

THE ROLE OF TIME IN PHONOLOGICAL REPRESENTATIONS

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In most current phonological theories, time is taken simply as a dimension in which phonological representations are performed. Feature systems are frequently classifications based on articulatory space features and acoustic quality features. Time may be mentioned explicitly, e.g. in such features as [\pm length] , or implicitly, e.g. in such features as [\pm delayed release]. A demonstration is offered that despite these apparent concessions to time, modern phonologies deal in segment-sized units which have no systematic or principled temporal characterisation.

A view of phonological representations is put forward where time is taken as a constitutive feature, not merely as a dimension of performance, and an attempt is made to interrelate the notions of representation and allegro speech with psychomotor categories. For instance, instructions such as fade the signal, prolong the signal and switch off the signal are built into phonological representations. The hierarchic relations among these instructions and their behaviour in allegro speech are discussed, and used as the basis for the explanation of a significant number of sorts of phonological change. Further, in the light of the historical discussion, severe empirical limitations are imposed upon the nature of phonological representations and upon the type of rules which can be included in phonological systems. For example, the role of the segment is weakened, and intra-word anticipatory rules (phonological) are barred.