

Asymmetries in phonological cliticisation: diachrony and experimental evidence

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Non-isomorphy between syntax and phonology for phonological word formation (as against a lexical word) is not unusual. There is ample historical evidence that encliticisation is the norm rather than the exception, particularly in Germanic, but also elsewhere. Similar support is available from experiments concerning normal language production. Compounds, too, appear to behave like individual prosodic units rather than independent words. Indeed, similar encliticisation of compounds is also not uncommon. After tracing trochaic grouping through several centuries, we examine recent experimental evidence based on native and non-native production of English, suggesting that phonological word formation follows a trajectory of its own, often disregarding syntactic grouping.

With Frans Plank, Linda Wheeldon, & Hilary Wynne