ABSTRACT

This dissertation explores a domain of Spanish morphology that is phonologically-conditioned. Dominant phonological constraints may cause word-formation processes to depart from the unmarked concatenative pattern. I examine a set of marginal word-formation processes where different alternatives to concatenative morphology are exploited in order to generate new lexical forms. The language game Jerigonza, word-blending, truncatory morphology and playful-wording are all processes whereby an alternate lexical item is created without morpheme concatenation.

On the basis that the new output form (NWO) reproduces derived properties of the source form (SF), such as syllable and foot structures, it is argued that SF is not an abstract input form but a fully-fledged output form. This approach is in line with recent proposals within Optimality and Correspondence Theories claiming that certain processes obey a correspondence relationship whereby two output forms are forced to retain a degree of resemblance that depends on the ranking of faithfulness constraints with respect to other active constraints. Consistent with the findings within Prosodic Morphology Theory, it is also shown that phonology and morphology interact through constraints that are defined in terms of phonological and morphological units. Alignment between the edges of these constituents is often a factor that determines NwO.
In word-blending, the sequential order of morphemes is broken when one of the SF's overlaps upon the other one. In order to satisfy an alignment condition, NwO must contain some segments with multiple correspondents in SF, which do not have to be featurally identical. In Jerigonza, the contiguity of SF is altered by the intrusion of epenthetic syllables that help NwO meet a prosodic configuration where the correspondent of every syllable in SF heads a disyllabic foot. In truncatory morphology, SF is minimized in favor of prosodic unmarkedness that is reflected at the prosodic-word level but also at the foot and syllable levels since NwO corresponds to a single binary foot projected on minimally-marked syllables. In playful-wording, SF is lengthened at its right edge through the introduction of an epenthetic syllable that helps avoid a word-final main-stressed foot.