

## **Featural Affixation and Featural Spreading in Gaahmg**

In the autosegmental approach to morphophonology, the operations and constraints governing featural spreading and featural affixation are almost completely coextensive. This makes the strong prediction that both processes should work in parallel crosslinguistically, and especially in single languages.

In this talk, I show that this prediction is largely borne out in the vocalic and tonal morphophonology of Gaahmg, a Nilotic language spoken in Southern Sudan (Stirtz 2011). Gaahmg is especially interesting for this question because it shows a highly heterogeneous set of featural affixation processes (including pure addition of features, complete overwriting of base features by affixal features, and partial overwriting), but also because the major tonal spreading process in the language is subtonemic, i.e. consists in spreading a lower tonal register, not entire tones. I show that both, register spreading and partial tonal overwriting follow straightforwardly from the decomposition of tonal features in Register Tone Theory (Snider 1999) and converge in reflecting the stratal organization of morphophonology suggested by Stratal Optimality Theory (Bermúdez-Otero in preparation, Trommer 2011).

### **References**

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