

A Dynamic Model of Partial Transparency in Harmony

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Coeur d'Alene Salish exhibits a pattern of uvularization/pharyngealization harmony in which some vowels undergo harmony to only an intermediate degree. In some morphemes, the high front vowel fully retracts to surface as low and back, while in others it retracts only partially. I analyze this as a case of partial transparency, and use it to argue for a theory of transparency in harmony based on competition between dynamically-defined gestures. Under this approach, harmony is the result of a gesture extending in duration to overlap additional gestures in a word. Intergestural competition arises when an overlapped gesture's goal articulatory state is directly antagonistic to that of a harmonizing gesture. The outcome of this competition over which gesture's articulatory goal is met is determined by the gestures' relative strengths. Full transparency, widely attested across harmony systems, arises when the gesture of a transparent segment is strong enough to fully counteract the effect of a harmonizing gesture. Partial transparency, exemplified by Coeur d'Alene Salish, arises when a transparent gesture is of intermediate strength and only partially counteracts the effect of a harmonizing gesture. The Coeur d'Alene Salish case supports a dynamical model of transparency in harmony via intergestural competition.