

***Selective Handout for***  
**Harmonic Alignment in Morphosyntax: Subject Selection**  
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**Harmonic Alignment**

(13) Harmonic Alignment ( $\mathcal{H}\bar{A}$ ) applies to a pair of scales. <sup>1</sup>

A structural, binary scale	An n-ary scale, usually substantive, e.g.
Syllable Structure Positions: Peak > Margin	Sonority Scale: $a > \dots > t$
Grammatical Functions: Subject > NonSubject Subject > Object Subject > Oblique	Role Scale: Agent > Patient Topicality Scale: T > t Person Scale: Local > 3 <sup>rd</sup> $1^{st} > 3^{rd}$ $2^{nd} > 3^{rd}$

(14) ... and derives harmonic alignments and constraint subhierarchies

$\mathcal{H}\bar{A}(X, Y)$	Harmonic Alignments	Constraint Subhierarchies
$\mathcal{H}\bar{A}(GF, Role)$	Su/Agent > Su/Patient Oj/Patient > Oj/Agent Obl/Patient > Obl/Agent	*Su/Patient » *Su/Agent *Oj/Agent » *Oj/Patient *Obl/Agent » *Obl/Patient
$\mathcal{H}\bar{A}(GF, Topicality)$	Su/T > Su/t Oj/t > Oj/T Obl/t > Obl/T	*Su/t » *Su/T *Oj/T » *Oj/t *Obl/T » *Obl/t
$\mathcal{H}\bar{A}(GF, Person)$	Su/Local > Su/3 Oj/3 > Oj/Local Obl/3 > Obl/Local	*Su/3 » *Su/Local *Oj/Local » *Oj/3 *Obl/Local » *Obl/3

<sup>1</sup> Alignment. Suppose given a binary dimension D<sub>1</sub> with a scale X > Y on its elements {X, Y}, and another dimension D<sub>2</sub> with a scale a > b ... > z on its elements. The harmonic alignment of D<sub>1</sub> and D<sub>2</sub> is the pair of Harmony scales:

$$H_x : X/a > X/b > \dots > X/z$$

$$H_y : Y/z > \dots > Y/b > Y/a$$

The constraint alignment is the pair of constraint hierarchies:

$$C_x : *X/z \gg \dots \gg *X/b \gg *X/a$$

$$C_y : *Y/a \gg *Y/b \gg \dots \gg *Y/z$$

(Prince and Smolensky 1993, 136)

**Some Case Studies from Aissen 1999**

(20) Simplifying assumptions:

- Since neither active nor passive violates \*Oj/Agt, this constraint is ignored.
- Syntactic obliques are restricted here to AGENT obliques.

*Subject selection determined solely by semantic role*

(21) Fox (Algonquian): All clauses with syntactically realized AGENT and PATIENT are active (Dahlstrom 1995)

\*Su/Pat » *GF/X*

x: Agent /3 <sup>rd</sup> /t y: Patient/Local/T	* <u>Su/Pat</u>	* <i>GF/X</i>
☞ ACT: Su/Agt/3/t Oj/Pat/Local/T		*****
PSV: Su/Pat/Local/T Obl/Agt/3/t	*!	*****

*Discourse status plays a role in subject selection*

(22) “English”: Passive occurs when patient is topical (Tomlin 1985; Thompson 1987)

\*Su/t » \*Su/Pat » *GF/X*

a.

x: Agent /3 <sup>rd</sup> /t y: Patient/3 <sup>rd</sup> /T	*Su/t	* <u>Su/Pat</u>	* <i>GF/X</i>
ACT: Su/Agt/3/t Oj/Pat/3/T	*!		*****
☞ PSV: Su/Pat/3/T Obl/Agt/3/t		*	*****

b.

x: Agent /3 <sup>rd</sup> /t y: Patient/3 <sup>rd</sup> /t	*Su/t	* <u>Su/Pat</u>	* <i>GF/X</i>
☞ ACT: Su/Agt/3/t Oj/Pat/3/t	*		*****
PSV: Su/Pat/3/t Obl/Agt/3/t	*	*!	*****

*Person plays a role in subject choice -- Salish (Jelinek and Demers 1983)*

(23) Lushootseed

a) Like English except that passives with local person agents are excluded (a common constraint).

