An OT Account for the Spread of Emphasis in Northern Rural Jordanian Arabic:

The effect of morphology

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Preference: Poster

Abstract: Previous research has provided evidence for an asymmetrical directionality in the spread of emphasis as well as blocking effects that are process-specific in some dialects of Arabic. However, the interaction between morphology and phonology in terms of the spread of emphasis has been neglected in the literature. Instead, previous studies have claimed that [RTR] harmony spreads to the whole phonological word. In this study, I show that the spread of emphasis is sensitive to morphemic boundaries, and that the spread of emphasis to affixal segments poses problems for previous analyses. To this end, further treatment is proposed within the theory of constraint ranking.