterized as a trough pattern. These differences suggest that English exhibits no rounding harmony (and thus has no transparent segments). Turkish, on the other hand, has rounding harmony in which consonants are phonetically affected by the spreading feature.

- (53) Benus (2005), Benus & Gafos (2007)

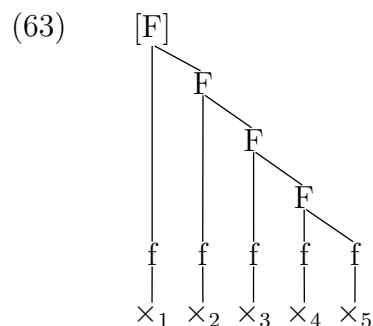
... analyze Hungarian, which has backness harmony. Front vowels {i, e} are transparent to this process and can surface in a front or a back vowel word. It turns out that transparent vowels vary significantly depending on whether they are pronounced in a back vowel context or in a front vowel context. This suggests that vowels behave exactly like consonants in that they are phonetically affected if they are transparent.

- (54) Beyond vowel harmony

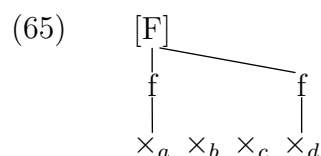
- a. Walker (1999) analyzes nasal harmony in Guaraní, which has transparent voiceless stops. While she does not find any evidence of nasal airflow during stops flanked by nasal segments (consistent with findings in Cohn 1990), she does find significant differences in voice onset time, which is longer in nasal contexts for labial and coronal stops.
- b. Walker et al. (2008) look at tongue tip and blade movement during sibilant harmony in Kinyarwanda. They found that the fricatives displayed the greatest difference in the angle between tongue tip and blade, which suggests they are actual targets. Transparent non-coronals (and the flap) in retroflex

contexts showed lower, but still significant differences between retroflex and non-retroflex contexts. Non-fricative coronals are blockers and show no variation. This is consistent with the model in which a continuous articulatory gesture extends over the transparent segments, even if such an effect is not perceptible.

- (55) We can conclude that there is evidence that ‘transparent’ segments are also affected by spreading, at least in terms of phonetics.
- (56) How does this relate to phonology?
There is a crucial difference between a target and a transparent segment. For example, while front target vowels become back after back vowels in Hungarian, transparent {i, e} do not become back vowels, even though their articulation is significantly affected.
- (57) In response to these facts, perhaps the most obvious solution is to ignore the phonetic coarticulation and assume no spreading to transparent segments (classic Autosegmental Phonology).
One serious disadvantage of this approach is that it requires some sort of device to restrict skipping. Since the 1970s, much effort has been put into an account of how to restrict skipping that would fit the cross-linguistic data best (e.g. Howard 1972; Jensen 1974; Goldsmith 1976; Clements 1976/1980; Kiparsky 1981; Anderson & Ewen 1987; Archangeli & Pulleyblank 1987; Sagey 1990; Odden 1991, 1994; Halle 1995; Steriade 1995; Halle et al. 2000; Morén 2003; Nevins 2010).
- (58) An alternative solution is to say that spreading is always strictly local.
The disadvantage of this approach is it needs a separate explanation for why a particular feature is realized differently on some segments than on others. For example, nasality sometimes spreads to and across voiceless stops, which lack any independent cues of nasality. Much effort has been put into developing a realistic phonological model that would allow for a distinction between full targets and those targets lacking independent phonetic cues of the relevant feature (Itô et al. 1995; Padgett 1991, 1991/1995, Gafos 1996/1999; Walker 1998/2000; Ní Chiosáin & Padgett 1997, 2001; McCarthy 2004; Smolensky 2006).
- (59) The proposal: Both approaches capture the right intuitions about locality in feature spreading, but neither gets it entirely right. The solution is to take both elements and join them in a new theory of feature spreading.
- (60) a. Feature spreading always affects a contiguous string of segments.
b. At the same time, association between a feature and a target is formally different from association between a feature and a transparent segment.
- (61) This builds on the fact that feature spreading is hierarchical. Some segments may contain heads of a feature, while others cannot. If so, then having another level of hierarchy is not at all surprising and directly follows from the current proposal.
- (62) Recall the representation of spreading according to BDT below.

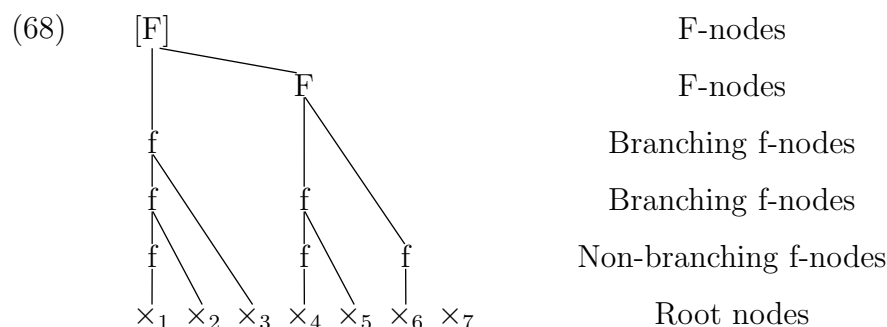


(64) Next, we see a representation with two transparent segments (\times_b, \times_c).



