



# Huave Mobile Affixation and the Mirror Alignment Principle

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- San Francisco del Mar Huave (isolate, Mexico; Kim 2008) has *mobile affixes*: affixes that surface in different locations in the word depending primarily on *phonological* conditions.
  - In Huave, these conditions are: **avoidance of clusters** and **avoidance of epenthesis**.
- Kim (2008, 2010) [abbrev. K08, K10] shows that this can be analyzed as the interaction between alignment constraints and the phonological constraints \*CC and DEP in a cyclic cophonology approach.
- ★ **Today's goal:** Show that an equivalent analysis can be implemented fully in parallel.
- I will also point out two emergent differences between the two analyses:
  - A latent ordering distinction between Completive/Stative and Subordinate [§§3–4].
  - A principled distinction between mobile and immobile affixes [§5], which can be related to syntactic structure via the “Mirror Alignment Principle” (Zukoff 2020b) and BD-faithfulness [§6].

## 2. BASICS OF MOBILE AFFIXATION

- Completive (CP) /t/, Stative (ST) /n/, Subordinate (SB) /m~n/ are mobile affixes [“Aspect” (ASP)].
  - ★ Their behavior can be modeled by ranking [(1)]: (1) \*CC >> DEP(-IO) >> ALN-ASP-R [(3)]
    - *prefixation* to V(...)**C** stems (avoids right-edge cluster) [(3)]
    - *suffixation* to all other stem types (prefixation wouldn't improve w.r.t. clusters) [(2),(4),(5)]
- | /uju, m <sub>SB</sub> / | *CC | DEP | ALN-ASP-R |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----------|
| a. <sup>☞</sup> uju-m   |     |     |           |
| b. m-uju                |     |     | *!*       |
- | /mo <sup>h</sup> ko, t <sub>CP</sub> / | *CC  | DEP  | ALN-ASP-R |
|--|------|------|-----------|
| a. <sup>☞</sup> mo <sup>h</sup> ko-t   |      |      |           |
| b. t(o)-mo <sup>h</sup> ko             | (*!) | (*!) | ****      |
- | /uc, t <sub>CP</sub> / | *CC | DEP | ALN-ASP-R |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----------|
| a. uc-t                | *!  |     |           |
| b. uc-it               |     | *!  |           |
| c. <sup>☞</sup> t-uc   |     |     | **        |
| d. tu-uc               |     | *!  | ***       |
- | /CVC, t <sub>CP</sub> / | *CC | DEP | ALN-ASP-R |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----------|
| a. CVC-t                | *!  |     |           |
| b. <sup>☞</sup> CVC-it  |     | *   |           |
| c. t-CVC                | *!  |     | ***       |
| d. ti-CVC               |     | *   | *!***     |

## 3. 1ST PERSON /s/ AND COMPLETIVE/STATIVE

- Completives and Statives can be marked for 1st person with the mobile affix /s/. [e.g. (6–8)]
  - Relative order of 1 and CP/ST follows from the ranking: ALN-1-R >> ALN-ASP-R [(9)]
- | /uk <sup>w</sup> al, n <sub>ST</sub> , s <sub>1</sub> / | *CC | DEP | ALN-1-R     | ALN-ASP-R |
|---|-----|-----|-------------|-----------|
| a. uk <sup>w</sup> al-an-as                             |     | **! |             | ** [2]    |
| b. n-uk <sup>w</sup> al-s                               | *!  |     |             | ***** [5] |
| c. <sup>☞</sup> n-uk <sup>w</sup> al-as                 |     | *   |             | ***** [6] |
| d. s-uk <sup>w</sup> al-an                              |     | *   | *!***** [6] |           |
- | /uk <sup>w</sup> al, n <sub>ST</sub> , s <sub>1</sub> / | *CC | DEP | ALN-1-R     | ALN-ASP-R |
|---|-----|-----|-------------|-----------|
| a. uk <sup>w</sup> al-an-as                             |     | **! |             | ** [2]    |
| b. n-uk <sup>w</sup> al-s                               | *!  |     |             | ***** [5] |
| c. <sup>☞</sup> n-uk <sup>w</sup> al-as                 |     | *   |             | ***** [6] |
| d. s-uk <sup>w</sup> al-an                              |     | *   | *!***** [6] |           |
- ST /n/ & 1 /s/ both want to be suffixes (8a); this would violate DEP (or \*CC) twice.
  - This forces [n] to flop to left.
  - Epenthesis fixes unavoidable right-edge cluster (8c).

