

Consonant harmony as feature spreading

This talk examines three empirical arguments against a spreading analysis of consonant harmony: (i) harmony may apply across (unaffected) segments that have the harmonizing feature; (ii) blocking is relatively rare and restricted; (iii) consonant harmony affects similar segments. I show that these properties are not unique to consonant harmony, but can be found in other types of assimilation. I provide a unified analysis of these patterns by using feature spreading and OT constraints.

Peter Jurgec