(66) Now, I introduce another layer of representations.

(67) Transparent segments are between the trigger and the two targets. Each of them is a dependent of a binary branching f-node, but is not associated with a non-branching f-node.



(69) The distinction between the trigger and non-final targets on the one hand and final targets on the other has been so far captured by the distinction between headed segments and non-headed segments.

(70) Two types of associations

a. Association

An \times_i is associated with the feature [f], iff there is an association line between \times_i and [f].

b. Full association

An \times_i is fully associated with the feature [f], iff there is an f-node of [f], such that

(i) f-node is associated with \times_i

and

(ii) f-node is not associated with any other \times .

c. Dependent association (or d-association)

An \times_i is d-associated with the feature [f], iff

(i) the statement in (70-a) is true

and

(ii) the statement in (70-b) is not true.

(71) A simple extension of BDT allows us to distinguish transparent segments from triggers/targets purely representationally. This distinction is in that triggers and

targets are heads of f-nodes (and are linked to a non-branching f-node), while transparent segments are not (and are not linked to a non-branching f-node either).

- (72) Extending BDT to transparent segments has a crucial phonological implication, namely that all spreading is always strictly local.
- (73) No well-formed candidate will contain a segment not linked to a feature, while an autosegment is associated with a preceding root node and a subsequent root node at the same time.
- (74) This is formalized in the Strict Locality Condition (75).
- (75) Strict Locality Condition (SLC)
 Let $\times_i < \times_j < \times_k$.
 If \times_i, \times_k are associated with the same autosegment [f], then \times_j must also be associated with that [f].
- (76) The Strict Locality Condition makes several robust phonological predictions.
- Spreading to a target far from the trigger implies spreading to all intermediate targets.
 - When spreading to only one target is preferred, it will be to the one closest to the trigger.
 - Some segments may not be associated with a feature at all, and will effectively block spreading.

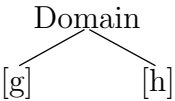
3.1 Constraints

- (77) The modified representations of transparent segments require some clarification regarding the constraints involved in assimilation.

3.1.1 Alignment

- (78) Alignment constraints penalize triplets consisting of a spreading feature which precedes (or is preceded by) a targeted structure within a domain. This is captured by the general constraint template in (79).

- (79) Featural alignment

- a. $*\langle \text{Domain}, [g], [h] \rangle$ / 
- b. Assign a violation mark for every triplet $\langle \text{Domain}, [g], [h] \rangle$, iff
 the *Domain* is associated with [g] and [h]
 and
 [g] f-precedes [h].

- (80) In this definition, f-precedence plays an important role (81).

- (81) F-precedence (\triangleleft)

- [g] \triangleleft [h], iff
- $\exists \times_i$ associated with [g] but not with [h],
and
 - $\exists \times_j$ associated with [h] but not with [g],

- and
- (iii) $\times_i < \times_j$.
- (82) In the context of the newly introduced distinction between transparent segments and targets, the definition of f-precedence needs to be revised such that it only includes full association of targets, but not dependent association of transparent segments. F-precedence of transparent segments cannot be established.²
- (83) This means that alignment constraints can be satisfied only by full association.
- (84) F-precedence limited to full association
 $[g] \triangleleft [h]$, iff
- (i) $\exists \times_i$ **fully** associated (70-b) with $[g]$ but not with $[h]$,
 - and
 - (ii) $\exists \times_j$ **fully** associated (70-b) with $[h]$ but not with $[g]$,
 - and
 - (iii) $\times_i < \times_j$.
- (85) Note that f-precedence is formally:
- a. neither symmetrical (if because if $G \triangleleft H$, then it may or may not be true that $H \triangleleft G$) nor asymmetrical (if $G \triangleleft H$, then it is not the case that $H \triangleleft G$ is always false)
 - b. neither transitive nor intransitive (if $G \triangleleft H$ and $H \triangleleft I$, then it may or may not be true that $G \triangleleft I$)
 - c. irreflexive ($G \triangleleft G$ can never be true)
- (86) This differs greatly from precedence, which is asymmetrical, transitive, and irreflexive.

3.1.2 Faithfulness

- (87) Strict Locality Condition in (75) which states that no root node can ever be skipped by a feature. This entails that transparent segments are also associated with the spreading feature, although in different terms than targets.
- (88) There are at least two possible alternatives:
- a. Faithfulness constraints can make reference only to full association. They remain agnostic with respect to d-association.
 - b. Faithfulness constraints can see both types of associations.
- (89) The two models make very few different predictions, and I remain agnostic which of the two is correct.
- (90) However, in what follows, I assume that faithfulness constraints see only full association. That is, they are violated by targets, but not by transparent segments.
- (91) DEPLINK[f]
 Let \times_i be an input root node and \times_o its output correspondent. Assign a violation mark, iff \times_o is **fully** associated (70-b) with $[f]$ and \times_i is not.