## 4. 1ST PERSON /s/ AND SUBORDINATE

- Cyclic analysis:** CP/ST attaches *first*, and *then* 1 /s/ attaches (both per (1)). *Same for SB, but...*
  - Subordinates too can be marked with 1 /s/ [(10)]. This requires ALN-SB-R >> ALN-1-R [(11)].
- | /ʃutu, n <sub>SB1</sub> , i <sub>FUT</sub> , s <sub>1</sub> / | ALN-FUT-L  | ALN-SB-R | ALN-1-R   |
|---|------------|----------|-----------|
| a. ʃutu-s-i-n   | **!*** [5] |          | ** [2]    |
| b. ʃutu-n-i-s   | **!*** [5] | ** [2]   |           |
| c. <sup>☞</sup> s-i-tʃutu-n                                   | *          | [1]      | ***** [6] |
| d. n-i-tʃutu-s  | *          | [1]      | *!*** [5] |
- Cand (11c) > \*i-tʃutu-s-un  
→ DEP >> ALN-FUT-L
- ★ **Parallel analysis:** SB doesn't pattern w/ CP & ST. **Cyclic analysis:** all 3 pattern together (K08,K10).  
→ The morphosemantics and morphosyntax of these affixes recommends this division.

## 5. PLURAL /n/ AND NON-PHONOTACTIC EPENTHESIS

- The rankings, summarized in (12) (see Zukoff 2020a), make the prediction in (13):
- 
- (13) **PREDICTION:** No vowel-initial verb-word has cluster-breaking epenthesis.
- ★ This prediction fails when we look at the **plural morphemes**, e.g. default PLURAL /n/. [(14)]  
→ always rightmost suffix, *even if this leads to unnecessary epenthesis* ⇒ ALN-PL-R >> DEP
- Analysis requires Base-Derivative faithfulness (SG→PL) to prevent 2 /e/ from migrating rightward.
    - Independently necessary to generate overapplication of diphthongization in plural (\*i<sup>n</sup> *diman*).
- | [e- <sup>n</sup> dim-an] | [e- <sup>n</sup> dim] | /(a) <sup>n</sup> dim, e <sub>2</sub> , n <sub>PL</sub> / | BD-FAITH | ALN-PL-R  | DEP | ALN-2-L |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|----------|-----------|-----|---------|
| 2-want-PL                | 2-want                | a. <sup>☞</sup> e- <sup>n</sup> dim-an                    |          |           | *   |         |
| ‘you (pl.) want’         | ‘you (sg.) want’      | b. n-e- <sup>n</sup> dim                                  |          | *!*** [4] |     | * [1]   |
| [K08:249]                | [K08:249]             | c. <sup>n</sup> dim-e-n                                   | *!       |           |     | *** [3] |
- ★ **Parallel analysis:** direct correlation between (im)mobility and position:  
→ PL's rightmost-ness and epenthesis-tolerance are both driven by the high ranking of ALN-PL-R.
  - Cyclic analysis:** no inherent correlation; coincidence is accidental.

## 6. PERSON, NUMBER, AND THE MAP

- Zukoff's (2020b) “Mirror Alignment Principle” [The MAP] (17) allows us to “reverse engineer” the (morpho)syntax from alignment rankings, generating the tree in (18).
- (17) **THE MAP:** If  $\alpha$  *asymm. c-commands*  $\beta$  → ALN- $\alpha$  >> ALN- $\beta$ .
- A (near-)universal from the literature (e.g. Trommer 2001, Harbour 2016):  
→ NUMBER is structurally higher than PERSON
  - ★ The MAP yields *phonological* evidence that Huave conforms to this.  
→ Supported also by BD-faithfulness configuration.
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## REFERENCES

× Harbour, Daniel. 2016. *Impossible Persons*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press • Kim, Yuni. 2008. Topics in the Phonology and Morphology of San Francisco del Mar Huave. PhD Diss, UC Berkeley • Kim, Yuni. 2010. Phonological and Morphological Conditions on Affix Order in Huave. *Morphology* 20(1):133–163 • Trommer, Jochen. 2001. Distributed Optimality. PhD Diss, Uni Potsdam • Zukoff, Sam. 2020a. Another Look at Huave Mobile Affixation. Talk Presented at Zoom Phonology, UC Berkeley, *online*, 9/10/2020., <https://www.samzukoff.com/berkeley2020handout> • Zukoff, Sam. 2020b. The Mirror Alignment Principle: Morpheme Ordering at the Morphosyntax-Phonology Interface. Ms., Leipzig University, 8/24/2020. <https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/005374> ×