

Specificity and Hierarchies

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The Elsewhere Principle (Halle & Marantz 1993:120)

The Vocabulary Items in competition for insertion in a particular terminal node automatically organize themselves into blocks like that illustrated in (5), where entries are ordered by the principle that the most specified entry takes precedence over entries that are less specified.

Elsewhere Principle

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Subset Principle

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Paninian Principle

The Subset Principle (Halle 1997: 428)

The phonological exponent of a Vocabulary Item is inserted into a morpheme of the terminal string if the item matches all or only a subset of the grammatical features specified in the terminal morpheme. Insertion does not take place if the Vocabulary Item contains features not present in the morpheme. Where several Vocabulary Items meet the conditions for insertion, the item matching the greatest number of features in the terminal morpheme must apply.

(basically the same: Halle & Marantz 1994)

The Elsewhere Principle in Amorphous Morphology (Anderson 1992: 134)

When a rule R of the grammar would apply to a stem S on the basis of the features F of a given position to be interpreted, application of R is blocked, if F constitutes a subset of the lexical specifications of S.

Paninis Principle (Noyer 1992: 104)

If one rule's structural description is contained in the other's, the rule with the more specific structural description applies first.

The Elsewhere Principle and Allomorphy (Halle & Marantz 1993:123-124)

As in context-independent insertion, the choice among competing allomorphs in conditioned allomorphy is again determined by the Paninian principle understood here as giving precedence to the allomorph appearing in the most complex, most highly specified context over allomorphs appearing in less complex contexts.

For many terminal nodes . . . the competition among Vocabulary Items will conclude competition among items with different features and different environments . . . and simultaneously among items with different features We propose that consideration of the substantive features realized by a Vocabulary entry takes precedence over contextual considerations so that all Vocabulary items that realize the same features . . . are ordered in a block together relative to the Vocabulary items that realize different features. Within each such block, the specificity of the environment determines relative ordering

(Noyer 1992: 104)

If a given input can undergo two different spellout-rules the following principles order the rules in the unmarked instance, where one of the two situations will obtain:

(1) **Paninis Principle**

If one rule's structural description is contained in the other's, the rule with the more specific structural description applies first.

(2) **Feature Hierarchy**

If the structural descriptions are disjoint or overlapping, then the rule referring to the hierarchically higher feature applies first.

The Feature Hierarchy Hypothesis (Noyer 1992: 263)

There is a universal hierarchy of morphosyntactic features. If F and G are morphosyntactic features and F is higher than G on the hierarchy, then:

(1) If $*[\alpha F \beta G]$ is active at morphology, then $[\alpha F \beta G]$ is impoverished to $[\alpha F]$

(2) If two spell-out rules, one referring to F, the other to G and not to F, have disjoint or overlapping structural descriptions, then the rule referring to F applies first.

Corollary of (2): In a Free Licensing/Free Placing system, an affix realizing F will appear more embedded than an affix realizing G, but not F.

The Subset Principle (Müller 2005)

A vocabulary item V is inserted into a functional morpheme F iff (i) and (ii) hold:

(i) The insertion context of V is a subset of the set of the morphosyntactic features of F .

(ii) V is the most specific vocabulary item for which (i) holds

Specificity of Vocabulary Items (Müller 2005)

A vocabulary item V_i is more specific than a vocabulary item V_j iff there is a feature class I such that (i) and (ii) hold:

(i) The insertion context of V_i has more features in I than the insertion context of V_j .

(ii)

There is no higher-ranked feature class I' such that the insertion contexts of V_i and V_j have a different number of features in I' .