		<u>Active</u>	<u>Passive</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup>	A, 3 <sup>rd</sup> P	yes	no
3 <sup>rd</sup>	A, 3 <sup>rd</sup> P	yes	yes
1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup>	A, 1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> P	yes	no
3 <sup>rd</sup>	A, 1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> P	yes	yes

b) Ranking: \*Obl/Local » \*Su/t » \*Su/Pat » \*GF/X

c)

x: Agent/1 <sup>st</sup> /t y: Patient/3 <sup>rd</sup> /T	*Obl/Local	*Su/t	* <u>Su/Pat</u>	*GF/X
ACT: Su/Agt/1/t Oj/Pat/3/T		*		*****
PSV: Su/Pat/3/T Obl/Agt/1/t	*!		*	****

(31) Lummi

a) Like Lushootseed except that active clauses with local person patients are ungrammatical.

		<u>Active</u>	<u>Passive</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup>	A, 3 <sup>rd</sup> P	yes	no
3 <sup>rd</sup>	A, 3 <sup>rd</sup> P	yes	yes
1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup>	A, 1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> P	yes	no
3 <sup>rd</sup>	A, 1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> P	no	yes

b) \*Obl/Local » \*Oj/Local » \*Su/t » \*Su/Pat » \*GF/X

c)

x: Agent/3/T y: Patient/1 <sup>st</sup> /t	*Obl/Local	*Oj/Local or *Su/3	*Su/t	* <u>Su/Pat</u>	*GF/X
ACT: Su/Agt/3/T Oj/Pat/1/t		*!			*****
PSV: Su/Pat/1/t Obl/Agt/3/T			*	*	****

d)

x: Agent/2 <sup>nd</sup> y: Patient/1 <sup>st</sup>	*Obl/Local	*Oj/Local or *Su/3	*Su/t	* <u>Su/Pat</u>	*GF/X
ACT: Su/Agt/2 Oj/Pat/1		*			*****
PSV: Su/Pat/1 Obl/Agt/2	*!			*	****

(25) Squamish (Salish) (Jelinek and Demers 1983)

a) Like Lummi except that 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> person patients behave differently...

		<u>Active</u>	<u>Passive</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup>	A, 3 <sup>rd</sup> P	yes	no
3 <sup>rd</sup>	A, 3 <sup>rd</sup> P	yes	yes
1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup>	A, 1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> P	yes	no
3 <sup>rd</sup>	A, 1 <sup>st</sup> P	yes	yes
3 <sup>rd</sup>	A, 2 <sup>nd</sup> P	no	yes

b) \*Obl/Local » \*Oj/2 » \*Su/t » \*Su/Pat » \*GF /X

c)

x: Agent/3 <sup>rd</sup> /T y: Patient/2 <sup>st</sup> /t	*Obl/Local	*Oj/2	*Su/t	* <u>Su/Pat</u>	*GF /X
ACT: Su/Agt/3/T Oj/Pat/2/t		*!			*****
☞ PSV: Su/Pat/2/t Obl/Agt/3/T			*	*	****

x: Agent/3/t y: Patient/1 <sup>st</sup> /t	*Obl/Local	*Oj/2	*Su/t	* <u>Su/Pat</u>	*GF /X
☞ ACT: Su/Agt/3/t Oj/Pat/1/t			*		*****
PSV: Su/Pat/1/t Obl/Agt/3/t			*	*!	****

**References for selective handout:**

Dahlstrom, A. (1995). Morphology and syntax of the Fox (Mesquakie) language, Manuscript, University of Chicago.

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Tomlin, R. (1985). Interaction of subject, theme, and agent. Beyond the sentence: discourse and sentential form. J. Wirth. Ann Arbor, Karoma Publishers: 61-80.