

**Fine-Grained Historical Stages
in a Partial Grammar
of my Idiolect of English¹**

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Time (min.)

0:00 Constraint promotion: SAYSOMETHING >> {Markedness, Faithfulness}

(1) SAYSOMETHING: Speaker must not remain silent, regardless of his own feelings in the matter.

0:01 Evaluation of null input:

/ /	FTBIN	PARSE	SAY SOMETHING	Markedness	Faithfulness
a. [null]			*!		
b. ɪ^{e} (?Λ:)					***
c. (?Λ)	*!				**
d. ?Λ		*!			**
e. (fΛk)				**	**!*

0:010001 Utterance: “Uhhh...”

0:02 Constraint promotion: *OPENMOUTH >> SAYSOMETHING

(2) *OPENMOUTH: Assign one violation mark to every jaw lowering.

0:03 Evaluation of null input:

/ /	*OPENMOUTH	SAYSOMETHING	Markedness
a. [null]		*!	
b. (?Λ:)	*!		
c. ɪ^{e} (?m:)			**

0:030001 Utterance: “Mmm...”

0:04 Constraint promotion: *EVENTRYANYMORE >> *OPENMOUTH

¹ The analysis is carried out using Optimality Theory (Prince & Smolensky 1993), particularly the Correspondence variety (McCarthy & Prince 1993, 1995). My apologies to the authors of those works.

- (3) *EVENTRYANYMORE: Assign one violation mark to every segment involving vocal cord vibration.

0:05 Evaluation of null input:

/ /	*EVENTRYANYMORE	*OPENMOUTH	SAYSOMETHING
a. [null]			*!
b. (ʔʌ:)	*!*	*	
c. (ʔm:)	*!*		
d. ʔ (hm:)			

0:050001 Utterance: (sigh)

References

- McCarthy, John, and Prince, Alan (1993). "Generalized Alignment." In *Yearbook of Morphology 1993*:79-153, eds. Geert Booij and Jap van Marle. Dordrecht: Kluwer.
- (1995). "Faithfulness and reduplicative identity." In *University of Massachusetts Occasional Papers in Linguistics 18: Papers in Optimality Theory*, eds. Jill Beckman, Laura Walsh Dickey, and Suzanne Urbanczyk, 249-384. GLSA, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. ROA #60.
- Prince, Alan, and Smolensky, Paul (1993). *Optimality Theory: Constraint Interaction in Generative Grammar*, ms., Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, and Univ. of Colorado, Boulder. ROA 537-0802. [Published 2004 by Blackwell].