

# $\mu$ -Prefixes and $\mu$ -Circumfixes in Dinka

Jochen Trommer

[jtrommer@uni-leipzig.de](mailto:jtrommer@uni-leipzig.de)

Department of Linguistics  
University of Leipzig

mfm 19  
Manchester  
May 19-21 2011

# The Concatenativist Hypothesis

Morphological Exponence = Concatenation + Phonological Alternations

# Additive Lengthening in the 3SG (Andersen 1995:16,28)

**V** ⇒ **V:**

- a. wèc ⇒ wè:c 'kick:3SG'
- tèŋ ⇒ tè:ŋ 'dust:3SG'

**V:** ⇒ **V::**

- b. lè:r ⇒ lè::r 'roll:3SG'
- mì:t ⇒ mì::t 'pull:3SG'

# Templatic Lengthening in the Benefactive (Andersen 1995:16,28)

**V** ⇒ **V:**

- a. wé:c ⇒ wé:c 'kick:BEN'  
tè:j ⇒ tē:j 'dust:BEN'

**V:** ⇒ **V:**

- b. lè:r ⇒ lē:r \*lē:x:r 'roll:BEN'  
mì:t ⇒ m̄:t \*m̄:x:t 'pull:BEN'

# Flack's (2007) Analysis of Additive Lengthening ( $\mu$ = 3SG)

	$\mu-$	$\mu$		
a. Input:	wec		$*V_{BEN}^{3\mu}$	MAX $\mu$
	$\mu-$	$\mu$		
☞ a.	wec			
	$\mu-$	$\mu$		
b.	wec			*!

	$\mu-$	$\mu$	$\mu$		
			↙		
b. Input:	le:r			$*V_{BEN}^{3\mu}$	MAX $\mu$
	$\mu-$	$\mu$	$\mu$		
☞ a.	le:r				
	$\mu-$	$\mu$	$\mu$		
b.	le:r				*!

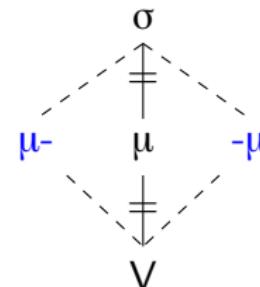
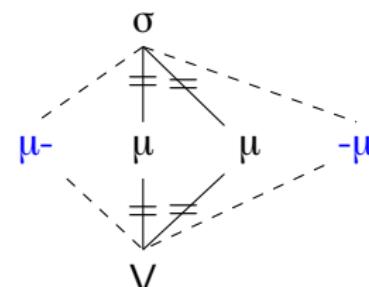
# Flack's (2007) Analysis of Templatic Lengthening ( $\mu$ = BEN)

	$\mu-$	$\mu$		
a. Input:		wec	$*V_{BEN}^{3\mu}$	MAX $\mu$
	$\mu-$	$\mu$		
		↓		
☞ a.		we:c		
b.	$\mu-$	$\mu$		
b.		wec		*!
	$\mu-$	$\mu$	$\mu$	
		↙		
b. Input:		le:r	$*V_{BEN}^{3\mu}$	MAX $\mu$
	$\mu-$	$\mu$	$\mu$	
		↙		
☞ a.		lex:r	*!	
b.	$\mu-$	$\mu$	$\mu$	
		↙		
☞ b.		le:r		*

# Claims of this Talk

- Additive Lengthening results from  $\mu$ -**prefixation**
- Templetic Lengthening results from  $\mu$ -**circumfixation**
- **Morpheme-specific** directionality of affixation obviates **morpheme-specific** phonology (Flack 2007, Pater 2007)

# Templatic Lengthening as Templatic Overwriting

	<b>Input:</b>	<b>Output:</b>
<b>1μ-Base</b>	$\sigma$ $\mid$ $\mu^- \quad \mu \quad -\mu$ $\mid$ $V$	$\Rightarrow$ 
<b>2μ-Base</b>	$\sigma$ $\diagup \quad \mid \quad \diagdown$ $\mu^- \quad \mu \quad \mu \quad -\mu$ $\mid$ $V$	$\Rightarrow$ 