²Some other modifications are also required. For details see Jurgec (2010).

(92) DEPLINK[f] evaluations

$\begin{array}{c} [f] \\ \\ / \times \times \times / \\ \quad \\ [g] \quad [g] \end{array}$	DEPLINK[f]
<p>a.</p> $\begin{array}{c} [f] \\ \\ \times \times \times \\ \quad \\ [g] \quad [g] \end{array}$	
<p>b.</p> $\begin{array}{c} [F] \\ \\ f \\ / \quad \backslash \\ f \quad f \\ \quad \quad \\ \times \times \times \\ \quad \\ [g] \quad [g] \end{array}$	*
<p>c.</p> $\begin{array}{c} [F] \\ \\ F \\ / \quad \backslash \\ f \quad f \quad f \\ \quad \quad \\ \times \times \times \\ \quad \\ [g] \quad [g] \end{array}$	**

(93) The conclusions regarding DEPLINK[f] may be extended to other constraints that refer to association lines. In particular, MAXLINK[f] is only satisfied if the full association in the input is preserved in the output.

3.1.3 Constraints on heads

(94) Transparent segments differ from targets in that they are not associated with a non-branching feature node. Instead, they are associated with a branching feature node that is headed by a trigger or a target. Such a representation of transparent segments has two implications for the constraints on heads.

(95) Transparent segments create additional feature domains (on preceding targets).

(96) Transparent segments are directly associated with a feature node that may be a headed element of a higher domain. This suggests that transparent segments can be themselves heads of a feature.

(97) Both full and dependent association are relevant when it comes to constraints on heads, which may be violated by transparent segments just as they are by targets.

(98) The upgraded BDT thus requires a more precise definition of heads.

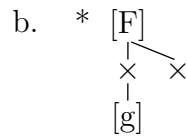
(99) Feature head

- For every branching node of [f], there is exactly one *f*-node that is a Head of [f].
- If *f*-node_k is a Head of [f], all root nodes associated with *f*-node_k are Heads of [f].

(100) This means that constraints on heads can be violated by transparent segments.

(101) *[F g]

- Assign a violation mark for every root node \times , iff \times is a Head of a feature [f] and \times is associated with [g].



(102) *[F g] evaluations

	*[F g]
a.	
b.	
c.	
d.	
e.	× ₁
f.	× ₂
g.	× ₁
h.	× ₁
i.	× ₁ × ₂
j.	× ₁ × ₃

3.1.4 Feature co-occurrence constraints

(103) Feature co-occurrence constraints are well established in the literature (Stanley 43; Archangeli & Pulleyblank 1994; Walker 1998/2000). They penalize a combination of two (or more) features.

- (104) These constraints are phonetically grounded. A feature co-occurrence constraint refers to features that are incompatible in terms of articulation, acoustics, or perception.
- (105) Feature co-occurrence constraints are equally violated by full or dependent association. Both targets and transparent segments violate them.
- (106) *[f g]
Assign a violation for every root node \times , iff \times is associated with features [f] and [g].

Tableau (107) demonstrates the full effect of *[f g].

- (107) *[f g] evaluations

$\begin{array}{c} [f] \\ \\ / \times \times \times \times / \\ \quad \quad \quad \\ [h] [h] [g] [h] \end{array}$	*[f g]
<p>a.</p> $\begin{array}{c} [f] \\ \\ \times \times \times \times \\ \quad \quad \quad \\ [h] [h] [g] [h] \end{array}$	
<p>b.</p> $\begin{array}{c} [F] \\ \quad \\ f \quad f \\ \quad \\ \times \times \times \times \\ \quad \quad \quad \\ [h] [h] [g] [h] \end{array}$	
<p>c.</p> $\begin{array}{c} [F] \\ \quad \\ f \quad f \\ \quad \quad \\ \times \times \times \times \\ \quad \quad \quad \\ [h] [h] [g] [h] \end{array}$	*
<p>d.</p> $\begin{array}{c} [F] \\ \quad \\ f \quad F \\ \quad \quad \\ f \quad f \quad f \\ \quad \quad \\ \times \times \times \times \\ \quad \quad \quad \\ [h] [h] [g] [h] \end{array}$	*
<p>e.</p> $\begin{array}{c} [F] \\ \quad \\ f \quad F \\ \quad \quad \\ f \quad f \quad F \\ \quad \quad \\ \times \times \times \times \\ \quad \quad \quad \\ [h] [h] [g] [h] \end{array}$	*

- (108) We have now seen that both transparent segments and targets violate a feature co-occurrence constraint. In other words, both types of segments represent a marked structure, compared to unassociated segments (non-targets, blockers).

