

Antiharmony, transparency, truncation

Péter Rebrus* – Péter Szigetvári**

*Research Institute for Linguistics, Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA), Budapest

**Department of English Linguistics, Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), Budapest

rebrus@nytud.hu szigetvari@elte.hu

Abstract We show that harmony is a property of stems. Harmony is often calculated from the quality of the vowels of the stem, but once the harmony of a stem is determined, it is preserved even after the vowel responsible for it is truncated. However stem vowels are truncated by two processes, one of which destroys the identity of the stem. The harmony of such a destroyed stem is not preserved but recalculated from its vowels.

1 Front/back harmony in Hungarian

1.1 Harmonizing and invariant vowels in suffixes

- **harmonizing vowels:** u~y o~ø/ε a~ε o:~ø: u:~y: a:~e:
- **neutral vowels** (without harmonic alternants): i ~ i: e:

	front	back	front	back
high	i ~ y	~ u	i: ~ y:	~ u:
mid	ø ~	o	e: ~ ø:	~ o:
mid-low	ε ~	a	~	a:
low				

1.2 Transparency

- Neutral vowels are transparent to front/back harmony.

a. local harmony

- front-final stems: [VF]F e.g. parfym-ben 'perfume-INE'
- back-final stems: [VB]B e.g. templom-ban 'church-INE'

b. non-local harmony: transparency in stems and suffixes

- front+neutral: [FN]F e.g. røgbi-ben 'rugby-INE'
- [F]NF e.g. sønt-e:-ben 'saint-POSS-INE'
- back+neutral: [BN]B e.g. papi:r-ban 'paper-INE'
- [B]NB e.g. pap-e:-ban 'priest-POSS-INE'

1.3 Anti-harmony

- Neutral vowel stems can occur in both harmonic classes: front (**harmonic** stems) and back (**anti-harmonic** stems).

- harmonic stems: [N]F e.g. vi:z-ben 'water-INE'
- anti-harmonic stems: [N]B e.g. hi:d-ban 'bridge-INE'

- Invariant suffix vowels are 'transparent' to (anti-)harmony.

- harmonic stems: [N]NF vi:z-e:-ben 'water-POSS-INE'
- anti-harmonic stems: [N]NB hi:d-e:-ban 'bridge-POSS-INE'

2 Types of truncation

- **type 1** only V~Ø alternation in the stem

a. stem-final (VERB-FORMING suffixes: -i:t, -ul/yI, -od/ød/ød- etc.)

- gørbe ~ gørb-yl ~ gørb-i:t 'curved ~ curve (it) ~ curve (tr)'
- barna ~ barn-ul ~ barn-i:t 'brown ~ get br. ~ make br.'
- be:kε ~ be:k-yl ~ be:k-i:t 'peace ~ reconcile ~ pacify'
- be:nɑ ~ be:n-ul ~ be:n-i:t 'paralyzed ~ paralyze ~ get p.'

b. stem-internal (all non-analytic suffixes: -i:t, -i, -uk/yk etc.)

- tørem ~ tørm-yk ~ tørm-i 'hall ~ id.-POSS3PL ~ id.-ADJ'
- malom ~ malm-uk ~ malm-i 'mill ~ id.-POSS3PL ~ id.-ADJ'
- iker ~ ikr-yk ~ ikr-ε 'twin ~ id.-POSS3PL ~ id.-POSS3SG'
- pisok ~ pisk-uk ~ pisk-i:t 'mess ~ id.-POSS3PL ~ to mess'

- **type 2: diminutives:** longer sequence can be deleted

a. stem-final V is deleted:

- jøngε ~ jøng-ʊʃ 'weak ~ id.-DIMIN'
- apa ~ ap-u 'father ~ dad'
- ne:nɛ ~ ne:n-i 'aunt ~ auntie'
- tsitsa ~ tsits-o: 'cat ~ kitty'

b. longer sequence is deleted:

- tørtæ:nɛlɛm ~ tør-i 'history ~ id.-DIMIN'
- hamburger ~ hamb-i 'hamburger ~ id.-DIMIN'
- si:vɛʃɛn ~ siv-i 'cordially ~ id.-DIMIN'
- tsigaret:a ~ tsig-i 'cigarette ~ id.-DIMIN'

3 Truncation and harmony

3.1 Front/back stems

- Transparency holds in both types of truncated forms

- front stems: [FF] ~ [F(F)]NF type 1 DIMIN. gørbe ~ gørb-i:t-het
tynde ~ tynd-i-næk
- back stems: [BB] ~ [B(B)]NB type 1 DIMIN. barna ~ barn-i:t-hat
ſa:ra ~ ſa:r-i-nak

3.2 Neutral stems

- Transparency holds in both types of truncated forms of harmonic (NF-)stems

- harmonic: [NF] ~ [N(F)]NF type 1 DIMIN. be:kε ~ be:k-i:t-het
ne:nɛ ~ ne:n-i-næk

- Transparency is suspended in DIMINUTIVE truncated forms of anti-harmonic (NB-)stems.

- anti-harmonic: [NB] ~ [N(B)]NB type 1 be:nɑ ~ be:n-i:t-hat
[NB] ~ [N(B)]NF ! DIMIN. e:vɑ ~ e:v-i-næk

4 Solution

4.1 Generalizations

- **Transparency:** neutral vowels are transparent.

- within stems: [BN]B % [BNN]B etc.
- in suffixes: [B]NB [B]NNB [BN]NB etc.

- **Harmony Preservation:**

a suffixed form is harmonically identical to its stem.

e.g. [X] ∈ B ⇒ [X]Y ∈ B where B is the class of back stems

- back stems: [B] ∈ B ⇒ [B]N ∈ B
[BB] ∈ B ⇒ [B(B)]N ∈ B
- neutral stems: [N] ∈ B ⇒ [N]N ∈ B
[NB] ∈ B ⇒ [N(B)]N ∈ B

- **Why does it not work for diminutives** and why does it work for truncated non-neutral stems even if they are diminutive?

4.2 Harmony Preservation and types of suffixation

- DIMINUTIVES create a new stem thus Harmony Preservation cannot hold for such truncation stems (cf. section 2):

stem	suffixed forms		harm. types	struc-ture	HARM. PRESERV.	NEUTRAL HARMONY
jima 'smooth'	type 1	sim-i:t-hat 'smooth-VERB-MOD'	back	[N]NB	yes	(n.a.)
sim-ogat 'to caress'	DIMIN-UTIVE	sim-i-z-het 'caress-DIMIN-MOD'	front	[NN]F	no	yes

- The loss of Harmony Preservation does not affect the non-neutral forms, because Transparency applies in the newly-created stem.

stem	suffixed form		harm. types	struc-ture	HARM. PRESERV.	TRANS-PARENCE
barna 'brown'	type 1	barn-i:t-hat 'brown-VERB-MOD'	back	[B]NB	yes	yes
Barna 'name'	DIMIN-UTIVE	Barn-i-nak 'Barna-DIMIN-DAT'	back	[BN]B	no	yes

- **Neutral Harmony:** monomorphemic polysyllabic neutral stems are harmonic (front).

- harmonic stems: [NN]F tigris-ben 'tiger-INE'