

Harmonic Uniformity and Hungarian front/back harmony

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ABSTRACT

In the paper we argue against the traditional assumption about the relationship between morphology and harmony in Hungarian according to which monomorphemic and polymorphemic (suffixed) forms behave in the same way harmonically within the domain of harmony. We show that the harmonic properties of the root are inherited by morphologically complex forms based on the root and this can override the phonological restrictions on harmony. We propose an Optimality Theory analysis of the interaction between the phonological constraints on harmony and the paradigm uniformity constraint Harmonic Uniformity.

KEYWORDS

Hungarian, front/back harmony, variation, neutral vowels, Count Effect, Height Effect, Polysyllabic Split, Harmonic Uniformity, paradigm uniformity, harmonic domains, morphology-phonology interaction

1. INTRODUCTION

The traditional assumption about the relationship between vowel harmony and morphology in Hungarian is that (i) the domain of harmony is the (phonological) word, which is defined so that prefixes and some affixes fall outside the domain and the constituent parts of compounds form separate harmonic domains; furthermore, that (ii) morphologically simplex¹ and complex

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¹ Assuming that disharmonic roots (e.g. *fofő:r* ‘chauffeur’), whose type frequency is very low, are exceptions to vowel harmony.

forms behave in the same way harmonically within the domain of harmony as identified in (i) above (e.g. Siptár & Törkenczy 2000).

However, the relationship between Hungarian vowel harmony (HVH) and morphology is more complex than what is traditionally assumed: specifically, (a) domain boundaries that different phenomena refer to tend not to coincide (cf. Törkenczy 2011; Rebrus et al. 2012)² and are not always categorical (e.g. “compoundness” may be gradient) and this can influence harmonic behaviour (Rebrus & Törkenczy 2017a), and (b) within the harmonic domain the harmonic properties of the root are inherited by morphologically complex forms based on the root and this can even override the phonological restrictions on harmony such as the Height Effect, the Count Effect and the Polysyllabic Split, see Section 2. In this paper we explore the relationship between Hungarian front/back harmony and morphology focussing on the latter set of phenomena ((b) above), which we will refer to as *Harmonic Uniformity* (sometimes also referred to as harmonic consistency or harmonic stability, cf. Törkenczy et al. 2013; Rebrus & Törkenczy 2017b; 2019 and Rebrus & Szigetvári 2016; Rebrus et al. 2017; Törkenczy 2019). The analysis proposed does not attribute disharmony between stem and suffix to differences in harmonic domains and does not consider stem-internal disharmony as exceptional – thus both fall within the purview of the analysis.

The phenomena where HVH and Harmonic Uniformity interact in an interesting way concern transparency and antiharmony (cf. Section 2), i.e. situations where the neutral vowels *i*, *ie*, *e*, *ε* (which are phonetically front) occur in disharmonic strings. The paper is organised in the following way: in Section 2 we present a brief overview of the phonological aspect of front/back harmony background with the Height Effect, the Count Effect and the Polysyllabic Split in focus and in Section 3 we examine the interaction of Harmonic Uniformity with the phonological harmony patterns discussed in Section 2. In Section 4 we present an Optimality Theory analysis of front/back harmony and Harmonic Uniformity. We conclude with a summary in Section 5.

2. BACKGROUND: FRONT/BACK HARMONY

In this section we briefly summarise the phonological properties of and the phenomena associated with front/back harmony, which serve as a background to our main focus, harmonic uniformity.

The basic phonological facts of Hungarian front/back harmony are well-known (e.g. Törkenczy 2011; Rebrus & Törkenczy 2019; for the literature see Törkenczy 2021): it is a root-controlled type of harmony in which vowels harmonise according to backness within the harmonic domain, usually identified as the phonological word (which excludes compounds and some affixes). Disharmony with the rounded front vowels *o*, *ø*, *y*, *γ* within the domain is avoided but there are neutral vowels, which systematically tolerate disharmony. In this paper we define neutrality empirically, based on the (type) frequency of disharmonic sequences in surface forms and not as a derivative of (some property of an) underlying representation (e.g. Siptár & Törkenczy 2000). A vowel that frequently occurs in sequences of syllables where it disagrees in the harmonic property with the vowel of an adjacent syllable is a harmonically *neutral* vowel (N)

²The sheer number of alternations that are involved in these “domain mismatches” makes it impossible to make a domain-based analysis work in a non-stipulative way.



and the disharmonic string in which it occurs is *weakly disharmonic*. The vowels that do not or rarely (unsystematically) occur in disharmony are the *harmonic* vowels (front **ø, œ, y, ʏ**: (F)) and back **u, ʊ, o, ɔ, ɑ, ɐ**: (B)) and the rare disharmonic strings in which they happen to occur are *strongly disharmonic*.

In Hungarian front/back harmony there are four neutral vowels (the unrounded front vowels **i, ɪ, ɛ, e**)³, whose neutrality manifests itself in the following (potentially) disharmonic patterns: (a) root phonotactics: N vowels freely combine in disharmony in roots ([...BN...], [...NB...])⁴, e.g. **hamiʃ** ‘false’, **vila:g** ‘world’; (b) antiharmony: *some* all-neutral roots require the B alternant of a harmonically alternating suffix ([N]B, e.g. **di:j-at** (***di:j-et**) ‘prize-ACC’); (c) transparency: after a B vowel, an N vowel is followed by a B vowel in a harmonically alternating suffix ([...BN]B, e.g. **zokni-to:l** (***zokni-tø:l**) ‘sock-ABL’); (d) invariance: the harmonically invariant suffixes (almost) exclusively have N vowels ([...B]N, e.g. **haz-ig** ‘house-TERM’, **haz-e:rt** ‘house-CAUS’). We show this in the table in (1) below, where each N vowel is evaluated separately. Cells with pluses are shaded; values in parentheses indicate that a few exceptions do occur.

(1) Neutral and harmonic behaviour

	a. roots	b. antiharmony	c. transparency		d. suffixes	
	can occur in disharmony with harmonic V [BN], [NB]	can occur in antiharmonic roots [N]B	can be transparent [BN]B	cannot be opaque *[BN]F	can be invariant [F]N~[B]N	cannot be alternating *[F]N~[B]B
i(:)	+	+	+	+ ⁵	+	+ ⁶
e:	+	+	+	—	+	—
ɛ	+	— ⁷	+	—	— ⁸	—
F/B	(—)	—	—	—	(—)	—

Since the shaded cells in (1) mark prototypical neutral behaviour, it is clear that the neutral vowels show gradience in neutrality (from most neutral to least neutral): **i(:)**⁹ > **e:** > **ɛ**. Hayes & Cziráky Londe (2006) has referred to this as the Height Effect only with respect to transparency, but it is clear

³Note that in the formal OT analysis in Section 4 we will introduce a further division of neutral vowels because of the intermediate properties of **ɛ**.

⁴Square brackets mark morpheme boundaries in formulae.

⁵Except in very limited cases in foreign place names, where optionally a front suffix alternant can occur, e.g. **minusinsk-ban/ben** ‘Minusinsk-INF’; see Fejes & Rebrus (2019).

⁶Except the suppletive SG3 definite **-ja~i** suffix, see Section 4.1.

⁷Except in two bound stems: **herv-**, **derek-**, see below.

⁸Except in the diminutive suffixes **-es**, **-er**, which are not agglutinative and not harmonically alternating, and therefore they are beyond the scope of this analysis (see Rebrus & Szigetvári 2021).

⁹Long and short **i(:)** behave in the same way.



that the Height Effect manifests itself in the other patterns of neutrality separately and in the overall tolerance of (weak) disharmony by N vowels involving all the four patterns (cf. Rebrus et al. 2020).

If we focus on the dynamic aspect of front/back harmony, i.e. suffix alternation (b, c and d in (1)), we find that phonology underdetermines suffix harmony when patterns with N vowels are involved. This manifests itself in variation: the same phonological conditions (vocalic patterns), specifically, the harmonic environments [N]_ and [BN]_ are associated with more than one kind of harmonic behaviour (the occurrence of F or B harmonic suffix alternants). In the case of antiharmony this is *lexical variation*: some [N] roots are antiharmonic ([N]B, e.g. **ʃir-to:l** (***ʃir-to:l**) ‘grave-ABL’), others are not ([N]F, e.g. **hír-to:l** (***hír-to:l**) ‘news-ABL’). For [...BN] roots, variation means *vacillation*: one and the same [...BN] root may get either a front or a back harmonic suffix alternant ([...BN]F%B, e.g. **fotel-ban** or **fotel-ben** ‘armchair-INESS’). The probability of vacillation obeys the Height Effect. It depends on the rank the N vowel has in the neutrality scale: the lower the rank, the more probable it is that variation occurs (and the higher the probability of the F suffix alternant is).

2.1. Transparency and the Height Effect

It can be seen in (1) above that the transparency of neutral vowels is gradient. **i(:)** are fully transparent in all lexical items,¹⁰ **e:** is fully transparent in most lexical items (**ta:ne:r-ban**, ***ta:ne:r-ben** ‘plate-INESS’) and variably transparent in some (**arze:n-nal** % **arze:n-nel** ‘arsenic-INSTR’), and **ɛ** tends to be variably transparent (**fotel-ban** or **fotel-ben**), but can be fully transparent (**matek-ɔʃ**, ***matek-ɛʃ** ‘math-ADJ’) or fully opaque (***kontsert-on**, **kontsert-en** ‘concert-SUPERESS’) in some lexical items. Furthermore, lexemes can differ in the degree of variation (the ratio of F/B suffix alternants) they manifest (and this is gradient, too). This means that while variation in transparency as manifested in vacillation is subject to the Height Effect, it also displays lexical variation. Transparency is not only conditioned by the identity of the neutral vowel, but also the lexical class of the stem it occurs in, (especially) for **e:** and **ɛ**.¹¹

2.2. Transparency and the Count Effect

There is another effect on the transparency of neutral vowels in addition to the Height Effect. The *Count Effect* (Ringen & Kontra 1989; Hayes & Cziráky Londe 2006; Hayes et al. 2009) is due to the distance between the harmonic trigger vowel and the suffixal target vowel: the longer the sequence of N vowels separating the trigger from the target is, the less transparent the string of N vowels is.¹² The Count Effect manifests itself in vacillation [BNN]F/B: **alibi-val** % **alibi-vel** ‘alibi-INSTR’. It also interacts with the Height Effect: although **i(:)** are fully transparent, N+i(:)

¹⁰But see footnote 5 above.