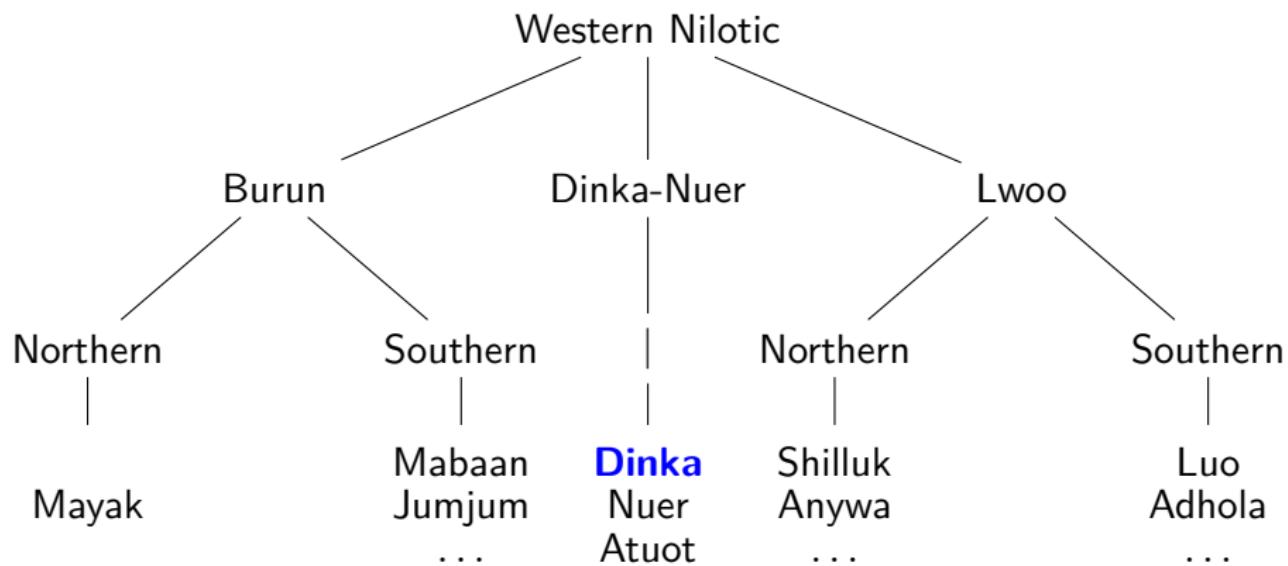
# Background

# Dinka

# Dinka

- Western Nilotic language of the Dinka-Nuer sub-branch
- spoken by more than 2.00.000.000 speakers in Sothern Sudan
- Rich non-concatenative morphology crowded on monosyllabic stems (tone, vowel quality, segmental features of Cs, length)
- All data in this talk from the detailed paper by Anderson (1985)

# Western Nilotic Languages



# Dinka



# Dinka Phonology

- Complex two-tone system (systematically neglected here)
- Three-way vowel-length contrast: V, V:, V::
- Canonical shape of lexical roots: (C)VC  
Canonical shape of suffixes: -(C)V or subsegmental