3.1.5 Summary

(109) Sensitivity of constraints to different types of association

Constraint	Example	Full association	D-association
Alignment	* ω [f,g]	✓	
Faithfulness	DEPLINK[f]	✓	(✓)
On heads	*[F g]	✓	✓
Feature co-occurrence	*[f g]	✓	✓

4 Analyses

4.1 RTR spreading

4.1.1 Transparency

(110) Recall the generalization regarding transparency:

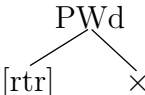
- a. transparent vowels imply transparent consonants
- b. transparent non-high vowels imply transparent high vowels (and consonants)

(111) From a different perspective, non-high vowels make the best targets, followed by high vowels, and consonants.

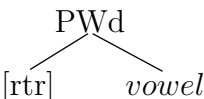
(112) In the current approach, targets are captured with alignment constraints. In particular, targets are determined by the targeted structure.

(113) At least three alignment constraints are required (114).

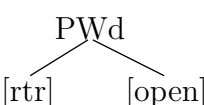
(114) a. *PWd[rtr, ×]

*⟨PWd, [rtr], ×⟩ / 

b. *PWd[rtr, vowel]

*⟨PWd, [rtr], vowel⟩ / 

c. *PWd[rtr, open]³

*⟨PWd, [rtr], [open]⟩ / 

(115) The relationship between the spreading feature and the targeted structure is not random. Each spreading feature comes with a set of targeted structures.

(116) When the spreading feature is [rtr], the targeted structures are {×, vowel, [open]}. This is phonetically and typologically grounded (Archangeli & Pulleyblank 1994).

(117) No matter how we rank these alignment constraints, we can never get unattested

³A privative feature common to all non-high vowels is [open] (cf. Clements & Hume 1995). Similar features have been proposed in other works that use privative features. For example, [A] is such a “feature” in Element Theory (Kaye et al. 1985, 1990; Harris & Lindsey 1995), while V-manner[open] is the equivalent in the Parallel Structures Model (Morén 2003, 2006). The privative feature [open] is directly parallel to the binary feature [–high].

patterns, such as transparent vowels, but not consonants. The unattested candidates are harmonically bounded (‘☞’).

(118) Factorial typology for RTR spreading

		* ω [rtr,open]	* ω [rtr,vow]	* ω [rtr,×]	DEPLINK[rtr]	*[rtr vowel]	*[rtr high]	*[rtr open]	*[rtr cons]			
	[r] /× e k i × /											
a.			i	k	i	**	ε	i	ε	k		
b. ☞		e	e	e	k	**	e	i	e	k		
c. ☞		e	e	i	e	i	**	e	i	e	K	
d.					k	***	ε	i	i	ε	k	
e. ☞					i	i	***	ε	i	i	ε	K
f. ☞		e	e	e	***	e	i	i	e	K		
g.					****	ε	i	i	ε	K		

(119) Feature co-occurrence constraints never prefer transparent segments.

4.1.2 Blocking

(120) What about blocking?

(121) Blocking is preferred by high ranked feature co-occurrence constraints.

- (122) Recall that some segments block progressive emphasis spreads in SPalestinian, but not regressive.
- (123) Blocking in SPalestinian progressive assimilation is enforced by feature co-occurrence constraint (124).
- (124) *[rtr front]
Assign a violation for every root node \times , iff \times is associated with features [rtr] and [front].
- (125) This constraint is ranked below leftward alignment constraint (126).
- (126) XAYYAAT̤ ‘tailor’

$\begin{array}{c} \text{[r]} \\ \\ /x a yy aa \text{T̤} / \end{array}$	* $\omega[\times, \text{rtr}]$	*[\text{rtr front}]	DEPLINK[\text{rtr}]
a. $\begin{array}{c} \text{[r]} \\ \\ x a yy aa \text{T̤} \end{array}$	*!***		
b. $\begin{array}{c} \text{[R]} \\ / \quad \\ \text{r} \quad \text{r} \\ \quad \\ x a yy AA \text{T̤} \end{array}$	*!***		*
c. $\begin{array}{c} \text{[R]} \\ / \quad \\ \text{R} \quad \text{r} \\ / \quad \quad \\ \text{r} \quad \text{r} \quad \text{r} \\ \quad \quad \\ \text{X} \quad \text{A} \quad \text{YY} \quad \text{AA} \quad \text{T̤} \end{array}$		*	****

- (127) At the same time, *[front rtr] is ranked above rightward alignment constraint, effectively blocking assimilation, as shown in (128).

