

Strength as an alternative to cycles

The intricate system of lexically determined stress in Moses-Columbian Salish (=MCS) is analysed in a system based on cyclic rule application in Czaykowska-Higgins (1985). I argue for an analysis of the MCS stress facts that assumes Gradient Symbolic Representations (Smolensky and Goldrick, 2016; Rosen, 2016), i.e. the assumption that phonological elements can have different degrees of presence in an underlying representation. The assignment of stress in MCS is then reduced to a competition between differently active underlying foot structure. This case study hence argues for a representational reanalysis of a pattern that is taken to be a strong argument for a cyclic account.

References

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