

THE CONSONANTS OF GOSIUTE

by

Dirk Allen Elzinga

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As member of the Final Examination Committee, we certify that we have read the dissertation prepared by Dirk Allen Elzinga

entitled THE CONSONANTS OF GOSIUTE

and recommend that it be accepted as fulfilling the disseration requirement for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

Diana Archangeli Date

Richard Demers Date

Michael Hammond Date

John McLaughlin Date

Date

Final approval and acceptance of this dissertation is contingent upon the candidate's submission of the final copy of the disseration to the Graduate College.

I hereby certify that I have read this disseration prepared under my direction and recommend that it be accepted as fulfilling the dissertation requirement.

Dissertation Director Date

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SIGNED: _____

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Dedication

This dissertation is dedicated to the memory of Wick Miller.

And to my wife and son for their love and patience.

"No theory can exclude everything that is wrong, poor, or even detestable, or include everything that is right, good, or beautiful."

- Arnold Schoenberg

Table of Contents

Abstract	8
Chapter 1: Introduction	9
1. Gosiute as a Numic Language	9
2. Consonant Alternations and Numic "Final Features"	11
3. Theoretical Assumptions	15
3.1. Optimality Theory	15
3.2. Grounding	17
3.2.1. Positional Grounding	19
3.2.2. French Mid Vowels	24
4. Overview of the Dissertation	26
5. Empirical and Theoretical Contributions	28
Chapter 2: Continuancy and Voicing	30
1. Introduction	30
2. Continuancy: the generalizations	35
2.1. Consonants and continuancy	38
2.2. Frication in Gosiute	38
2.3. Tapping	43
2.4. Stridents	49
2.5. Summary	53
3. The voicing of obstruents	54
3.1. On the naturalness of voiceless obstruents	56
3.2. Post-nasal obstruent voicing	58
3.3. Excursus on NC homorganicity	61
3.4. Voicing and fricatives	63
3.4.1. Intervocalic voicing	63
3.4.2. Voicing and [+spread glottis]	65
3.4.3. Is Voicing distinctive for Gosiute fricatives?	69
3.5. Summary	72
4. Conclusion	73
Chapter 3: Introduction to the Final Features: Gemination	75
1. Introduction	75
2. Final features	75
3. Gemination	83
3.1. Descriptive generalizations	83
3.2. The representation of Gemination	85
4. The analysis of Gemination	88
4.1. The expression of Gemination	88
4.2. The surface absence of Gemination	90
4.2.1. Phrase-final Gemination	90
4.2.2. Prevocalic Gemination	91
4.2.3. Precontinuant Geminate deletion	93
4.3. Summary	94
5. Conclusion	95
Chapter 4: Nasalization	96
1. Introduction	96
2. Description of Nasalization patterns	96
2.1. The realization of Nasalization	97

Table of Contents—continued

3. Nasal Deletion	102
3.1. Phrase-final Nasal Deletion	103
3.2. Pre-vocalic Nasal Deletion	104
3.3. Pre-continuant Nasal Deletion	106
3.3.1. /ns/ clusters	108
3.3.2. /nh/ clusters	109
3.3.3. /nG/ clusters	110
3.4. Summary	111
4. Accusative Nasalization	111
4.1. Accusative Nasalization: the basic pattern	112
4.2. Accusative Nasalization and floating [nasal]	116
4.3. Summary	118
5. Conclusion	119
Chapter 5: Aspiration	121
1. Introduction	121
2. Description and Generalizations	125
3. The analysis of Aspiration	126
3.1. Aspiration and voiceless stops	126
3.2. Aspiration and nasals	131
4. Aspiration and Deletion	134
4.1. Phrase-final Aspiration Deletion	134
4.2. Prevocalic and Precontinuant Aspiration Deletion	136
4.3. Summary	137
5. Accusative Aspiration	137
5.1. Accusative Aspiration: the basic pattern	138
5.2. Accusative Aspiration and floating [+sg]	142
6. Conclusion	142
Chapter 6: Fronting and Palatalization	148
1. Introduction	148
2. Fronting and [+distributed]	151
2.1. Fronting data and generalizations	151
2.2. Analysis of Fronting	154
2.3. Summary of Fronting	158
3. Palatalization and [+strident]	159
3.1. Palatalization data and generalizations	159
3.2. Analysis of Palatalization	161
3.3. Summary of Palatalization	165
4. Chain Shifts and Local Conjunction in the Gosiute Constraint Set	165
5. Conclusion	170
Chapter 7: Concluding Remarks	172
1. Introduction	172
2. Grounding	172
3. Richness of the Base	175
4. The role of representations in OT	177
5. Why isn't this just phonetics?	178
6. Conclusion	179
References	180

Abstract

This dissertation is an analysis of the consonantal phonology of Gosiute, a member of the Numic group of Uto-Aztecan languages. The Numic languages are characterized by consonant alternations and distributional patterns which are rooted in patterns of phonetic naturalness. In this dissertation I provide an analysis of these patterns of distribution and alternation within the framework of Optimality Theory (Prince and Smolensky 1993). This dissertation accomplishes three things. First, it provides the most detailed treatment to date of the consonant system of a Numic language. Second, it demonstrates the efficacy of Grounding Theory (Archangeli and Pulleyblank 1994) in the analysis of the consonantal patterns under investigation. Third, it shows that Optimality Theory is up to the task of providing a framework for the analysis of large portions of the phonological system of a single language.