(128) ŞAyyad ‘hunter’

$\begin{matrix} [r] \\ \\ \text{Ş a yy aa d} \end{matrix}$	* $[rtr\ fr]$	* $\omega[rtr], \times$	DEPLINK $[rtr]$	* $[RTR\ fr]$
a. $\begin{matrix} [r] \\ \\ \text{Ş a yy aa d} \end{matrix}$		****!		
b. $\begin{matrix} [R] \\ \quad \\ \text{Ş A yy aa d} \end{matrix}$		***	*	
c. $\begin{matrix} [R] \\ \quad \quad \\ \text{Ş A yy aa d} \end{matrix}$	*!	***	*	
d. $\begin{matrix} [R] \\ \quad \quad \quad \\ \text{Ş A yy aa d} \end{matrix}$	*!	***	*	*
e. $\begin{matrix} [R] \\ \quad \quad \quad \quad \\ \text{Ş A yy aa d} \end{matrix}$	*!	***	*	*
f. $\begin{matrix} [R] \\ \quad \quad \quad \\ \text{Ş A YY aa d} \end{matrix}$	*!	**	**	
g. $\begin{matrix} [R] \\ \quad \quad \quad \\ \text{Ş A yy AA D} \end{matrix}$	*!	*	****	*
h. $\begin{matrix} [R] \\ \quad \quad \quad \quad \\ \text{Ş A YY AA D} \end{matrix}$	*!		*****	*

4.2 Nasal harmony

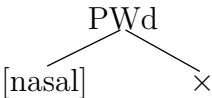
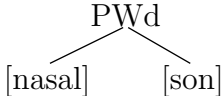
4.2.1 Transparency

- (129) Recall the generalizations regarding transparency: only obstruents can be transparent.

VOWELS	GLIDES	LIQUIDS	FRICATIVES	OBS. STOPS	EXAMPLE LANGUAGE
			✓	✓	Guaraní, Mòbà Applecross

Table 3: Transparent segments in nasal harmony

- (130) Sonorants are never transparent. This can be ruled out by positing a restriction on what targeted structures are allowed with [nasal] as the spreading feature.

- (131) a. *PWd[nasal, ×]
 *⟨PWd, [nasal], ×⟩ / 
- b. *ω[nasal, sonorant]
 *⟨PWd, [nasal], [son]⟩ / 

- (132) These alignment constraints cannot generate a pattern with transparent sonorants (133).

(133) Factorial typology in nasal harmony (without feature co-occurrence constraints)

$\begin{array}{c} [n] \\ \\ / \times \text{ a r t } \times / \end{array}$	* ω [nas,son]	* ω [nas, \times]	DEPLINK[nas]
a. $\begin{array}{c} [n] \\ \\ \text{ n a r t } \times \end{array}$	a r	a r t \times	
b. $\begin{array}{c} [N] \\ \quad \backslash \\ \text{ n } \quad \text{ N} \\ \quad \quad \quad \\ \text{ n } \quad \text{ n } \quad \text{ n } \quad \text{ n} \\ \quad \quad \quad \\ \times \quad \text{ a r } \quad \text{ t } \quad \times \end{array}$	a r	a r	**
c. $\begin{array}{c} [N] \\ \quad \backslash \\ \text{ n } \quad \text{ N} \\ \quad \quad \quad \\ \text{ n } \quad \text{ n } \quad \text{ n } \quad \text{ n} \\ \quad \quad \quad \\ \times \quad \text{ a r } \quad \text{ t } \quad \times \end{array}$	r	r t	**
d. $\begin{array}{c} [N] \\ \quad \backslash \\ \text{ n } \quad \text{ N} \\ \quad \quad \quad \\ \text{ n } \quad \text{ n } \quad \text{ n } \quad \text{ n} \\ \quad \quad \quad \\ \times \quad \text{ a } \quad \text{ r } \quad \text{ t } \quad \times \end{array}$	a	a t	**
e. $\begin{array}{c} [N] \\ \quad \backslash \\ \text{ n } \quad \text{ N} \\ \quad \quad \quad \\ \text{ n } \quad \text{ n } \quad \text{ n } \quad \text{ n} \\ \quad \quad \quad \\ \times \quad \text{ a r } \quad \text{ t } \quad \times \end{array}$	r	r	***
f. $\begin{array}{c} [N] \\ \quad \backslash \\ \text{ n } \quad \text{ N} \\ \quad \quad \quad \\ \text{ n } \quad \text{ n } \quad \text{ n } \quad \text{ n} \\ \quad \quad \quad \\ \times \quad \text{ a } \quad \text{ r } \quad \text{ t } \quad \times \end{array}$	a	a	***
g. $\begin{array}{c} [N] \\ \quad \backslash \\ \text{ n } \quad \text{ N} \\ \quad \quad \quad \\ \text{ n } \quad \text{ n } \quad \text{ n } \quad \text{ n} \\ \quad \quad \quad \\ \times \quad \text{ a } \quad \text{ r } \quad \text{ t } \quad \times \end{array}$		t	***
h. $\begin{array}{c} [N] \\ \quad \backslash \\ \text{ n } \quad \text{ N} \\ \quad \quad \quad \\ \text{ n } \quad \text{ n } \quad \text{ n } \quad \text{ n} \\ \quad \quad \quad \\ \times \quad \text{ a } \quad \text{ r } \quad \text{ t } \quad \times \end{array}$			****

4.2.2 Blocking

(134) What about blocking?

