



Preface

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This is a handbook of phonological theory, and is thus neither a textbook nor a collection of research papers. Its goal is to provide its readers with a set of extended statements concerning mainstream conceptions of phonological theory in the first half of the 1990s, and perhaps beyond. The contributors have taken as their charge to bring together the leading ideas in the areas that they describe; in general, their aim has not been to provide new approaches so much as to offer a new synthesis of the ideas that are currently in the field.

This handbook is thus ideally suited for the reader who has a background in phonology but who wants to know more about a particular subarea. A book such as my *Autosegmental and Metrical Phonology* (1990) or Kenstowicz's *Phonology in Generative Grammar* (1993), or the older *Generative Phonology* (1979) by Kenstowicz and Kisseberth, would be more than adequate background for the present volume.

Most of the topics covered in this book need no explanation. It will come as no surprise to see articles on syllable structure, on metrical structure, and on feature geometry. Some topics have not been addressed directly for want of a general consensus at the time the book was constructed. For example, while there has been considerable discussion regarding the correct relationship between constraints on representations and phonological rules, there is no single chapter that focuses on this question. The reader concerned with this issue will find discussions in several of the chapters (especially [chapter 1](#), [chapter 2](#), and [chapter 9](#)), and more generally, the reader will find theoretical issues discussed in several chapters, with referencing through the index. A smaller set of issues, however, that might be expected to merit a chapter in this volume do not appear because of unforeseen misadventures and calamities over which authors and editors have no control. In the event, we have tried to make up for the losses with additional details in the chapters that are present.

The final eight chapters have a somewhat different character than the earlier material. They were submitted in response to invitations to write chapters for this handbook which would focus not so much on theoretical issues as on the aspects of particular languages (or language families) which have been particularly important in recent theoretical literature. If it had been possible, I would have liked to extend this section to include a hundred essays of this sort, but editorial limitations have precluded that possibility, and I hope that the reader will not regret the absence of an additional chapter on (for example) the phonology of Native American languages, or South American languages, for they too would have served well here. It simply was not possible to cover all of the areas of the world.

In a book of any size, but especially one of this length, there will have been many people who have helped it along to its completion. The kind people at Blackwell Publishers have put in a great deal of work and enthusiasm, beginning with Philip Carpenter, whose brainchild it was in the first place. Steve Smith and Andrew McNeillie are also to be thanked for their editorial work, as is Ginny Stroud-Lewis as picture researcher. On this side of the Atlantic, Charlene Posner, copy editor extraordinaire, improved the grammar and exposition in ways too numerous to count. Iretha Phillips, here in the Linguistics Department at the University of Chicago, came to the rescue several times when needed.

Gail Brendel and Andra Dainora helped greatly with the final production.

The contributors, of course, made this volume a reality. Some contributors went far beyond the call of duty. John Ohala's efforts (unbidden and much appreciated) to help see the bibliography through to its final form have much improved it. Friends, students, and colleagues were helpful in finding errors and suggesting improvements; I would particularly like to thank Diane Brentari and Hisami Suzuki for their aid.

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