¹¹“Familiar” [...Be:] words (native words, old loans, frequent recent loans, e.g. **ta:ne:r** above) show no vacillation and get a back suffix alternant while “foreign” [...Be:] words (relatively recent loans such as **arze:n**) vacillate. Since all [...Be:] words belong to the “foreign” lexical class, they tend to induce vacillation. Further lexical subclasses are also involved: **ɛ** is fully transparent in “cultural” [...Be] words, but tends to be opaque in “slangy” ones (especially when the suffix is vowel-initial), cf. Forró 2013; Rebrus & Törkenczy 2019; Rebrus et al. 2020).

¹²This practically means exactly two N vowels. There are very few [BNNN⁺] roots and they behave in the same way as [BNN] roots, e.g. **horribilis-to:l/to:l** ‘horrible-ABL’. The scarceness of data does not permit further generalisation.



strings are variably transparent (i.e. [BNi(:)] stems induce vacillation e.g. **alibi-val** % **alibi-vel**). N^+e strings behave in the same way (e.g. **klarine:t-tal** % **klarine:t-tel** ‘clarinet-INST’). However, in spite of the variable transparency of ϵ , $N^+\epsilon$ strings are fully opaque and consequently [BNe] stems permit no vacillation and require a front harmonic suffix alternant, e.g. ***mandiner-bo:l**, **mandiner-bø:l** ‘rebound-ELAT’.¹³ There is very little lexical variation associated with the Count Effect. [...BNN] roots are all recent loans and belong to the “foreign” lexical class, but a few are reclassified as “familiar” because of their high frequency. Thus in these stems the string of N vowels is fully (or highly) transparent and they show no (or very little) vacillation, e.g. **a:prili:š-ban**, ***a:prili:š-ben** ‘April-INE; **poziti:v-ak**, ?***poziti:v-ek** ‘positive-PL’.

2.3. Antiharmony and the Polysyllabic Split

Antiharmony shows lexical variation, i.e. it is unpredictable which all-neutral root is antiharmonic and which one is not and thus roots of identical vocalic makeup can behave differently harmonically, e.g. **šir-to:l** ‘grave-ABL’ but **hír-tø:l** ‘news-ABL’, **irt-ok** ‘annihilate-1SG.INDEF’ but **int-ek** ‘wave-1SG.INDEF’, **he:j-aš** ‘shell-ADJZ’ but **ke:j-eš** ‘lust-ADJZ’, etc. However, antiharmony is also subject to phonological constraints: (i) the Height Effect (cf. (1)): most antiharmonic roots have **i(:)**, a few have **e:** and none has ϵ ,¹⁴ and (ii) the Polysyllabic Split, a prosodic constraint that requires that antiharmonic root morphemes should be monosyllabic, e.g. **kilintš-tø:l** ‘door handle-ABL’ (***kilintš-to:l**), **vide:k-rø:l** ‘country-DEL’ (***vide:k-ro:l**). We summarise the Polysyllabic Split in (2) where a star marks the existence of a low number of exceptions.

(2) Antiharmony and the Polysyllabic Split

Root vowel	i(:)	e:	ϵ
[N]	+ –	– +	–*
[NN+]	–*		

3. HARMONIC UNIFORMITY

When we compare the harmonic behaviour of non-vacillating monomorphemic [...BN] stems (e.g. **kotši** ‘car’, **ka:ve:** ‘coffee’) with morphologically complex stems of harmonically identical relevant vocalic makeup whose N vowel is an invariant suffix (**jog-i** ‘law-ADJZ’, **ha:z-e:** ‘house-3SG.POSS’), we may conclude that front/back harmony (in this case, transparency) is independent of the morphological makeup of the stem since morphologically simplex and complex stems behave in the same way harmonically:¹⁵ e.g. **kotši-ban** ‘car-INE’, **jog-i-ak** ‘law-ADJZ-PL’; **ka:ve:-to:l**

¹³The interaction of the Count Effect with the Height Effect manifests itself in a more nuanced way in the gradience/probability of vacillation, which we abstract away from in this paper, cf. Rebrus & Törkenczy (2016b) for details.

¹⁴There are a handful of exceptions: the bound root **herv-** (**herv-ad**, **herv-ast** ‘wither’), one alternant of the root **derek** (**derek-a**, **derek-uk** etc. ‘waist-3SG/3PL. . . POSS’) and some variably antiharmonic roots (of socially/stylistically restricted use) e.g. **švejtš-ban** ‘Switzerland-INE’, **špejz-ban** ‘pantry-INE’.

¹⁵Within the harmonic domain.



‘coffee-ABL’, **haz-e-to:l** ‘house-POSS-ABL’.¹⁶ However, this simple relationship only holds under these specific conditions and the interaction between harmony and morphology is more intricate.

This intricacy is due to a morphological constraint on harmony in suffixed forms we will refer to as Harmonic Uniformity. Harmonic Uniformity is an output-output constraint, which holds between surface forms (see e.g. [Benua 1995](#); [Kenstowicz 2005](#)). It requires that within the extended paradigm of a stem (which includes all singly or multiply suffixed forms with harmonically alternating suffixes whether inflectional or derivational, cf. [Steriade 2000](#)) harmonic behaviour must be consistent in that all the alternating suffixes occurring in the forms within the paradigm must have identical harmonic values (F, B or vacillating F/B). Harmonic Uniformity can be stated as (3) (cf. [Rebrus & Törkenczy 2016c](#); [Rebrus et al. 2017](#)):

(3) HARMONIC UNIFORMITY

All the harmonic suffixes have identical harmonic values (F, B or F/B) within the paradigm of a stem.

On the one hand, this means that (i) any given alternating suffix must agree in its harmonic value with that of any other alternating suffix in any word form within the extended paradigm (this is the paradigmatic aspect of Harmonic Uniformity), so e.g. if **bolt-ok**, ***bolt-ek**, ***bolt-ok** ‘shop-PL’, then **bolt-ban**, ***bolt-ben** ‘shop-INNESS’, and **bolt-unk**, ***bolt-yнк** ‘shop-3PL.POSS’, etc. On the other hand, (ii) in any given form all the alternating suffixes must have identical harmonic values (this is the syntagmatic aspect of Harmonic Uniformity), e.g. **bolt-ok-ban**, ***bolt-ek-ban**, ***bolt-ok-ben** ‘shop-PL-INNESS’, etc.

In the examples above, where the vowels of the stem unambiguously determine the harmonic behaviour of the alternating suffixes, Harmonic Uniformity applies trivially, i.e. in agreement with the phonological properties of the stem. However, there are more interesting cases when the vowels of the stem underdetermine its harmonic behaviour (cf. Section 2 above) and it is also suffixed with invariant suffixes whose vowel is neutral. Table (4) shows the ways in which Harmonic Uniformity works in these cases with harmonic and antiharmonic roots.

3.1. Harmonic Uniformity and transparency

(4) shows singly and multiply suffixed alternating and non-alternating harmonic (4a) and antiharmonic (4b) roots. In the formulae the abbreviations for natural classes of vowels are the following: F [–back], B [+back], N [–back, –round]. The first rows in (4ab) contain a non-alternating root (**di:s** ‘ornament’, **hi:g** ‘thin’), the second and third rows alternating ones (“epenthetic” **iker** ~ **ikr-** ‘twin’, **pisok** ~ **pisk-** ‘dirt’ and “truncating”¹⁷ **be:ke** ~ **be:k-** ‘peace’, **be:na** ~ **be:n-** ‘paralised’), and the last two rows contain bound roots (**se:d-** ‘dizzy’, **je:r-** ‘hurt’, **vi:f-** ‘scream’, **izg-** ‘excited’).

¹⁶This is the reason why analyses of HVH usually assume that morphological complexity does not matter within the harmonic domain.

¹⁷“Epenthetic” and “truncating” are just labels and not meant to suggest an analysis.



