

Bert Botma

Phonological Aspects of Nasality

An Element-Based Dependency Approach

This dissertation provides a phonological characterization of nasals, nasalized segments, and processes involving nasality, based on a range of cross-linguistic data. The facts encountered are formalized in the framework of Element-based Dependency, a new and highly constrained model of phonological representations that combines insights from Dependency Phonology and Element Theory. The analysis focuses primarily on the manner and phonation properties of segments, both of which are represented in terms of the elements [ʔ], [L], and [H]. Of particular interest is the element [L], which, depending on its position in the phonological structure, is interpreted as sonorancy, voice, or nasalization. Evidence for the variable interpretation of [L] comes from a host of phonological processes, including nasal harmony and postnasal voicing, and from the compatibility of manner, laryngeal, and nasalization contrasts in phonological segment types.

Discussing data from a wide range of languages, this dissertation is of interest to a general phonological readership.

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