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Principles of dependency phonology

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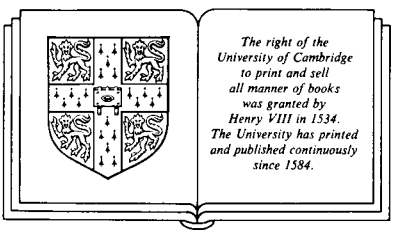

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Preface

Books which, like the present one, set out to provide a detailed account of a particular current approach to some general area of study, in this case phonological representation, can, in a sense, never be 'timely' overall. The framework under discussion is in a continuous state of development, both in terms of its own internal evolution as it interacts which an expanding range of phenomena for which it has to provide descriptions, and with respect to how it is defined in relation to rival and complementary approaches to what can be taken, pre-theoretically, to be the same (or a similar) domain, themselves also subject to constant revision. In addition, despite authorial attempts at consistency, the time which is required for the development of an extended presentation of this sort almost inevitably leaves marks of the work's history, in the form, for instance, of sections associated with different stages in its evolution. These remarks are not intended as any sort of *apologia* for the present work specifically; as we have indicated, it seems to us that the 'timing' problem faces any such undertaking. However, they may throw some light on the form taken by the following discussion.

In particular, we have concentrated on the explication of notions which have remained central to the framework of dependency phonology since its inception in the work of Anderson & Jones in the early 1970s, such as the single-valued feature, or component, hypothesis, and of course the relevance of the dependency relations to different domains, both segmental and suprasegmental. At the risk of replicating arguments available elsewhere, and in some cases scarcely fashionable, we have tried not to take too much for granted in our exposition of these central concepts. On the other hand, we have not attempted to provide histories of the development of particular ideas, except where this throws light on a central or currently relevant argument. The volume does offer, however, the most fully developed theory of phonological representation based on

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these central properties, together with (in the final chapter) a consideration of some consequences for other aspects of phonology.

The non-linear framework of representation presented in *Sound pattern of English* (Chomsky & Halle 1968) is taken as providing a well-defined basis for analytic comparison with respect to the central properties of dependency phonology. The last few years have also seen the emergence of alternative conceptions of phonological structure which also deny the 'minimalism' of Chomsky & Halle's model. They involve proposals concerning either segmental or suprasegmental structure or both, specifically within frameworks generally labelled 'autosegmental', 'metrical', 'particle' or 'natural'. We have attempted in the course of the book to relate our work to these alternatives; however, such comparisons are limited to general properties (such as the characterisation of 'prominence') rather than the detailed analysis of particular phenomena. We are reassured in pursuing our own work by the recognition of 'convergence' from different theoretical standpoints on a number of structural principles akin to those proposed in what follows (cf., for example, Anderson, Ewen & Staun 1985; Goldsmith 1985).

Various more or less fragmentary introductions to the dependency model have appeared elsewhere: e.g. Anderson & Jones (1974, 1977); Anderson & Ewen (1980b); Anderson, Ewen & Staun (1985). The most extended presentation, particularly of material relevant to Part II of this book, is in Ewen's thesis (1980a). A range of work of this period, by the present authors and others, appears in the Ludwigsburg collection (Anderson & Ewen 1980a). More recent contributions to dependency and related theories are collected in Durand (1986a).

The evolution of this book over the last few years has benefited from the reactions of a range of people to preliminary versions of parts of it, as well as to other writings on and oral presentations of aspects of dependency phonology. We should particularly like to mention Henning Andersen, Fran Colman, Mike Davenport, Ailie Donald, Jacques Durand, Heinz Giegerich, Inger Henriksen, Harry van der Hulst, Charles Jones, Ken Lodge, Cathair Ó Dochartaigh, Jørgen Staun, Menekse Suphi, Martine Veenhof, Nigel Vincent, and an anonymous Cambridge University Press reviewer. Frits Beukema, Roger Lass and Martina Noteboom deserve especial thanks for reading and commenting on the entire manuscript. Finally, thanks to Penny Carter for patiently and good-humouredly steering this work through its final stages.

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