(4) Harmonic Uniformity and root alternations

a. with harmonic roots

root: [N(F)]	[NN]F	[N]F	[[N]N]F
di:s	—	di:s-yk	di:s-i:t-yŋk
iker ~ ikr-	iker-tø:l	ikr-yk	—
be:ke ~ be:k-	be:ke:-tø:l	be:k-yl	be:k-i:t-yŋk
se:d-	—	se:d-yl	se:d-i:t-yŋk
ʃe:r-	—	ʃe:r-yl, ʃe:r-t-ø:	—

b. with anti-harmonic roots

root: [N(B)]	[NB]B	[N]B	[[N]N]B
hi:g	—	hi:g-ak	hi:g-i:t-uŋk
pisok ~ pisk-	pisok-ra	pisk-oʃ	pisk-i:t-ok
be:na ~ be:n-	be:na-ʃa:g	be:n-ul	be:n-i:t-a:ʃ
viʃ-	—	viʃ-oŋg	viʃ-i:t-ok
izg-	—	izg-ul, izg-at	—

The last rows in both parts of (4) the singly suffixed forms of the harmonic and antiharmonic bound roots **ʃe:r-** and **izg-** show the paradigmatic application of Harmonic Uniformity: the former consistently takes the front suffix alternants (e.g. **ʃe:r-yl** ‘become hurt’) and the latter the back ones (**izg-ul** ‘fret’). The doubly suffixed forms in the last column show the syntagmatic application of Harmonic Uniformity: the harmonic type of the root is preserved in the multiply suffixed forms even if there is an invariant N suffix between the root and the alternating suffix, which appears in its front alternant when the root is front harmonic and its back alternant when the root is antiharmonic (**di:s-i:t-ve** ‘ornament-VERBZ-ADVZ’, **be:k-i:t-yŋk** ‘peace-VERBZ-1PL’, **se:d-i:t-yŋk** ‘dizzy-VERBZ-1PL’, **hi:g-i:t-uŋk** ‘thin-VERBZ-1PL’, **pisk-i:t-ok** ‘dirt-VERBZ-1SG.NDF’, **be:n-i:t-a:ʃ** ‘paralised-VERBZ-NOMZ’, **viʃ-i:t-ok** ‘scream-VERBZ-1SG.NDF’). A comparison of the first and fourth rows shows that it makes no difference whether the root is free (**di:s**, **hi:g**) or bound (**se:d-**, **viʃ-**). The examples where the root appears in an alternant lacking the information (a vowel) that unambiguously determines harmony and is present in the *other* root alternant are especially interesting. “Epenthetic” stems (whose final syllable loses its vowel before a vowel-initial suffix, e.g. **iker** ~ **ikr-**, **pisok** ~ **pisk-**) and some vowel-final stems (whose final vowel is “truncated” before certain suffixes, e.g. **be:ke** ~ **be:k-**, **be:na** ~ **be:n-**) belong here. Harmonic Uniformity uniquely determines harmonic behaviour even in these cases: **ikr-ek** ‘twin-PL’ but **pisk-oʃ** ‘dirt-ADJZ’ since we have e.g. **iker-re** ‘twin-SUBL’, but **pisok-ra** ‘dirt-SUBL’; **be:k-i:t-es** but **be:n-i:t-as** since we have e.g. **be:ke:-tø:l** ‘peace-ABL’ but **be:na-ʃa:g** ‘paralised-NOMZ’. In such cases the phonological information missing from a specific form is available in the paradigm and accessible via Harmonic Uniformity. The identical harmonic behaviour of monomorphemic stems like e.g. **radir** ‘rubber eraser’ and morphologically complex ones like **tan-i:t** ‘teach’ (both require back suffix



alternants, e.g. **radir-oz** ‘rubber eraser-VERBZ’, **tan-it-ok** ‘teach-1SG.INDEF’) might (mis)lead us to think (cf. e.g. Siptár & Törkenczy 2000) that harmony is independent of morphological complexity and Harmonic Uniformity plays no role. Epenthetic and truncating stems provide independent evidence for Harmonic Uniformity.

Further evidence can be found when we examine cases when harmony based on phonological structure/makeup (including the Height Effect, the Count Effect and the Polysyllabic Split, cf. Section 2) is in conflict with Harmonic Uniformity. In these cases it is always Harmonic Uniformity that prevails.

Table (5) illustrates the conflict between Harmonic Uniformity and the Count Effect.¹⁸

(5) Harmonic Uniformity and transparency

Stem type	Harmonic Uniformity (morphology)			Transparency (phonology)
I	II	III		IV
$[X]_{\mu}Y$	$[X]_{\mu}Z$	$[[X]_{\mu}Y]Z$		$[XY]Z$
a. [B]B ha:z-a	ha:z-to:l *ha:z-tø:l	ha:z-a-to:l *ha:z-a-tø:l	=	pa:ra-to:l *pa:ra-tø:l
b. [B]N ha:z-i	ha:z-to:l *ha:z-tø:l	ha:z-i-to:l *ha:z-i-tø:l	=	va:dli-to:l *va:dli-tø:l
ci. [[B]N]N ha:z-e-i	ha:z-to:l → *ha:z-tø:l	ha:z-e-i-to:l *ha:z-e-i-tø:l	= ≠	aske:ziŋ-to:l aske:ziŋ-tø:l
cii. [BN]N madrid-i	madrid-to:l → *madrid-tø:l	madrid-i-to:l *madrid-i-tø:l	= ≠	alibi-to:l alibi-tø:l
di. [BNN]N martinik-i	martinik-to:l martinik-tø:l	martinik-i-to:l martinik-i-tø:l	=	horribiliŋ-to:l horribiliŋ-tø:l
dii. [Bε]N haver-i	haver-to:l haver-tø:l	haver-i-to:l haver-i-tø:l	=	bakelit-to:l bakelit-tø:l

In (5) we examine the doubly suffixed forms $[[X]_{\mu}Y]Z$ in column III whose second suffix **Z** is a harmonically alternating one (ablative **-to:l~tø:l**) by comparing them to the forms in the other columns. Column I contains suffixed forms that are identical to those in III minus the last alternating suffix (ablative **-to:l~tø:l**). Column II has singly suffixed forms of the roots $[X]_{\mu}$ in columns I and III where the suffix is a harmonically alternating one (the ablative): $[X]_{\mu}Z$. Column IV shows forms whose vocalic pattern preceding the final suffix is the same as the corresponding forms in the first column but their morphological structure is different in that they are monomorphemic stems suffixed by a single harmonically alternating suffix (the

¹⁸Glosses: **ha:z** ‘house’, **ha:z-a** ‘house-3SG.POSS’, **ha:z-a-to:l** ‘house-3SG.POSS-ABL’, **ha:z-i** ‘house-ADJZ’, **ha:z-i-to:l** ‘house-ADJZ-ABL’, **ha:z-e-i** ‘house-POSS-PL’, **ha:z-e-i-to:l** ‘house-POSS-PL-ABL’; **madrid** ‘Madrid’, **madrid-i** ‘Madrid-ADJZ’, **madrid-i-to:l** ‘Madrid-ADJZ-ABL’; **martinik** ‘Martinique’, **martinik-i** ‘Martinique-ADJZ’, **martinik-i-to:l/-tø:l** ‘Martinique-ADJZ-ABL’; **haver** ‘mate’, **haver-i** ‘mate-ADJZ’, **haver-i-to:l/-tø:l** ‘mate-ADJZ-ABL’; **para** ‘mist’, **va:dli** ‘calf (leg)’; **aske:ziŋ** ‘asceticism’; **alibi** ‘alibi’; **horribilis** ‘horrible’; **bakelit** ‘Bakelite’.



ablative): [XY]Z. The equals sign (=) means that phonological harmony and Harmonic Uniformity are not in conflict and the not equal sign (\neq) indicates that they are.

(5a) shows that if the suffixes of a multiply suffixed stem ([X]Y)Z are harmonically alternating ones (Y, Z), then morphological structure makes no difference. Harmonic Uniformity and harmony both exclude the disharmonic form: **ha:z-a:-tø:l* violates Harmonic Uniformity (cf. *ha:z-tø:l*) and phonological harmony too (compare **para:-tø:l*). We can see the same in (5b): the form in column III is a doubly suffixed back harmonic root whose first suffix has the N vowel *i* and is invariant (the adjective-forming suffix *-i*) and the second one is harmonically alternating (ablative *-tø:l~tø:l*). Again, the difference in morphological structure does not matter: ungrammatical **ha:z-i-tø:l* is not supported by Harmonic Uniformity (since the paradigm of *ha:z* does not have any forms with a front alternant of a harmonically alternating suffix, e.g. **ha:z-tø:l*, see column II) and is also excluded by phonological harmony (since the N vowel *i* is fully transparent; compare **vadli-tø:l*, see column IV). Thus, in (5ab) we can see cases where Harmonic Uniformity and phonological harmony both exclude the same form (suffix alternant), i.e. they are not in conflict. In (5di, dii) we can see similar cases in which they are not in conflict, with the difference that Harmonic Uniformity and phonological harmony both support both suffix alternants (i.e. vacillation, forms with either harmonic suffix alternant). The multiply suffixed forms in column III of (5di, dii) which have the same morphological structure/suffixes as those in (5b) vacillate (*martinik-i-tø:l/tø:l*, *haver-i-tø:l/tø:l*) – this is supported by Harmonic Uniformity (since the other harmonically suffixed members of their paradigm vacillate too, e.g. *martinik-tø:l/tø:l*, *haver-tø:l/tø:l*, see column II) and is permitted by phonological harmony (since the Count Effect requires vacillation in stems of this vocalic makeup anyway, e.g. *horribilij-tø:l/tø:l*, *bakelit-tø:l/tø:l*, see column IV). Thus, since Harmonic Uniformity and phonological harmony predict the same result in these cases, it would be enough to refer to only one of them to capture harmonic behaviour.

However, the interesting cases appear in (5ci, cii) where Harmonic Uniformity and phonological harmony conflict. In (5ci) we can see a multiply suffixed form where the root is a back-harmonic one followed by two invariable suffixes whose vowel is neutral (anaphoric possessive *-e*: plural *-i*) and a harmonically alternating suffix (ablative *-tø:l~tø:l*). Since the paradigm of the root does not have forms with a front alternant of a harmonically alternating suffix (e.g. **ha:z-tø:l*, see column II), Harmonic Uniformity does not support the multiply suffixed form with the front alternant of the ablative suffix. Therefore, **ha:z-e:-i-tø:l* is ungrammatical even though harmony predicts vacillation because of the Count Effect as can be seen in the form in column IV *aske:zif-tø:l/tø:l*, which has the same vocalic makeup. In (5cii) we show a multiply suffixed form with a single invariable suffix whose vowel is neutral (adjective-forming *-i*) followed by a harmonically alternating suffix (ablative *-tø:l~tø:l*). The difference from (5ci) is that this time the (single) invariable suffix is attached to a mixed root whose second vowel is *i* ([. . . Bi] *madrid*). The paradigm of *madrid* does not contain forms with a back alternant of a harmonically alternating suffix (since *i* is fully transparent, e.g. **madrid-tø:l* in column II), therefore Harmonic Uniformity does not support the form **madrid-i-tø:l*, which is ungrammatical. Accordingly, there is no vacillation in spite of the fact that harmony predicts it because of the Count Effect (compare *alibi-tø:l/tø:l* in column IV).