# Theoretical Assumptions

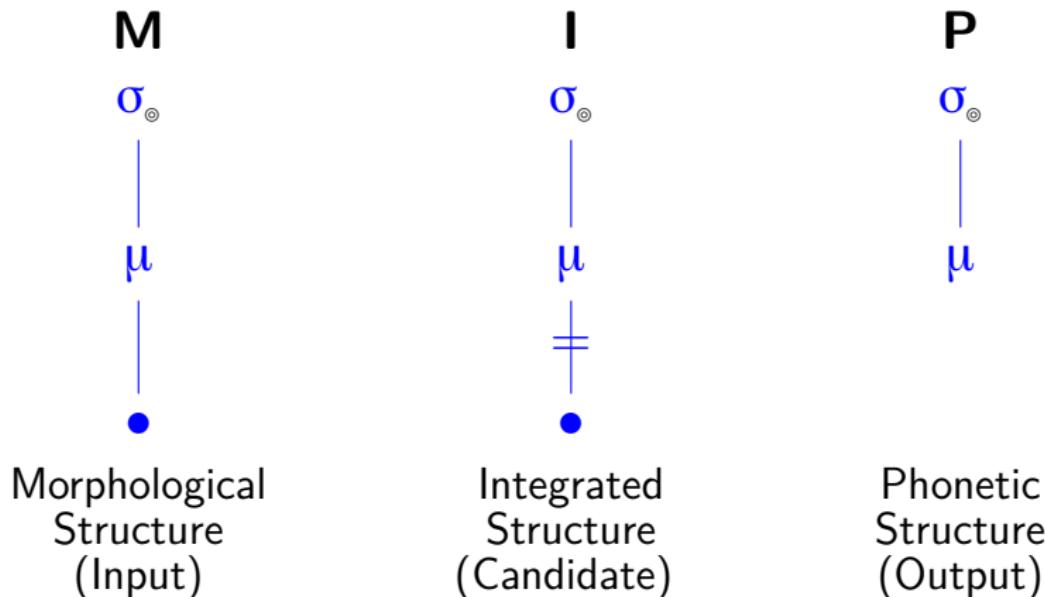
# Theoretical Assumptions

- **Autosegmental Containment:** (Prine & Smolensky 1993)  
Underlying material  
is never literally deleted, but retained in the output,  
(but may be marked as phonetically invisible).
- **Morphological Colors as Phonological Objects:** (van Oostendorp 2006)  
Morphological colors are phonological objects  
on a par with nodes and association lines  
(Non-)Coloring allows to distinguish underlying/epenthetic material
- **Cloning:** (cf. Cloning in Correspondence Theory, McCarthy & Prince 1995)  
All markedness constraints are assumed to exist in two versions,  
one referring only to phonetically visible material,  
and one to all material in a given structure.

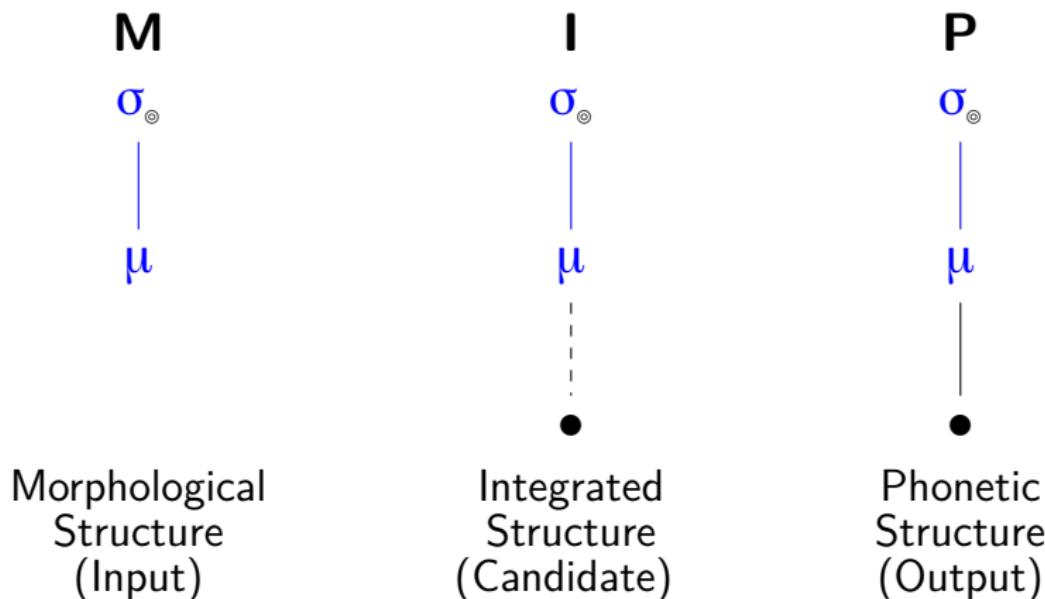
# Representation of Association Lines (Zimmermann & Trommer 2011)

Morphological association lines	Epenthetic association lines
phonetically visible: 	phonetically invisible: 
X   Y	X ≠ Y

# Deletion



# Epenthesis



# The Cloning Hypothesis

Every markedness constraint exists in 2 incarnations:

The **general clone** refers to all structure in I

The **phonetic clone** refers only to structure in P

(cf. Cloning in Correspondence Theory, McCarthy & Prince 1995)

# Additive Lengthening

# Additive Lengthening in the 3SG (Andersen 1995:16,28)

**V** ⇒ **V:**

- a. wèc ⇒ wè:c 'kick:3SG'  
tèŋ ⇒ tè:ŋ 'dust:3SG'

**V:** ⇒ **V::**

- b. lè:r ⇒ lè::r 'roll:3SG'  
mì:t ⇒ mì::t 'pull:3SG'

# Additive Lengthening in the Centrifugal (Andersen 1995:16,28)

**V** ⇒ **V:**

- a. wèc ⇒ wé:c 'kick:CF'
- tèŋ ⇒ tê:ŋ 'dust:CF'

**V:** ⇒ **V::**

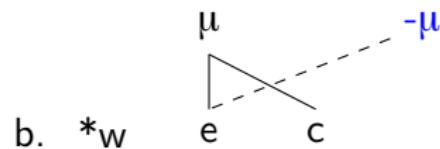
- b. lè:r ⇒ lê:x:r 'roll:CF'
- mì:t ⇒ mî:x:t 'pull:CF'