VOWELS	GLIDES	LIQUIDS	FRICATIVES	OBS. STOPS	EXAMPLE LANGUAGE
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	German (no harmony)
	✓	✓	✓	✓	Sundanese
		✓	✓	✓	Johore Malay
			✓	✓	Epena Pedee
				✓	Applecross Gaelic

Table 4: Blockers in nasal harmony

- (135) Recall that not all kinds of blocking exhibits implicational patterns. Nasal harmony, however, does.
- (136) Segmental blocking can only be attributed to feature co-occurrence constraints. No other constraint in the current approach can enforce blocking by segments.
- (137) The difference in segments' preference or aversion to [nasal] can only be attributed to several different feature co-occurrence constraints. Walker (1998/2000) proposes the universal fixed ranking in (138).
- (138) Nasalized segment constraint hierarchy (Walker 1998/2000:36)
 *NASOBSSTOP \equiv *[+nas -cont -son] \gg
 *NASFRICATIVE \equiv *[+nas +cont -son] \gg
 *NASLIQUID \equiv *[+nas +approx +cons] \gg
 *NASGLIDE \equiv *[+nas +approx -cons -syll] \gg
 *NASVOWEL \equiv *[+nas +approx -cons +syll] \gg
 *NASSONSTOP \equiv *[+nas +son -cont]
- (139) The fixed ranking in (139) has a simple effect: regardless of how other constraints are ranked, no output is possible such that, for example, glides block spreading but obstruents do not.

(140) /nazaja/ \rightarrow [nãžãja] can surface only with a dominant *NASGLIDE

/nazaja/	*NASFRIC	*NASGLIDE	*NASVOWEL	* ω [nas, \times]	DEPLK[nas]
\rightarrow nãžãja	1		2	2	3
a. \sim nazaja	L		L	₅ W	L
b. \sim nãzaja	L		₁ L	₄ W	₁ L
c. \sim nãžãjã	1	₁ W	₃ W	L	₅ W

(141) As we have seen, blocking in nasal harmony displays implicational properties, and one way of capturing this is by fixed ranking of feature co-occurrence constraints.⁴

⁴This generalization seems to hold in the vast majority of reported cases, there are a few exceptions. One of these is the Mòbà dialect of Yoruba (Ajíbóyè & Pulleyblank 2008), in which nasality spreads to sonorants and high vowels, but not to non-high vowels. Other examples include blocking by schwa but not other vowels in Applecross (Ternes 1973), blocking by [r] but not [r̥] in Epena Pedee (Harms 1985, 1994) and blocking by [ʁ] but not [r] in Urhobo (Kelly 1969).

5 Some further predictions

5.1 Icelandic

- (142) Transparency is an inherently marked situation.
- (143) This is because d-association incurs additional violation marks on some feature co-occurrence constraints and constraints on heads. At the same time, it does not fare better on any other markedness constraint.
- (144) This has at least three consequences:
- a. Transparency is avoided. If there are multiple identical targets available, but spreading to one is preferred, it will be the one closest to the trigger.
 - b. No transparent segments will be created after the final target.
 - c. Blockers are inherently more harmonic than transparent segments.
- (145) The first and second point can be demonstrated on Icelandic. U-umlaut rounds /a/, turning it into [œ]. Such a derived [œ] is an icy target. A single target [œ] is preferred.
- (146) Tableau (147) shows that the closest [œ] will be targeted. No subsequent segments will be transparent.

(147) japœnym ‘Japanese.DAT.PL’

	$\begin{array}{c} \text{[rd]} \\ \\ / \text{j a p a n - Y m} / \\ \quad \\ \text{[lo]} \quad \text{[lo]} \end{array}$	*[RD lo]	* ω [vow,rd]	DEPLINK[rd]
a.	$\begin{array}{c} \text{[rd]} \\ \\ \text{j a p a n Y m} \\ \quad \\ \text{[lo]} \quad \text{[lo]} \end{array}$		**!	
b. \rightarrow	$\begin{array}{c} \text{[RD]} \\ \\ \text{rd} \\ / \quad \backslash \\ \text{rd} \quad \text{rd} \\ / \quad \backslash \\ \text{j a p œ n Y m} \\ \quad \\ \text{[lo]} \quad \text{[lo]} \end{array}$		*	*
c. \rightarrow	$\begin{array}{c} \text{[RD]} \\ \\ \text{rd} \\ / \quad \backslash \\ \text{rd} \quad \text{rd} \\ / \quad \backslash \\ \text{rd} \quad \text{rd} \\ / \quad \backslash \\ \text{j œ p a n Y m} \\ \quad \\ \text{[lo]} \quad \text{[lo]} \end{array}$	*!	*	*
d.	$\begin{array}{c} \text{[RD]} \\ \\ \text{RD} \\ / \quad \backslash \\ \text{rd} \quad \text{rd} \\ / \quad \backslash \\ \text{rd} \quad \text{rd} \\ / \quad \backslash \\ \text{j œ p œ n Y m} \\ \quad \\ \text{[lo]} \quad \text{[lo]} \end{array}$	*!		**
e. \rightarrow	$\begin{array}{c} \text{[RD]} \\ \\ \text{rd} \\ / \quad \backslash \\ \text{rd} \quad \text{rd} \\ / \quad \backslash \\ \text{rd} \quad \text{rd} \\ / \quad \backslash \\ \text{j a p œ n Y m} \\ \quad \\ \text{[lo]} \quad \text{[lo]} \end{array}$	*!	*	*
f. \rightarrow	$\begin{array}{c} \text{[RD]} \\ \\ \text{rd} \\ / \quad \backslash \\ \text{rd} \quad \text{rd} \\ / \quad \backslash \\ \text{j œ p a n Y m} \\ \quad \\ \text{[lo]} \quad \text{[lo]} \end{array}$	Ruled	out by	SLC (75)!

