

## TOWARDS A GESTALT PHONOLOGY

William M. Christie, Jr., Department of English, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85721, USA

Raimo Anttila (1977) has offered in outline form a suggestion for what he refers to as a Gestalt Linguistics, an alternative to the atomistic reductionism that has dominated modern linguistics, particularly in the United States, for well over half a century. In this paper I particularize Anttila's proposals to phonology and sketch the outlines of a Gestaltist approach to phonology. The crucial notion that allows the creation of such a model is the complementarity of various approaches in a dynamic tension without requiring of them full integrational compatibility. The approaches to be used are the particle, wave, and field models described by Pike (1959), with the field model particularized as Pike has it to functional field. The method of holding these sometimes conflicting approaches together determines a particular analysis of the goals of phonological theory that limits studies to attempts to gain whatever insights may be available without assuming that the final result will be a comprehensive picture of God's truth about phonology.

References

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