# Morphological Exponents

a. 3SG               $\leftrightarrow$       μ-

b. Centrifugal     $\leftrightarrow$       μ-

# Lengthening Exponents are Prefixes, not Suffixes



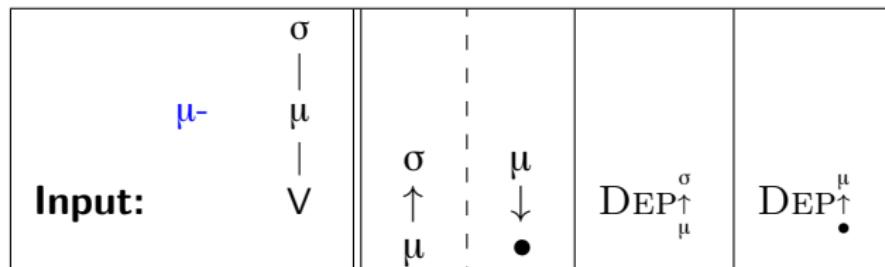
# Primitive Constraints on Autosegmental Association

- a.  $\begin{array}{c} \mu \\ \downarrow \\ \bullet \end{array}$  Assign \* to every mora which does not dominate at least 1 segmental root node in I
  
- b.  $\begin{array}{c} \sigma \\ \uparrow \\ \mu \end{array}$  Assign \* to every mora which is not dominated by at least 1  $\sigma$ -node in I

# Faithfulness Constraints on Autosegmental Association

- a.  $\text{MAX}_{\bullet}^{\mu}$  Assign \* to every segment/ $\mu$  pair which is associated in M but is not associated in P
  
- b.  $\text{DEP}_{\bullet}^{\mu}$  Assign \* to every segment/ $\mu$  pair which is associated in P but is not associated in M

# 1 $\mu$ -Prefixation to 1 $\mu$ -Base (Centrifugal)



a.

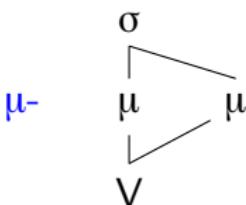
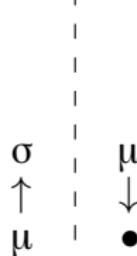
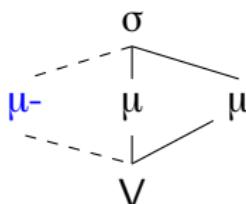
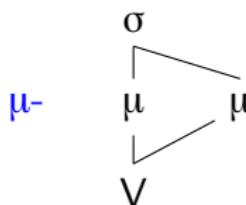
 $\mu-$ $\sigma$ $\mu$ $\mid$ $V$				
$*$ $*$				

b.

$\mu-$ $\sigma$ $\mu$ $\mid$ $V$	$*!$	$*!$		

# 1 $\mu$ -Prefixation to 2 $\mu$ -Base (Centrifugal)

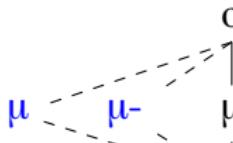
<b>Input:</b> 		$\text{DEP}^{\sigma}_{\mu}$	$\text{DEP}^{\mu}_{\bullet}$
 a.	 b.	*	*
	*!	*!	

# Additive 2-μ-Lengthening in the Causative/Frequentative (Andersen 1995:37-38)

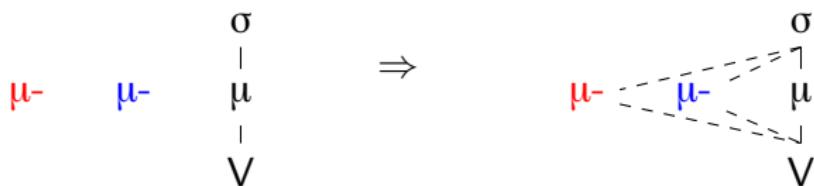
**V** ⇒ **V::**

- a. bòk ⇒ bó::k 'throw:FQ'
  
- b. dèk ⇒ dê::k 'drink:CAUS'

