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0521472806 - Lexical Phonology and the History of English

April McMahon

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This book has two main goals: the re-establishment of a rule-based phonology as a viable alternative to current non-derivational models, and the rehabilitation of historical evidence as a focus of phonological theory. Although Lexical Phonology includes several constraints, such as the Derived Environment Condition and Structure Preservation, intended to reduce abstractness, previous versions have not typically exploited these fully. The model of Lexical Phonology presented here imposes the Derived Environment Condition strictly; introduces a new constraint on the shape of underlying representations; excludes underspecification; and suggests an integration of Lexical Phonology with articulatory phonology. Together, these innovations ensure a substantially more concrete phonology. The constrained model is tested against a number of well-known processes of English, Scottish and American accents, including the Vowel Shift Rule, the Scottish Vowel Length Rule, and [r]-Insertion, and draws interesting distinctions between what is derivable by rule and what is not. Not only can this Lexical Phonology model the development of low-level variation to phonological rules, and ultimately to dialect differentiation in the underlying representations; but a knowledge of history also makes apparently arbitrary synchronic processes quite natural. In short the phonological past and present explain one another.

April McMahon is Lecturer in Phonology and Historical Linguistics in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Cambridge.

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# LEXICAL PHONOLOGY AND THE HISTORY OF ENGLISH

APRIL McMAHON

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University of Cambridge*



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PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
 The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
 The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK [www.cup.cam.ac.uk](http://www.cup.cam.ac.uk)  
 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011–4211, USA [www.cup.org](http://www.cup.org)  
 10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Melbourne 3166, Australia

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First published 2000

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

Typeset in Times 10/13pt. [CE]

*A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data*

McMahon, April M. S.

Lexical Phonology and the history of English / April McMahon.

p. cm. – (Cambridge studies in linguistics; 91)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0 521 47280 6 hardback

1. English language – Phonology, Historical. 2. English language –  
 History. 3. Lexical Phonology. I. Title. II. Series.

PE1133.M37 2000

421'.5 – dc21 99–28845 CIP

ISBN 0 521 47280 6 hardback

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0521472806 - Lexical Phonology and the History of English  
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**For Aidan and Fergus, who make life so much fun**

Contents

	<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>page</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>The rôle of history</b>	1
1.1	Internal and external evidence	1
1.2	Lexical Phonology and its predecessor	5
1.3	Alternative models	13
1.4	The structure of the book	33
<b>2</b>	<b>Constraining the model: current controversies in Lexical Phonology</b>	35
2.1	Lexical Phonology and Morphology: an overview	35
2.2	Why constraints? Halle and Mohanan (1985)	50
2.3	Current controversies	53
<b>3</b>	<b>Applying the constraints: the Modern English Vowel Shift Rule</b>	86
3.1	Introduction	86
3.2	The Vowel Shift Rule and the Derived Environment Condition	88
3.3	Problems for lax-vowel Vowel Shift Rule	94
3.4	Problems for Level 1 Vowel Shift Rule	127
<b>4</b>	<b>Synchrony, diachrony and Lexical Phonology: the Scottish Vowel Length Rule</b>	140
4.1	Introduction	140
4.2	A brief external history of Scots and Scottish Standard English	141
4.3	The Scots dialects and Scottish Standard English: synchronic linguistic characteristics	145
		ix

x	<i>List of contents</i>	
4.4	Internal history	151
4.5	The Scottish Vowel Length Rule in Present-Day Scots and Scottish Standard English	170
4.6	From sound change to phonological rule	195
<b>5</b>	<b>Dialect differentiation in Lexical Phonology: the unwelcome effects of underspecification</b>	205
5.1	Introduction	205
5.2	Length, tenseness and English vowel systems	206
5.3	For and against the identity hypothesis	209
5.4	Underspecification	215
<b>6</b>	<b>English /r/</b>	230
6.1	Introduction	230
6.2	English /r/: a brief outline	231
6.3	Non-rhotic /r/: an insertion analysis	234
6.4	Alternative analyses	247
6.5	Synchronic arbitrariness and diachronic transparency	264
6.6	Lexical Phonology and English /r/	277
6.7	Retrospect and p[r]ospect	283
	<b>Bibliography</b>	286
	<b>Index</b>	302

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0521472806 - Lexical Phonology and the History of English  
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## *Acknowledgements*

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Most of this book was written during a sabbatical leave from the University of Cambridge, and a term of research leave awarded by the Humanities Research Board of the British Academy, which I acknowledge with gratitude and in the absolute certainty that I couldn't have done the job otherwise. Heinz Giegerich, who was my PhD supervisor longer ago than either of us would really like to believe, has been unstintingly generous with his time and ideas and a reliable dispenser of concise and effective pep-talks. Colleagues too numerous to mention have listened to talks based on chunks of the book, shared information and made useful comments; and Paul Foulkes, Francis Nolan, Peter Matthews and Laura Tollfree have read drafts of various sections and helped reravel unravelling arguments. Roger Lass has waded through the lot at various stages, and been unfailingly constructive; and the thought of the ouch factor in his comments has saved me from all sorts of excesses I might otherwise have perpetrated. And last but not least, my heartfelt thanks to Rob, Aidan and Fergus for being there (albeit two of them from only part-way through the project).

Selwyn College, Cambridge