

24.900: Introduction to Linguistics

Class Notes: Phonology Cont.

1. Unordered rule application

UR	#p̄red#	parade
Stress	#p̄réd#	
Schwa Deletion	#préd#	
Liquid-Glide devoicing	#préd#	
Diphthongization	#préjd#	
Vowel Lengthening	#pré:jd#	
PR	[pré:jd]	

Notice that no **incorrect** forms would result if, say, the schwa-deletion rule attempted to apply before the stress rule. Because its environment is not present, the schwa-deletion rule would simply fail to apply. However, once the stress rule was applied, the schwa-deletion rule would then follow in its turn, ultimately leading to a correct phonetic representation. What these facts suggest is that rules in a feeding relationship may apply in free order, each attempting to apply wherever the required conditions are met. The result will be the desired phonetic output.

Two different dialects

DERIVATION OF *WRITER* and *RIDER* IN DIALECT A

UR	#rayt̪r#	#rayd̪r#
Lengthening Rule	X	ra:yd̪r
Flapping Rule	rayΓ̪r	ra:yΓ̪r
Surface Form	[rayΓ̪r]	[ra:yΓ̪r]

DIALECT B

UR

#rayt̪r#

#rayd̪r#

Flapping

Rule

rayɾ̪r

rayɾ̪r

Lengthening

Rule

ra:yɾ̪r

ra:yɾ̪r

Surface

Form

[ra:yɾ̪r]

[ra:yɾ̪r]