5.2 Finnish

- (148) In this section, I further look into the relationship between alignment and faithfulness constraints.
- (149) In Finnish front/back harmony, targets do not form a closed natural class. No single feature is common to targets to the exclusion of all other segments.
- (150) This means that *no single alignment constraint* can be used in an analysis of Finnish data.
- (151) I instead propose that such patterns are attributed to the effect of multiple

alignment constraints. These constraints have the same spreading feature, but differ in targeted structures. This suggests that there are two natural classes of targets rather than a single one.

5.2.1 Data

(152) Finnish has backness harmony. This pattern is one of the best understood and most widely studied cases of vowel harmony (including Kiparsky 1973, 1981; Skousen 1972; Anderson 1975, 1980a,b; Campbell 1980, 1981; Halle & Vergnaud 1981; Goldsmith 1985; Välimaa-Blum 1987, 1999; Vago 1988; Ringen 1975/1988; Ringen & Heinämäki 1999; Baković 2000; Krämer 2002). In this section, I give a more detailed analysis, focusing on the relationship between transparent segments and targets.

(153) The Finnish vowel inventory contains eight vowels (154). This inventory is doubly asymmetrical. First, there are three front unrounded vowels, but only one back unrounded vowel. Second, the low vowels are all unrounded, while the non-low vowels are of two types—round and unrounded.⁵

(154) Finnish vowel inventory

	[rd]	[rd]	
	i	y	u [closed]
	e	ø	o
[low]	æ	ɑ	
		[back]	

(155) Front root vowels come with front suffix vowels, while back root vowels come with back suffix vowels; consonants are unaffected.

(156) Alternating vowels (Ringen 1975/1988:77; Ringen & Heinämäki 1999:305, 306; Krämer 2003:159, Ryan Johnson, p.c.)

pøytæ-næ	‘table-ESSIVE’	pouta-nɑ	‘fine weather-ESSIVE’
pyøræ-næ	‘wheel-ESSIVE’	kuoro-nɑ	‘choir-ESSIVE’
næh-kø:n	‘see-DIRECT.SG’	tul-kø:n	‘come-DIRECT.SG’
tyø-kø:n	‘work-DIRECT.SG’	tuo-kø:n	‘bring-DIRECT.SG’
næk-ø	‘sight’	tul-ø	‘coming’
kæ:nt-ø	‘turn’	ka:t-ø	‘fall’

(157) Not discussed so far is the fact that the front non-low vowels {i, e} do not alternate. They always surface as front and do not interfere with spreading, as in (158). That is, non-low front vowels are transparent to vowel harmony.

(158) Transparent vowels (Ringen 1975/1988:77; Ringen & Heinämäki 1999:305; Krämer 2003:159)

kæde-l:æ	‘hand-ADESSIVE’	tuoli-l:ɑ	‘chair-ADESSIVE’
næke-væt	‘see-3PL’	tunte-vat	‘feel-3PL’
kæte-næ	‘hand-ESSIVE’	koti-nɑ	‘home-ESSIVE’
hyv-i-næ	‘good-PL-ESSIVE’	tsa:ri-nɑ	‘czar-ESSIVE’

⁵Note that the features used are fairly standard, with the exception of [closed]. Here, this feature is the privative equivalent of [–low]. Other works use similarly named features (Clements 1985; Sagey 1990; Odden 1991; Clements & Hume 1995; Morén 2003, 2006). The feature [close] is also directly parallel to the feature [open], which is the privative equivalent of [–high] and has been used extensively throughout this thesis.

- (159) The same is true for a string of several front non-low unrounded vowels {i, e}. In (160) we see three roots followed by a string of suffixes, of which only the final alternates. The intermediate suffixes containing {i, e} are not affected. In these examples, the final suffix always agrees in backness with the root vowel other than {i, e}.⁶
- (160) Multiple transparent vowels (Krämer 2003:166)
- | | | | |
|--------|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ui-da | ‘to swim’ | ui-ske-nt-ele-mi-se-ni-k <u>o</u> | ‘my swimming around?’ |
| syø-dæ | ‘to eat’ | syø-ske-nt-ele-mi-se-ni-k <u>ø</u> | ‘my constant eating?’ |
| teh-dæ | ‘to do’ | te:ske-nt-ele-mi-se-ni-k <u>ø</u> | ‘my pretending?’ |
- (161) To summarize, Finnish vowel harmony can be characterized as follows. First, front vowels alternate with back vowels. Second, front non-low unrounded vowels {i, e} never alternate and do not interfere with spreading, which suggests they are transparent.