3.2. Harmonic Uniformity and antiharmony

In this section we examine a further instance of this relationship, this time related to antiharmony or more specifically the Polysyllabic Split, the phonological constraint on lexical variation in



antiharmony (see 2.3) which restricts antiharmony to monosyllabic stems. This can be seen in (6) below. The forms in (6abc) have the same morphological structure as those in the corresponding rows of (5abc) and the columns (6 I, II, III, IV) correspond to the respective columns of (5). The only difference is that the root **hi:d** we focus on in (6) is antiharmonic. Again, the not equal sign (\neq) indicates conflict between phonological harmony and Harmonic Uniformity.

(6) Harmonic Uniformity and antiharmonic stems¹⁹

Stem type	Harmonic Uniformity (morphology)			Polysyllabic Split (phonology)
I	II	III		IV
$[X]_{\mu}Y$	$[X]_{\mu}Z$	$[[X]_{\mu}Y]Z$		$[XY]Z$
a. [N]B hi:d-ja	hi:d-to:l *hi:d-tø:l	hi:d-ja-to:l *hi:d-ja-tø:l	=	vira:g-to:l *vira:g-tø:l
b. [N]N hi:d-e:	hi:d-to:l → *hi:d-tø:l	hi:d-e-to:l *hi:d-e-tø:l	\neq	*bide:-to:l bide:-tø:l
c. [[N]N]N hi:d-e:-i	hi:d-to:l → *hi:d-tø:l	hi:d-e-i-to:l *hi:d-e-i-tø:l	\neq	*sinte:ziʃ-to:l sinte:ziʃ-tø:l

In (6a) column I the last suffix (as well as the first) of the the doubly suffixed form must occur in its back alternant (**hi:d-ja-to:l**) because the paradigm of the root **hi:d** only has forms with the back alternants of harmonising suffixes since it is antiharmonic (e.g. **hi:d-to:l**, ***hi:d-tø:l**, see column II). This is exactly what phonological harmony requires for a singly suffixed form with the same vocalic structure (compare **vira:g-to:l**, ***vira:g-tø:l**, see column IV). However, Harmonic Uniformity and phonological harmony *are* in conflict when a harmonically alternating suffix is attached to a stem that consists of an antiharmonic root followed by one (6b) or more than one (6c) invariant neutral-vowel suffix. In these cases the harmonic suffix must occur in its back alternant (**hi:d-e-to:l**, **hi:d-e-i-to:l**, see column III) due to Harmonic Uniformity (e.g. **hi:d-to:l**, ***hi:d-tø:l**, see column II) although phonological harmony would require a front alternant (compare ***bide:-to:l**, **bide:-tø:l**, ***sinte:ziʃ-to:l**, **sinte:ziʃ-tø:l**, see column IV) where the examples cannot be antiharmonic because of the Polysyllabic Split (cf. Section 2.3).

3.3. Interim summary

To sum up, in most of the cases the effect of Harmonic Uniformity follows from (or is in agreement with) the phonological constraints on vowel harmony and the behaviour of neutral vowels ((5abd), (6a)). However, in some cases (and these always involve invariant suffixes with neutral vowels) harmony and Harmonic Uniformity are in conflict and then it is always the latter that wins out,²⁰ i.e. the morphological structure via the paradigmatic constraint overrides

¹⁹Glosses: **hi:d** 'bridge', **hi:d-ja** 'bridge-3SG.POSS', **hi:d-ja-to:l** 'bridge-3SG.POSS-ABL', **hi:d-e:** 'bridge-POSS', **hi:d-e-to:l** 'bridge-POSS-ABL', **hi:d-e-i** 'bridge-POSS-PL', **hi:d-e-i-to:l** 'bridge-POSS-PL-ABL', **vira:g** 'flower', **bide:** 'bidet', **sinte:ziʃ** 'synthesis'.

²⁰However, see the discussion about the special case of invariant back suffixes in Section 4.1, tableau (8iv).



the phonological constraints on harmony and neutral vowels (Rebrus & Törkenczy 2016c). In the case of transparency this reduces variation (cf. (5c)) by banning vacillation (**madrid-i-to:l/*****-tø:l** although **alibi-to:l/*****-tø:l**). In the case of antiharmony, when Harmonic Uniformity overrides the Polysyllabic Split (cf. (6bc)), lexical variation increases since antiharmony extends over polysyllabic stems too (**hi:d-e-to:l** although **bide-to:l**), cf. Rebrus & Törkenczy (2017a).

Harmonic Uniformity applies at morpheme level and not at the level of morphs. This means that the harmonic behaviour of a root *morpheme* is consistent, i.e. every cell of the extended paradigm of a given root must realise identical harmonic values (the forms in every cell must be all front harmonic (F), or back harmonic (B) or every cell must contain both F and B forms (F/B)). This, however, does not imply that every possible F, B or F/B (vacillating) form (exponent) must be present in every cell. This distinction becomes crucial in the case of vacillation. For instance, harmonic vacillation in a cell may be realised in more than one way with the **-ja~je~a~ε** 3SG.POSS suffix allomorphs in the possessive forms of vacillating stems (logically, there are 9 possible ways). The stems **hotel** ‘hotel’, **notes** ‘notebook’ and **haver** are vacillating stems (cf. **hotel-to:l/tø:l** ‘hotel-ABL’, **notes-to:l/tø:l** ‘notebook-ABL’ and **haver-to:l/tø:l**), therefore they must have both F and B forms in every cell of their paradigms in accordance with Harmonic Uniformity. However, this does not mean that they have to make use of *all* the 3SG.POSS suffix allomorphs (**-ja~je~a~ε**) to realise vacillation in the relevant cells of their paradigms. **hotel-ja/je/ε/*a** ‘hotel-3SG.POSS’ satisfies Harmonic Uniformity just like **notes-a/ε/*ja/*je** ‘notebook-3SG.POSS’ or **haver-ja/je/*a/*ε** ‘mate-3SG.POSS’ since the 3SG.POSS cells of their paradigms contain both forms with front suffix alternants and forms with back suffix alternants just like the other cells of their paradigms. It makes no difference for Harmonic Uniformity that in the first case this is realised by three forms as opposed to just two in the second and third cases.

There are systematic violations of Harmonic Uniformity in backness harmony (cf. Rebrus & Törkenczy 2019) including the (very few) invariant suffixes with harmonic (back) vowels (e.g. temporal **-kor** and verbal suffixes **-a:l**, **-ol**) and the behaviour of forms with certain invariant diminutive suffixes. We will discuss these in Section 4.²¹

4. ANALYSIS

In this section we present an analysis of the interaction between front/back harmony and Harmonic Uniformity. It is an Optimality Theory (OT) analysis in that it evaluates competing candidates based on how they fare on a potentially ranked set of constraints (e.g. Prince & Smolensky 1993/2004), but it is different from canonical OT in important respects. The candidate set is not an infinite number of forms generated by an omnipotent Generator, but rather actually occurring surface forms or potential forms resulting from the combination of available suffix allomorphs with the relevant stems. The constraints that evaluate the competing forms are not assumed to be part of UG but are conceived of as language-specific generalisations over (sets of) surface forms that the speakers have memorised (cf. Archangeli & Pulleyblank 2015a,b; 2017; Rebrus et al. 2017).

The “composite” tableaux below follow the conventions and notations usual in Optimality Theory except that (i) the first cell of the first column does not contain an underlying

²¹Harmonic Uniformity does not apply in rounding harmony (for a detailed discussion cf. Rebrus & Törkenczy 2019).



form,²² but a morphological/morphosyntactic description of the forms considered, (ii) each tableau is a composite of several parallel tableaux (each row is one) so the competing candidates appear *within* each row (i.e. the rows labelled alphabetically are not competing candidates), (iii) as is usual, a star denotes a violation but for ease of reference we have also indicated what exactly the violation is: (a) a string in violation of a constraint appears in parentheses next to the star (i.e. **(xy)* means that the string *xy* violates the relevant constraint), (b) in the case of a paradigm uniformity constraint a description of grammatical harmonic behaviour (a formula) appears next to the star in curly brackets (i.e. **{Root+B}* means that the paradigm of the Root only contains listed forms with back alternants of harmonic suffixes and the constraint is violated because the candidate does not have a back suffix alternant). Starred candidates are ungrammatical, grammatical (“winning”) candidates are emboldened. In the tableaux we omit length marks in formulae to save space.

4.1. Harmonic and neutral vowels

(7i) shows the simple case of front/back harmony applying with harmonic stems when combined with a harmonically alternating suffix (here, the suffix **-uk/-yk** ‘3PL’). We distinguish two versions of the harmony constraint in accordance with the difference in the tolerance/frequency of disharmony between harmonic vs. neutral vowels (see Section 2). HAR-F penalises strong disharmony (disharmony with harmonic vowels: **FB*, **BF*) and HAR-N penalises weak disharmony (disharmony involving neutral vowels: **NB*, **BN*). Technically, we will not consider *ε* as a member of the harmonic (F) and the neutral (N) set: because of its intermediate harmonicity/neutrality it will have a special status and constraints specific to it.²³ As can be seen in (7i:a) and (7i:b) HAR-N selects the grammatical candidates (**ka:r-uk** ‘damage-3PL’, **bø:r-yk** ‘skin-3PL’). HAR-F is ranked above HAR-N. The latter plays no role in the selection of the grammatical candidates in (7i:ab), but it is necessary as can be seen in (7i:c) where it selects the grammatical candidate (**hir-yk** ‘news-3PL’) in the case of a harmonic all-neutral root (e.g. **hir**).