## $2\mu$ -Prefixation to $1\mu$ -Base (Causative)

<b>Input:</b> $\mu \quad \mu^- \quad \mu$ $\sigma$ $\downarrow$ $V$	$\sigma$ $\uparrow$ $\mu$	$\mu$ $\downarrow$ $\bullet$	$DEP \uparrow_{\mu}^{\sigma}$	$DEP \uparrow_{\bullet}^{\mu}$
 <span style="font-size: 2em;">☞</span> a.	$\sigma$ $\uparrow$ $V$		**	**
b.	$\mu \quad \mu^- \quad \mu$ $\sigma$ $\downarrow$ $V$	$*!*$	$*!*$	

# Prediction: Cumulative Lengthening under Cumulative Prefixation



# Blocking of Cumulative Lengthening in Centrifugal 3SG Forms (Andersen 1995:16,28)

**V** ⇒ **V:** (**V::**)

- a. wèc + μ CF + μ 3SG ⇒ wé:c (\*wé::c) 'kick:3SG:CF'  
     tèŋ + μ CF + μ 3SG ⇒ tê:ŋ (\*tê::ŋ) 'dust:3SG:CF'

**V:** ⇒ **V::** (**V:::**)

- b. lè:r + μ CF + μ 3SG ⇒ lê::r (\*lê:::r) 'roll:3SG:CF'  
     mì:t + μ CF + μ 3SG ⇒ mî::t (\*mî:::t) 'pull:3SG:CF'

# Constraints on Moraic Binarity

- a.  $*V^{3\mu}$  Assign \* to every V-node which is dominated by more than two moras in I
  
- b.  $*\sigma_{3\mu}$  Assign \* to every σ-node which dominates more than two moras in I

# Constraints on Chromatic Binarity

- a.  $*V^{3\square}$  Assign \* to every V which is dominated by (moras of) more than two colors in I
  
- b.  $*\sigma_{3\square}$  Assign \* to every σ-node which dominates (moras of) more than two colors in I

# Blocking of Cumulative Lengthening (Centrifugal + 3SG)

	$\sigma$   $\mu$   V	*V <sup>3□</sup>	*σ <sub>3□</sub>	$\sigma$ ↑ $\mu$	$\mu$ ↓ ●	DEP <sup>σ</sup> ↑ $\mu$	DEP <sup>μ</sup> ↑ ●
<b>Input:</b>	$\mu-$ $\mu-$						
a.	$\mu-$ $\mu-$					*	*
b.	$\mu-$ $\mu-$		*			*	*
c.	$\mu-$ $\mu-$				**!	**	

# Templatic Lengthening

# Templatic Lengthening in the Benefactive (Andersen 1995:16,28)

**V** ⇒ **V:**

- a. wé:c ⇒ wé:c 'kick:BEN'  
tè:j ⇒ tè:j 'dust:BEN'

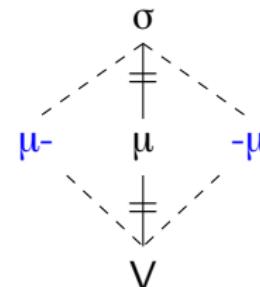
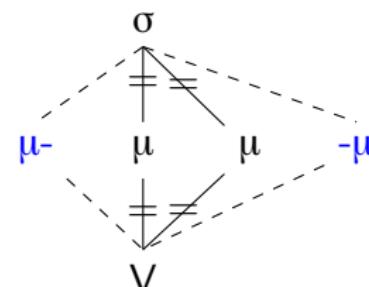
**V:** ⇒ **V:**

- b. lè:r ⇒ lè:r \*lè:x:r 'roll:BEN'  
mì:t ⇒ mì:t \*mì:x:t 'pull:BEN'

# Representation of the Benefactive Exponent

BEN     $\leftrightarrow$      $\mu^-$      $-\mu$

# Templatic Lengthening as Templatic Overwriting

	<b>Input:</b>	<b>Output:</b>
<b>1μ-Base</b>	$\sigma$ $\mid$ $\mu^- \quad \mu \quad -\mu$ $\mid$ $V$	$\Rightarrow$ 
<b>2μ-Base</b>	$\sigma$ $\diagup \quad \mid \quad \diagdown$ $\mu^- \quad \mu \quad \mu \quad -\mu$ $\mid$ $V$	$\Rightarrow$ 

# Chromatic $\mu$ -Contiguity

□ CONTIGUITY $_{\mu}$ :

Assign \* to every triple of  $\mu$ -nodes  $(M_1, M_2, M_3)$  such that:

- (i)  $M_1 \prec M_2 \prec M_3$  and
- (ii)  $\text{Color}(M_1) = \text{Color}(M_3) \neq \text{Color}(M_2)$  in P

