

## Parameters in Phonology and Morphosyntax

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The parameters in languages have been discussed since generative linguistics started to consider the universals and variation in the world's languages (Chomsky 1981). Generative linguists have proposed a number of morphosyntactic parameters such as head directionality parameter and the compounding parameter (Snyder 2001) (cf. Baker 2001: 183). Also in phonology, Hayes (1980) proposes some parameters for the stress system of languages, and Selkirk (1986) the edge parameter for phonological phrasing. As phonological theory shifted to Optimality Theory in 1990s, variation between languages has been described by constraint ranking (van Oostendorp 2015). For example, Truckenbrodt (1999) proposes constraints such as Wrap XP and Align XP-L/R, which he argues are ranked differently among languages.

It is true that these parameters or ranked constraints are useful in explaining language variation. However, if we think of language acquisition, we need to minimize the number of parameters and try to find some implicational relations between parameters. In this talk, I explore an idea that the value of dominance parameter (left/right in a foot) in phonology decides the head directionality in syntax, which in turn decides the edge of phonological phrasing and the productivity/recursivity of compounding in morphology. The implicational relation between phonology and morphosyntax helps us to narrow the width of language variation and to understand the universals of human languages. I also argue that this “phonology first” hypothesis matches the minimalist program, which assumes that syntax is universal while variation is at the interfaces (Chomsky 2012).

### References

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