(7i) Harmony (simple cases) – F = {y, y:, ø, ø:}, N = {i, i:, e:}

<i>ROOT</i> + _{3PL}	HAR-F (*FB, *BF)	HAR-N (*NB, *BN)
a. ka:r-uk *ka:r-yk	*(ay)	
b. *bø:r-uk bø:r-yk	*(øu)	
c. *hir-uk hir-yk		*(iu)

(7ii) compares the behaviour of all-neutral harmonic and antiharmonic roots (the latter can only contain a neutral vowel, cf. (1)) when combined with a harmonically alternating suffix. This is

²²The analysis does not refer to underlying forms.

²³See Section 4.2. and figure (14).



the first point in the analysis of harmony where Harmonic Uniformity (cf. (3)) plays a role. HARUNI is a paradigmatic uniformity constraint which compares the forms being evaluated to all the harmonically suffixed forms in the extended paradigm of the relevant stem with respect to their harmonic behaviour F, B, B/F (which may be different depending on the stem). These other forms are assumed to be listed, stored by the speaker (Steriade 1999; 2008) and used as a reference set to predict the grammatical realisation (candidate) of the form examined.²⁴ The stem **hi:r** in (7ii:a) is a harmonic one (cf. (7i)), **ʃi:r** ‘grave’ in (7ii:b) is antiharmonic and the all-neutral stem in (7ii:c) is one whose paradigm is unknown (it has no other stored forms, e.g. it is a recent loan (e.g. **hi:v** ‘HIV’), a foreign name (e.g. **grintʃ** ‘Grinch’) or a nonce word (e.g. **jint**), etc.).

(7ii) Neutral vowels in harmonic and antiharmonic roots

<i>ROOT</i> + _{3PL}	HAR-F (*FB, *BF)	HARUNI	HAR-N (*NB, *BN)
a. *hi:r-uk hi:r-yk		*{hi:r+F}	*(iu)
b. ʃi:r-uk *ʃi:r-yk		*{ʃi:r+B}	*(iu)
c. *N-uk N-yk			*(iu)

Since these stems only contain neutral vowels (recall that antiharmonic stems never have harmonic vowels), HAR-F plays no role in selecting the grammatical candidates. Phonology (HAR-N) and morphology (HARUNI) overlap in (7ii:a): they both advocate (and exclude) the same candidates, but they are in conflict in the case of antiharmonic stems, when HARUNI determines harmonic behaviour (this is expressed by ranking HARUNI above HAR-N). As can be seen phonological shape partially underdetermines harmony (7ii:a) vs. (7ii:b). Indeterminacy is not absolute because HAR-N *does* play a crucial role if HARUNI is inactive because there are no stored forms in the paradigm (7ii:c). This explains why antiharmony is not productive and all-neutral loans and nonce words take the front alternants of harmonically alternating suffixes.

We have pointed out that antiharmony is systematically restricted to roots that contain neutral vowels only. (7iii) is how this generalisation is implemented in the present analysis, i.e. it explains why this type of lexical variation cannot occur with roots with a harmonic vowel. In the first column of (7iii:ab) F and B are roots whose last vowel is front and back harmonic, respectively. We can see that HAR-F excludes antiharmonic behaviour by selecting the candidates that are not involved in strong disharmony. Again, this shows that even though phonological harmony and morphology may overlap in some cases (e.g. (7ii:a)), phonology *can* decide when they are in conflict (e.g. (7iii:ab)). (7iii) assumes that other forms of the roots examined are known (stored), hence the violations of HARUNI. Note, however, that the analysis works in the

²⁴One can think of this as a version of the “Paradigm Cell Filling Problem”, cf. Ackerman et al. (2009), Finkel & Stump (2009).



same way even if we assume that the roots have just been borrowed or are nonce words since paradigm uniformity (morphology) is recessive in this case and therefore it makes no difference if HARUNI is violated or not.

(7iii) The impossibility of non-neutral vowels in antiharmonic roots

<i>ROOT</i> + _{3PL}	HAR-F (*FB, *BF)	HARUNI	HAR-N (*NB, *BN)
*a. F-uk *F-yk	*(Fu)	*{F+B}	
*b. *B-uk B-yk	*(By)	*{B+F}	

It is a curious characteristic of Hungarian front/back harmony that some neutral vowels can alternate harmonically:²⁵ **e**: systematically,²⁶ and even **i** in suppletive **-ja~i** 'SG3.DEF'. We can see this in (8i) with the adessive suffix **-na:l~ne:l** when it is attached to stem whose trigger vowel is front harmonic **ø:z** 'roe deer' (8i:a), back harmonic **ha:z** 'house' (8i:b) and neutral **ke:z** 'hand' (8i:c).

The strongly disharmonic form in (8i:a) violates HAR-F (and the grammatical form **ø:z-ne:l** is selected). (8ii:bc) provide further proof for the constraint HAR-N: although the highly ranked HAR-F is inactive when the phonetically front alternant of a harmonic suffix (and/or the root) has a neutral vowel HAR-N selects the fully harmonic grammatical forms by excluding the weakly disharmonic ones (***ha:z-ne:l**, ***ke:z-na:l**).

(8i) Neutral vowels in harmonically alternating suffixes

<i>ROOT</i> + _{ADE}	HAR-F (*FB, *BF)	HAR-N (*NB, *BN)
a. * ø:z-na:l ø:z-ne:l	*(øa)	
b. ha:z-na:l * ha:z-ne:l		*(ae)
c. * ke:z-na:l ke:z-ne:l		*(ea)

(8ii) introduces a new uniformity constraint, suffix uniformity SFXUNI. Since we can refer to the extended paradigms of stems, i.e. a set of forms with various suffixes of the same stem, it

²⁵Thus, neutrality cannot be derived from unpairedness (contra the usual assumption about neutrality, e.g. Hulst & van de Weijer 1995).

²⁶The vowel **e** also alternates harmonically in several suffixes. Recall that technically it is neither an F vowel nor an N in the analysis we are developing but has constraints specific to it.



makes sense to refer to the paradigms of suffixes (Rebrus & Törkenczy 2005; 2008), i.e. a set of forms that share the same suffix. HARUNI requires that the forms within a stem paradigm must be *harmonically* uniform (F, B, F/B) – similarly SFXUNI requires that the forms within a suffix paradigm must be harmonically consistent (F, B, F/B) and contain one of the suffix alternants. This makes it possible to distinguish harmonically alternating suffixes from invariant ones. The suffix paradigm of an alternating suffix contains forms with the front alternant and also the back alternant of the suffix, e.g. adessive {-**na:l**, -**ne:l**}²⁷ while the suffix paradigm of an invariant suffix only has forms with a single suffix alternant, e.g. causalis {-**e:rt**}. Just like HARUNI, SFXUNI compares the forms evaluated to the listed forms, in this case the memorised forms of the suffix paradigm. (8ii) shows the analysis of invariant suffixes with harmonic stems. Recall that, systematically, invariant suffixes have neutral vowels (**i**, **i:**, **e:**) and not harmonic ones. This means that SFXUNI must be ranked above HAR-N and below HAR-F. Given this ordering we get the correct results. The strongly disharmonic hypothetical form in (8ii:a) is excluded by the highly ranked phonological constraint (as well as SFXUNI, redundantly). In (8ii), however, SFXUNI plays an active role by excluding the fully harmonic hypothetical form ***ha:z-a:rt** (since all the listed/memorised forms in the suffix paradigm of CAU have {-**e:rt**}) and thus the weakly disharmonic form **ha:z-e:rt** is selected.

(8ii) Neutral vowel in harmonically invariant suffixes

ROOT+CAU	HAR-F (*FB, *BF)	SFXUNI	HAR-N (*NB, *BN)
a. * ø:z-a:rt ø:z-e:rt	*(øa)	*{- e:rt }	
b. * ha:z-a:rt ha:z-e:rt		*{- e:rt }	*(ae)

SFXUNI overrides HARUNI when in conflict as can be seen in (8iii) showing what happens when invariant **-e:rt** combines with an antiharmonic root (**hi:r** (8iii:a) is a harmonic root and **ji:r** (8iii:b) is an antiharmonic one). SFXUNI must rank higher than HARUNI since antiharmony cannot “make” an invariant suffix alternate because there is no form with a back suffix alternant in the suffix paradigm of the causative {-**e:rt**}, see (8iii:b). There is no conflict between SFXUNI and HARUNI when the stem is a harmonic one with an N vowel, see (8iii:a). Note that SFXUNI does not decide between similar candidates when the suffix is a harmonically alternating one since both candidates (F, B) would satisfy it because the suffix paradigm of the alternating suffix would contain forms with the front alternant and the back alternant, too.

²⁷An additional advantage of this approach is that it also makes it possible to treat phonologically conditioned suppletive suffix alternation (e.g. SG3 definite {-**ja**, -**i**} conditioned by harmony: **lop-ja** ‘steal-3SG.DEF’, **kop-i** ‘spit-3SG.DEF’) on a par with non-suppletive harmony-conditioned alternations such as {-**na:l**, -**ne:l**}.