(cf. Landman 2003 on Chromatic Contiguity for Segments)

# Overwriting by Circumfixation (Benefactive)

Input:	$\sigma$	$\mu$	$-\mu$	$\square \text{CONT}_\mu$	$\sigma$	$\mu$	$\text{DEP}^\sigma_\mu$	$\text{DEP}^\mu_\bullet$	$\text{MAX}^\sigma_\mu$	$\text{MAX}^\mu_\bullet$
	$\mu-$	$\mu$	$-$	V	$\uparrow$	$\downarrow$	$\bullet$	$\bullet$	$\uparrow$	$\downarrow$
a.					*		**	**	*	*
b.				*!			**	**		
c.	$\mu-$	$\mu$	$-\mu$	V			*!* **			

# Templatic Lengthening Blocks Additive Lengthening: Benefactive 3SG Forms (Andersen 1995:16,28)

- a. lè:r       $\Rightarrow$     lê:r                          'roll:BEN'  
lè:r       $\Rightarrow$     lè:r                          'roll:3SG'  
lè:r       $\Rightarrow$     lê:r      \*lê:r                          'roll:BEN:3SG'
- b. mì:t       $\Rightarrow$     m̄:t                          'pull:BEN'  
mì:t       $\Rightarrow$     m̄:t                          'pull:3SG'  
mì:t       $\Rightarrow$     m̄:t      \*m̄:t                          'pull:BEN:3SG'

# Templatic Lengthening Blocks Additive Lengthening

(3SG =  $\mu-$ )    (Benefactive =  $\mu-$  -  $\mu$ )

Input:	$\sigma$												
	$\mu-$	$\mu-$	$\mu$	$-\mu$	V	*V <sup>3</sup> □	*σ <sub>3</sub> □	□CONT <sub>μ</sub>	σ ↑	μ ↓	DEP↑	MAX↑	
a.	$\mu-$	$\mu-$	$\mu$	$-\mu$	V				*	*	**	***	**
b.	$\mu-$	$\mu-$	$\mu$	$-\mu$	V						**	***	**
c.	$\mu-$	$\mu-$	$\mu$	$-\mu$	V						**!	**	* *

# Summary and Prospects

- **The Phonology-Morphology Interface:**  
Phonology needs to distinguish morphemes, not to identify them  
(Flack 2007, Pater 2007)
- **Directionality of Affixation:**  
accounts for crucial differences in otherwise identical patterns of non-segmental morphology  
(cf. Anywa vowel shortening/length polarity, Zimmermann & Trommer 2011)
- **Templatic Overwriting:**  
results from circumfixation + CONTGUITY  
(cf. tonal overwriting in Dinka and Hausa, Inkelas & Zoll 2007)

## References

- Andersen, Torben (1995) Morphological stratification in Dinka: On the alternations of voice quality, vowel length and tone in the morphology of transitive verbal roots in a monosyllabic language, *Studies in African Linguistics* 23, 1–63.
- Flack, Kathryn (2007) Templetic morphology and indexed markedness constraints, *Linguistic Inquiry* 38:4, 749–758.
- Prince, Alan & Paul Smolensky (1993) Optimality Theory: Constraint interaction in generative grammar. Technical reports of the Rutgers University Center of Cognitive Science.
- Inkelas, Sharon & Cheryl Zoll (2007) Is Grammar Dependence Real? A Comparison between Cophonological and Indexed Constraint Approaches to Morphologically Conditioned Phonology, *Linguistics* 45(1), 133–171.
- McCarthy, John & Alan Prince (1995), Faithfulness and Reduplicative Identity, *University of Massachusetts Occasional Papers in Linguistics*, 249-384.
- van Oostendorp, Marc (2006) A Theory of Morphosyntactic Colours. Ms., Meertens Institute, Amsterdam.
- Pater, Joe (2007) Morpheme-specific phonology: Constraint indexation and inconsistency resolution. In: S. Parker, ed., *Phonological Argumentation: Essays on Evidence and Motivation*. London: Equinox.
- Trommer, Jochen & Eva Zimmermann (2011) Generalized Mora Affixation. Ms., University of Leipzig.

# Overview

## ① Background

Dinka

Theoretical Assumptions

## ② Additive Lengthening

Additive  $1\mu$ -Lengthening

Additive  $2\mu$ -Lengthening

Blocking of Cumulative Lengthening

## ③ Templatic Lengthening

Simple Templatic Lengthening

Blocking of Cumulative Lengthening

## ④ Summary