5.2.2 Analysis

- (162) I analyze Finnish as [back] harmony.
- (163) The faithfulness constraint against spreading the feature [back] is DEPLINK[back].
- (164) This constraint is outranked by the alignment constraint. Recall the first class in which I analyzed the pattern using the constraint * ω [back,vowel].
- (165) However, given the fact that {i, e} are transparent to vowel harmony, a revision is required. This is because transparency cannot be attributed to any other constraint.
- (166) Transparency is a marked configuration. No constraint prefers transparency (to blocking or being a target).
- (167) Transparency informs the analysis in terms of the targeted structure of the alignment constraint, which should be the complement of the set of all transparent segments.
- (168) In Finnish, all consonants and the two vowels {i, e} are transparent.
- (169) Under no universal feature theory can these segments be grouped into a natural class to the exclusion of all other segments.⁷
- (170) What I propose is that the pattern in Finnish is attributed to two alignment constraints. Both have the spreading feature [back], the domain (PWd) and the f-precedence relations in common (the spreading feature f-precedes the targeted structure).
- (171) They differ in the targeted structure. One targets [low] vowels, while the other targets [round] vowels.

⁶A noted exception to this generalization are the patterns found in some loanwords ending on two or more {i, e}. These roots tend to take front suffixes, even when back ones are expected (see Välimaa-Blum 1999; Ringen & Heinämäki 1999 for details). I will not attempt to analyze these exceptional patterns.

⁷Substance-free phonology can capture these patterns, since there is no a priori restriction on feature combinations (Morén 2003, 2006; Youssef 2010, to appear; Blaho 2008; Samuels 2009). This approach has no cross-linguistically valid strategy to exclude a feature that would be common to all consonants and {i, e}, but not to other vowels.

(172) If we look at the Finnish vowel inventory in (154) that the sets of low vowels {æ, a} and round vowels {y, ø, u, o} are disjunctive. Hence the two alignment constraints that refer to these two classes will not interact, which means that we do not know which outranks the other.

(173) The relevant alignment constraints are *ω[back,round] and *ω[back,low]. The effect of the ranking is shown in (174).

(174) pari-na-si-ko ‘as your partner?’ (Kiparsky 1981:10)

	[b] / p a r i - n æ - s i - k ø / [l] [l] [r]	*ω[bk,rd]	*ω[bk,lo]	DEPLK[bk]
a.	[b] p a r i n æ s i k ø [l] [l] [r]	*(!)	*(!)	
b.	[B] b b b p a r i n a s i k ø [l] [l] [r]	*!		*
c.	[B] b b b b b p a r i n æ s i k o [l] [l] [r]		*!	*
d.	[B] b b b b p a r i n a s i k o [l] [l] [r]			**
e.	[B] B B B b p a r u n a s u k ø [l] [l] [r]			***!*

(175) To conclude, Finnish vowel harmony is slightly more complex than the previ-

- ously discussed cases, because the pattern involves two alignment constraints that differ only in their targeted structures.
- (176) The targeted structures of these alignment constraints are inherently connected to transparent segments. Consider the alignment constraints that outrank the relevant `DEPLINK[f]` constraint, and the sets of segments containing the targeted structures of these constraints. Formally speaking, transparent segments are defined as the intersection of complements of these sets (177).
- (177) The connection between transparency, alignment and `DEPLINK[f]`
 Let $C_a, C_b \dots C_n$ be alignment constraints of the type $*Domain[f,x]$.
 Let A be the set of segments containing the targeted structure of C_a .
 Let B be the set of segments containing the targeted structure of C_b .
 ...
 If $\{C_a, C_b \dots C_n\} \gg DEPLINK[f]$, then the set of transparent segments $T = \neg A \cap \neg B \cap \dots \cap \neg N$
- (178) One consequence of this analysis is that it does not require any notion of contrast.
- (179) The fact that Finnish lacks back correspondents of {i, e} appears purely accidental. There are other languages that provide support for such a conclusion.
- a. C’Lela has lowering harmony that targets only the final vowel, skipping all other (even identical) targets (Dettweiler 2000; Pulleyblank 2002; Archangeli & Pulleyblank 2007; Michel to appear).
 - b. In Khalkha Mongolian (to be analyzed next time), [i] is transparent to rounding (and backness) harmony, even though the language allows [u] in other positions.
- (180) Given these patterns, we have to conclude that contrast is not essential for a theory of transparency, despite the fact that it appears to be a possible alternative for some cases of assimilation.

6 Conclusions

- (181) Transparent segments are fundamentally different from blockers and targets.
- (182) Transparent segments are d-associated with the spreading feature, while blockers are not associated with the feature.
- (183) Transparency is a marked configuration. No constraint favors only transparent segments.
- (184) Not all transparent segments are equally marked.
- (185) Transparency does not rely on contrast.

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