(8iii) Interaction of antiharmony and suffix invariance

<i>ROOT+CAU</i>	HAR-F (*FB, *BF)	SFXUNI	HARUNI	HAR-N (*NB, *BN)
a. *hi:r-a:rt hi:r-e:rt		*{-e:rt}	*{hi:r+F}	*(ia)
b. *fi:r-art fi:r-ert		*{-e:rt}	*{fi:r+B}	*(ia)

SFXUNI also makes it possible to account for invariant suffixes which have harmonic vowels. This occurs extremely rarely in Hungarian and only with back vowels (e.g. temporal {-**kor**} **öt-kor** ‘5-TEMP’, **hat-kor** ‘6-TEMP’). Invariant suffixes with front vowels ({-F}) do not occur. This distribution can be accounted for if we split the hitherto symmetrical HAR-F into two asymmetrical constraints: HAR-F_R which bans strong disharmony with an F vowel on the right (*BF) and HAR-F_L which bans strong disharmony with an F vowel on the left (*FB).²⁸ We get the right results if HAR-F_R ranks higher than HAR-F_L and SFXUNI is ordered in between the two constraints. This is shown in (8iv) where the SFXUNI overrides the effect of the two lower ranking harmony constraints which penalise (a) strong disharmony with an F vowel on the left and (b) weak disharmony, thus the grammatical forms **öt-kor** and **het-kor** are selected even though they violate these constraints but satisfy SFXUNI. The fully harmonic grammatical form **hat-kor** (8ivc) wins since it does not violate any of the harmony constraints and the hypothetical candidate ***hat-kor** fails on the highest ranking HAR-F_R (and redundantly on SFXUNI, too).

(8iv) Rare instance of back vowel in harmonically invariant suffixes

<i>ROOT+TEMP</i>	HAR-F _R (*BF)	SFXUNI	HAR-F _L (*FB)	HAR-N _L (*NB)
a. öt-kor *öt-kør		*{-kor}	*(øo)	
b. het-kor *he:t-kør		*{-kor}		*(eo)
c. hat-kor *hat-kør	*(aø)	*{-kor}		

(8v) shows that the ranking in (8iv) accounts for the fact that there are no invariant suffixes with front harmonic vowels. The suffix paradigm of a hypothetical suffix of this kind would only contain forms with a front harmonic suffix {-F}. Therefore, it would have a front harmonic suffix after front harmonic stems (**öt** ‘5’, (8va)) and back harmonic stems (**hat** ‘6’, (8vb)) thereby

²⁸Similarly, HAR-N is split into asymmetrical HAR-N_R (*BN) and HAR-N_L (*NB). In the following analysis we focus on the latter, for the former, see (8i,ii).



satisfying SFXUNI. This, however, is only possible if the root is front harmonic (**øt-F** (8va)) and not when it is back harmonic (**hat-F** (8vb)) since a form with a front harmonic suffix alternant after a back harmonic stem would violate the highest ranking constraint HAR-F_R and therefore the competing ungrammatical candidate (***hat-B**) would win, which means that the suffix *does* alternate (-F~B) and is not invariant.

(8v) The impossibility of front non-neutral vowels in invariant suffixes

ROOT _{+X}	HAR-F _R (*BF)	SFXUNI	HAR-F _L (*FB)	HAR-N _L (*NB)
a. *øt-B øt-F		*{-F}	*(øB)	
*b. *hat-B hat-F	*(aF)	*{-F}		

(9) below shows that ranking of phonological and morphological constraints we have used in the analysis so far. It can be seen that the morphological (uniformity) constraints are interleaved with, i.e. ordered in between the phonological harmony constraints which penalise various instances of disharmony. The highest ranking (morphological) constraint STEMUNI that occurs in (9) has been (and will be) left out from the tableaux for simplicity's sake. It is a uniformity constraint that penalises harmony alternations in roots. Its top ranking expresses the fact that Hungarian harmony is root controlled and that in present day Hungarian harmony does not apply to borrowed disharmonic roots or between the constituents of disharmonic compounds.²⁹

(9) The ranking of phonological and morphological constraints

Harmony constraints:		HAR-F _R	>>	HAR-F _L	>>	HAR-N _L
	↑		↑		↑	
Uniformity constraints:	STEMUNI	>>	SFXUNI	>>	HARUNI	

4.2. Transparency and opacity

We will now examine the transparent behaviour of neutral vowels (and the opaqueness of harmonic ones (see (1) above). In the analysis above we considered *ε* a front harmonic vowel (F) because it does not occur (i) in antiharmonic stems (systematically) and (ii) in invariable suffixes. Here, because of its variable transparency/opacity in roots, we will have harmony constraints specific to *ε* and it is not a member of the set F (or N) either. In order to model transparency, we distinguish two versions of each harmony constraint, a local one and a non-local one (cf. Hayes & Cziráky Londe 2006; Hayes et al. 2009). The former penalises strictly³⁰ adjacent (strong or weak)

²⁹Historically this was not always the case.

³⁰Consonants are essentially invisible to vowel harmony in Hungarian, so strictly adjacent vowels are those that are not separated by other vowels (for a limited role consonants may play, see Hayes et al. (2009), Patay (2019), Patay et al. (2019).



disharmony and the latter one penalises non-adjacent (strong or weak) disharmony. As the effect of the local version of a constraint is naturally stronger than that of the non-local version we assume that the rank of the local version is universally higher than the non-local version of the same constraint. (10i, ii) is an analysis of the complete transparency of neutral vowels (**i, i:, e:**)³¹ vs. the full opacity of harmonic ones ($F=\{\emptyset, \emptyset:, y, y:\}$, $B=\{u, u:, o, o:, a, a:\}$). (10i, ii) compare local and non-local strong disharmony (*FB, *BF, *B...F, *F...B) to weak disharmony (*NB) between stem and target suffix (10i): [BF] and [BN] stems; (10ii): [FB] and [FN] stems). In (10i:b) the grammatical form **ʃofø:r-ɲŋk** ‘chauffeur-1PL’ wins although it has non-local strong disharmony (B...F). The competing candidate form ***ʃofø:r-ɲŋk** violates the constraint banning local strong disharmony, which shows that the local constraint must be ranked higher. In (10ii:a) the grammatical candidate **papi:r-ɲŋk** ‘paper-1PL’ has local weak disharmony while the competing ungrammatical one has non-local strong disharmony. This shows that HAR-F_R-NONLOC must be ranked higher than HAR-N_L-LOC, which results in the transparency of neutral vowels. When local and non-local harmony constraints applying to different sets of vowels of an inventory are ordered so that the non-local constraint dominates the local one, then the set of vowels the local constraint refers to are transparent. In (10ii:d) the grammatical form **krø:zuf-ɲŋk** ‘extremely.rich.person-1PL’ is selected because even though it has non-local strong disharmony (F...B), the competing ungrammatical candidate form ***krø:zuf-ɲŋk** violates the higher ranking constraint banning *local* strong disharmony. In (10ii:c) it is the completely harmonic form **kø:rif-ɲŋk** ‘ash.tree-1PL’ violating no constraint at all that is selected over the competing ungrammatical form ***kø:rif-ɲŋk**, which has non-local strong disharmony, violating HAR-F_L-NONLOC (the form is also locally weakly disharmonic, violating HAR-N_L-LOC, redundantly).

(10i) Transparency of neutral vowels and opacity of front harmonic vowels

<i>ROOT+1PL</i>	HAR-F _L LOC (*FB)	HAR-F _R NONLOC (*B...F)	HAR-N _L LOC (*NB)
a. papi:r-ɲŋk *papi:r-ɲŋk		*(a...y)	*(iu)
b. *ʃofø:r-ɲŋk ʃofø:r-ɲŋk	*(øu)	*(o...y)	

(10ii) Opacity of back vowels

<i>ROOT+1PL</i>	HAR-F _R LOC (*BF)	HAR-F _L NONLOC (*F...B)	HAR-N _L LOC (*NB)
c. *kø:rif-ɲŋk kø:rif-ɲŋk		*(ø...u)	*(iu)
d. krø:zuf-ɲŋk *krø:zuf-ɲŋk	*(uy)	*(ø...u)	

³¹Here we abstract away from the lexical variation in transparency with [...Be:] stems discussed in Section (2.1).



≥ 2 non-local disharmony between the back vowel(s) of the stem and the suffix vowel and HAR- $N_L(0)$ banning weak local disharmony between the last neutral vowel of the stem and the suffix vowel. These higher ranking constraints themselves are not ranked and under a partially ordered constraints interpretation (Kager 2000; Anttila 2007; Coetzee & Pater 2011) in which such a “tie” means two total orders consistent with the partial ordering (one in which HAR- $F_R(\geq 2)$ ranks higher than HAR- $N_L(0)$ and one in which the order is the reverse) the result is the attested vacillation (one candidate is selected by one ordering and the other one by the other).³³

(12i) Variable transparency (Count Effect: [...BNN(N)] roots)³⁴

<i>ROOT+1PL</i>	HAR- F_R (≥ 2) *BVV+F	HAR- N_L (0) *NB	HAR- N_L (1) *NVB	HAR- N_L (2) *NVVB	HAR- N_L (3) *NVVVB
a. <i>aspirin-un̩k</i> <i>aspirin-yŋk</i>	*(a...y)	*(iu)	*(i...u)		
b. <i>analizif-un̩k</i> <i>analizif-yŋk</i>	** (a...y)	*(iu)	*(i...u)		
c. <i>hipotezif-un̩k</i> <i>hipotezif-yŋk</i>	*(o...y)	*(iu)	*(i...u)		*(i...u)
d. <i>horribilif-un̩k</i> <i>horribilif-yŋk</i>	*(o...y)	*(iu)	*(i...u)	*(i...u)	

Note that right-oriented constraints referring to F (such as HAR- $F_R(\geq 2)$ in (12i)) and comparable constraints referring to N and ϵ behave in the same way since these constraints always apply between the stem and the suffix and F, ϵ and N vowels behave in the same way in suffixes (except for the single case of invariant N suffixes, which do not alternate because of a dominant uniformity constraint SFXUNI, cf. (8ii)).

(12ii) presents an analysis of the Height Effect, specifically the intermediate status of ϵ between fully harmonic and fully neutral vowels in stems (rather than suffixes) which manifests itself in vacillation after [...Be] stems. The candidates in (12ii) are all [...Be] stems, the difference between them is in the vowel preceding the last back vowel of the stem. We can see that it makes no difference whether the last (back) harmonic vowel of the stem is preceded by no vowel (12ii:a), another back vowel (12ii:b), ϵ (12ii:c) or a neutral one (12ii:d): vacillation occurs in all these cases.³⁵ In order to model variable transparency of ϵ [...Be] roots, we need harmony constraints specific to ϵ , which can be ordered independently of (relative to) harmony

³³The analysis in this paper says nothing about the relative frequency of candidates in vacillation, we only distinguish variation from the lack of variation (compare other analyses that aim to model the probabilities/frequencies, too: Hayes & Cziráky Londe 2006; Hayes et al. 2009).

³⁴Glosses: *aspirin* ‘aspirin’, *analizif* ‘analysis’, *hipotezif* ‘hypothesis’, *horribilif* ‘horrible’.

³⁵Here we abstract away from the lexical variation in transparency with [...Be] stems discussed in Section (2.1).



constraints referring to harmonic vowels (F) and neutral vowels (N): the local constraint $\text{HAR-}\epsilon_L(0)$ and the non-local one $\text{HAR-}\epsilon_L(2)$. For $[\dots\text{Be}]$ roots the relevant one is $\text{HAR-}\epsilon_L(0)$, which penalises the back harmonic one of the competing candidate forms. If this constraint ranks high and is unordered with respect to the constraint that penalises the other (front harmonic) candidate, then the attested vacillation results (e.g. **fotel-un̩k/fotel-y̩nk**) under the partial ordering approach to variation. Since these constraints uniquely determine the selection of candidates, the lower ranking (non-local) constraints have no effect (here).³⁶

(12ii) Variable transparency of ϵ (Height Effect: $[\dots\text{Be}]$ roots)³⁷

$\text{ROOT}+1\text{PL}$	HAR-F _R (1) *BVF	HAR- ϵ_L (0) *ϵB	HAR-F _R (≥ 2) *BVV+F	HAR- ϵ_L (2) *ϵVVB	HAR-N _L (2) *NVVB
a. fotel-un̩k fotel-y̩nk	*(o...y)	*(ϵ u)			
b. fa:muel-un̩k fa:muel-y̩nk	*(o...y)	*(ϵ u)	*(a...y)		
c. leander-un̩k leander-y̩nk	*(o...y)	*(ϵ u)		*(ϵ ...u)	
d. tsino:ber-un̩k tsino:ber-y̩nk	*(o...y)	*(ϵ u)			*(i...u)

(12iii) is an analysis of the interaction between the Height Effect and the Count Effect. Accordingly, it combines the constraints (with their ranking) in (12i) and (12ii). The candidates considered are forms where the last back vowel of the root is separated from the suffix vowel by two or more phonetically front vowels one or more of which is ϵ while the others (if there are others in addition to ϵ) are neutral **i**, **i:**, **e:**. As we have seen in Section 2.2, the position of ϵ is crucial in these forms: there is vacillation if the last phonetically front vowel of the root is not ϵ (12iii:abc) but only the form with the front alternant of the suffix is grammatical if it is ϵ (12iii:def). Note that in (12iii) the *non-local* constraints penalising disharmony with ϵ or a neutral vowel are recessive and do not play a part in the selection of the grammatical candidate(s), i.e. as long as the last vowel of the root is a neutral vowel or ϵ it does not matter if a preceding phonetically front vowel is a neutral vowel or ϵ (we find vacillation or no vacillation irrespectively).³⁸ It is the constraints we found active in (12i) and (12ii) *combined* that select the grammatical candidates here. The members of the pairs of constraints, non-local $\text{HAR-F}_R(1)$, local $\text{HAR-}\epsilon_L(0)$ (cf. (12ii)) and non-local $\text{HAR-F}_R(\geq 2)$,

³⁶The lowest two constraints can be (and will be below) “collapsed” into one constraint $\text{HAR-}\epsilon/\text{N}_L(2)$. We keep them apart in (12ii) to show their violations separately for expository purposes.

³⁷Glosses: **fotel** ‘armchair’, **fa:muel** ‘Samuel’, **leander** ‘oleander’, **tsino:ber** ‘vermillion’.

³⁸These constraints (the lowest three) can be (and will be below) “collapsed” into one constraint $\text{HAR-}\epsilon/\text{N}_L(\geq 1)$. We keep them apart in (12iii) to show their violations separately for expository purposes.



HAR- $N_L(0)$ (cf. (12i)) are not ordered themselves but the two *pairs* are: the first pair ranks above the second one. This is crucial because the candidates whose last root vowel is not ϵ (12iii:abc) do not violate either member of the pair of constraints HAR- $F_R(1)$, local HAR- $\epsilon_L(0)$ and therefore the lower ranking pair of constraints HAR- $F_R(\geq 2)$, HAR- $N_L(0)$ determine the selection of forms. Since these are not ordered, vacillation results in the same way as in the tableaux above.

There is no vacillation (only the candidate forms with a front suffix alternant are selected), however, if the last root vowel is ϵ (12iii:def) because in this case HAR- $\epsilon_L(0)$ of the higher ranking pair is violated by the candidate forms with a back suffix alternant ($^*\epsilon B$) and therefore it does not matter how the candidates fare on the lower ranking pair of constraints (which favour the candidates with a back suffix alternant).

(12iii) Variable and blocked transparency of ϵ (Height Effect & Count Effect: [...Be⁺N⁺], [...BN⁺ ϵ ⁺] and [B $\epsilon\epsilon$ ⁺] roots)³⁹

<i>ROOT</i> _{+1PL}	HAR- F_R (1) *BVF	HAR- ϵ_L (0) *ϵB	HAR- F_R (≥ 2) *BVV+F	HAR- N_L (0) *NB	HAR- ϵ/N_L (1) *ϵ/NVB	HAR- ϵ/N_L (2) *$\epsilon/NVVB$	HAR- ϵ/N_L (3) *$\epsilon/NVVVB$
a. <i>sutere:n-un</i> k <i>sutere:n-y</i> nk			*(u...y)	*(eu)	*(ϵ ...u)		
b. <i>kompetiti:v-un</i> k <i>kompetiti:v-y</i> nk			*(o...y)	*(iu)	*(i...u)	*(ϵ ...u)	
c. <i>%kolesterin-un</i> k <i>kolesterin-y</i> nk			*(o...y)	*(iu)	*(ϵ ...u)	*(ϵ ...u)	
d. <i>*konte:nϵr-un</i> k <i>konte:nϵr-y</i> nk		*(ϵ u)	*(o...y)		*(ϵ ...u)		
e. <i>*dijabe:tes-un</i> k <i>dijabe:tes-y</i> nk		*(ϵ u)	*(a...y)		*(ϵ ...u)		*(i...u)
f. <i>*propel:ϵr-un</i> k <i>propel:ϵr-y</i> nk		*(ϵ u)	*(o...y)		*(ϵ ...u)		

The examples we examine in (13i) and (13ii) are all disharmonic roots in the sense that they contain front harmonic (F) vowels and also back harmonic vowels (B) in some of their syllables. (13i:abc) show that it is the last harmonic vowel (in this case a back vowel) that determines the harmonic behaviour of the root, i.e. how it fares on the highest harmony constraint, local HAR- $F_R(0)$. It does not matter what kinds of vowels (e.g. a front harmonic vowel) precede the last back vowel, i.e. the non-local harmony constraints that refer to these vowels are recessive and have no part in the selection of the grammatical candidates. (13i:de) are examples where the last back harmonic vowel (preceded by a front harmonic one) is followed by a neutral vowel (13i:d) or ϵ and a neutral vowel (13i:e). We expect full

³⁹Glosses: *sutere:n* ‘basement’, *kompetiti:v* ‘competitive’, *kolesterin* ‘cholesterin’, *dijabe:tes* ‘diabetes’, *propeler* ‘propeller’.



transparency in the former case (see Section 2.1) and vacillation due to the Count Effect in the latter (see Section 2.2). This is achieved by ordering the left-oriented local and non-local constraints, specifically HAR-F_L(2) and HAR-N_L(0) below HAR-F_R(1). (13i:e) shows that left-oriented non-local HAR-F_L(≥3) and HAR-N/ε_L(≥1) must be ordered below the unordered non-local HAR-F_R(≥2), local HAR-N_L(0) for vacillation to occur. Again, full transparency (13i:d) and vacillation due to the Count Effect (13i:e) occur irrespective of what kind of vowel precedes the last full vowel.

(13i) Harmonic back suffixation of disharmonic roots⁴⁰

STEM+ABL	HAR-F _R (0) (*BF)	HAR-F _L (1) *FVB	HAR-F _R (1) (*BVF)	HAR-F _L (2) *FVVB	HAR-F _R (≥2) *BVF+F	HAR-N _L (0) (*NB)	HAR-F _L (≥3) *FV≥3B	HAR- N/ε _L (≥1) *NV+B
a. krø:zus-to:l *krø:zus-tø:l	*(uø)	*(ø...o)						
b. amø:ba-to:l *amø:ba-tø:l	*(aø)	*(ø...o)	*(a...ø)					
c. ødipus-to:l *ødipus-tø:l	*(uø)			*(ø...o)				*(i...o)
d. tsøno:zis-to:l *tsøno:zis-tø:l			*(ø...o)			*(io)		
e. økumene-to:l økumene-tø:l					*(u...ø)	*(eo)	*(ø...o)	*(ε...o)

(13ii) makes a similar point about disharmonic roots, but this time the last harmonic vowel is front (which is preceded by back harmonic or neutral vowels or both). In the candidate forms in (13ii:abc) this front harmonic vowel immediately precedes the harmonically alternating suffix (they differ in the vowels that precede the last harmonic vowel). Accordingly, the grammatical forms are selected by the highest ranking local constraint penalising strong disharmony with the back alternant of a suffix HAR-F_L(0). It does not matter what kinds of vowels (e.g. a back harmonic vowel) precede the last front vowel, i.e. the non-local harmony constraints that refer to these vowels are recessive and have no part in the selection of the grammatical candidates. (13ii:de) are examples where the last front harmonic vowel (preceded by a back harmonic one) is followed by a neutral vowel (13ii:d) or more than one neutral vowel (13ii:e). Here we expect no vacillation in either case since the root-final neutral vowels are immediately preceded by a *front* harmonic vowel. This is implemented by ranking the unordered pair of constraints that can drive vacillation in other cases (HAR-F_R(≥2), HAR-N_L(0) below the constraints penalising “more local” left-oriented strong disharmony (HAR-F_L(1) and HAR-F_L(2), which select the grammatical candidate forms with front suffix alternants.

⁴⁰Glosses: **amø:ba** ‘amoeba’, **ødipus** ‘Oedipus’, **økumene**: ‘Christians’ pursuit of unity’, **tsøno:zis** ‘cenosis’.



(13ii) Harmonic front suffixation of disharmonic roots⁴¹

STEM+ABL	HAR-F _L (0) *FB	HAR-F _R (1) (*BVF)	HAR-F _L (1) *FVB	HAR-F _L (2) *FVVB	HAR-F _R (≥2) *BVV+F	HAR-N _L (0) (*NB)	HAR-N/ε _L (≥1) *NV+B
a. *fofø:r-to:l fofø:r-tø:l	*(øø)	*(o...ø)					
b. *amatø:r-to:l amatø:r-tø:l	*(øø)	*(a...ø)			*(a...ø)		
c. *attity:d-to:l attity:d-tø:l	*(yo)				*(a...ø)		*(i...o)
d. *karybdis-to:l karybdis-tø:l			*(y...o)		*(a...ø)	*(io)	
e. *kommynike:-to:l kommynike:-tø:l				*(y...o)	*(a...ø)	*(eo)	*(i...o)

(14) below summarises the ranking of the harmony constraints we have discussed. We use separate lines for the right-oriented (first line) and the left oriented (second line) constraints to make (14) easier to read. A constraint to the left of another is ranked higher (>>) and a pair of constraints are unranked if they do not appear to the left/right of one another.⁴²

(14) Ranking of harmony constraints

F/ε _R (0)	N _R (0)	F/ε/N _R (1)	F/ε/N _R (≥2)
>>	>>	>>	>>
F _L (0)	F _L (1)	ε _L (0)	F _L (2)
		N _L (0)	F _L (≥3)
			ε/N _L (≥1)

4.4. Harmonic Uniformity

We can now analyse the role of Harmonic Uniformity in transparency, which we discussed in Section 3.1. (15i), where the candidate forms have one or more invariant N suffixes preceding the final, harmonically alternating suffix, shows Harmonic Uniformity overriding the Count Effect. This manifests itself in blocking vacillation (which otherwise would result from the Count Effect) when the root itself does not induce vacillation (15i:bc). This is achieved by ranking Harmonic Uniformity above HAR-F_R(≥2), HAR-N_L(0) (the two active constraints in (12i), which are not

⁴¹Glosses: **amatø:r** ‘amateur’, **karybdis** ‘Charybdis’, **kommynike:** ‘communiqué’.

⁴²The orientation of harmony constraints, i.e. the ordering of left and right-oriented constraints (e.g. HAR-F_R(0) >> HAR-F_L) is not really detectable within the root, because the number of disharmonic [FB] and [BF] roots is extremely low. The only root-internal phenomenon that makes this distinction is when it is ε and not the F vowels that are in disharmony ([εB] vs. [Be] roots). The ordering of constraints applicable to these is HAR-ε_R(0) >> HAR-ε_L(0). This manifests itself in the lexical status of [εB] and [Be] roots. Roots in the latter group are all recent loans while those in the former group include older roots and placenames too (cf. e.g. Rebrus et al. 2020). This distribution is due to the fact that up to a period in Old Hungarian Be sequences were disallowed within the root while εB sequences were permitted (cf. Fejes & Rebrus 2017). The ranking of the constraints HAR-ε_R(0) >> HAR-ε_L(0) is probably a reflection of this old distribution. While there are polymorphemic εB sequences (e.g. fotél-to:l), polymorphemic Be sequences are missing since there are no harmonically invariant suffixes with ε (with the exception of some diminutives, cf. Rebrus & Szigetvári (2016; 2021)).



ranked with respect to one another). The higher ranking HARUNI filters out the candidate forms with a front harmonic suffix alternant (***madrid-i-tø:l**, ***haz-e-i-tø:l**) because the paradigms of the roots **madrid** and **haz** only have listed forms with back harmonic suffix alternants (see (5)). HARUNI does not have this effect when the paradigm of the root contains listed forms with back harmonic *and* front harmonic suffix alternants, too (15i:d). In this case neither candidate form (**martinik-i-tø:l**, **martinik-i-tø:l**) violates HARUNI and selection is determined by the lower ranking constraints HAR-F_R(≥2), HAR-N_L(0) (in the same way as in (12i)) and thus vacillation prevails. The candidate forms in (15i:a) are included for comparison. In this case the Count Effect does not apply (there is only one neutral vowel between the last back vowel of the root and the alternating suffix (i.e. HAR-F_R(≥2) is inactive). The candidate form with a front suffix alternant (***haz-e-tø:l**) is excluded by the highest ranking constraint HAR-F_R(1) (e: is transparent) and also redundantly by HARUNI (the root **haz** only has forms with back suffix alternants in its paradigm), therefore **haz-e-tø:l** is selected – it makes no difference that the lower ranking relevant constraints (specifically HAR-N_L(0) favour the front harmonic candidate form.

(15i) (Non-)blocking of variable transparency (HARUNI >> Count Effect)

<i>STEM+ABL</i>	HAR-F _R (1) (*BVF)	HARUNI	HAR-F _R (≥2) (*BVV+F)	HAR-N _L (0) (*NB)	HAR-N _L (≥1) (*NV+B)
a. haz-e-tø:l * haz-e-tø:l		*{ ha:z+B }		*{eo}	
b. madrid-i-tø:l * madrid-i-tø:l		*{ m.+B }	*{a...ø}	*{io}	*{i...o}
c. haz-e-i-tø:l * haz-e-i-tø:l		*{ ha:z+B }	*{a...ø}	*{io}	*{e...o}
d. martinik-i-tø:l martinik-i-tø:l		{ m.+B } { m.+F }	*{a...ø}	*{io}	**{i...o}

(15ii) shows the behaviour of [BN/ε] roots. Similarly to (15i) the candidate forms have one or more invariant N suffixes preceding the final, harmonically alternating suffix. We can observe the same contrast between cases where HARUNI is active (because only one of the suffix alternants is found in the listed forms in the paradigm of the stem, (15ii:cd) vs. cases when it is inactive (because both of the suffix alternants are attested in the listed forms in the paradigm of the stem (15ii:abe) – only this time variation or the lack of variation is due to the Height Effect. In the former case it is either the back candidate form that violates HARUNI (15ii:c) or the front one (15ii:d) and therefore the lower ranking constraints play no part in the selection of the grammatical forms. In the latter case (15ii:abe) it is the highest ranking HARUNI which is not involved in the selection since both candidate forms satisfy it and thus the lower ranking constraints, crucially the unordered HAR-F_R(≥2) and HAR-N_L(0), determine the winner and therefore vacillation results. (The lowest ranking non-local constraints are not active in the selection in any of these cases). Note that the highest-ranking HARUNI constraint makes it possible to account for the lexical variation (see Section 2.1) in the behaviour of [Be] and [Be:] roots: it can distinguish those that induce vacillation (**hotel**, **norveg**) from those that take front only (**kontsert**) or back only (**kašte:j**) suffix alternants.



(15ii) ((Non-)blocking of variable transparency (HARUNI >> Height Effect)⁴³

<i>STEM</i> + <i>ABL</i>	HARUNI	HAR- <i>F_R</i> (≥2) (* <i>BVV</i> + <i>F</i>)	HAR- <i>N_L</i> (0) (* <i>NB</i>)	HAR- <i>ε_L</i> (≥1) (* <i>εV</i> + <i>B</i>)	HAR- <i>N_L</i> (≥1) (* <i>NV</i> + <i>B</i>)
a. <i>hotel-e: -to:l</i> <i>hotel-e: -tø:l</i>	{ <i>hotel</i> + <i>B</i> } { <i>hotel</i> + <i>F</i> }	<i>*(o...ø)</i>	<i>*(eo)</i>	<i>*(ε...o)</i>	
b. <i>hotel-e: -i -to:l</i> <i>hotel-e: -i -tø:l</i>	{ <i>hotel</i> + <i>B</i> } { <i>hotel</i> + <i>F</i> }	<i>*(o...ø)</i>	<i>*(io)</i>	<i>*(ε...o)</i>	<i>*(e...o)</i>
c. * <i>kontsert-e: -to:l</i> <i>kontsert-e: -tø:l</i>	*{ <i>kontsert</i> + <i>F</i> }	<i>*(o...ø)</i>	<i>*(eo)</i>	<i>*(ε...o)</i>	
d. <i>kaſte:j-e: -to:l</i> * <i>kaſte:j-e: -tø:l</i>	*{ <i>kaſte:j</i> + <i>B</i> }	<i>*(a...ø)</i>	<i>*(eo)</i>		<i>*(e...o)</i>
e. <i>norve:g-e: -to:l</i> <i>norve:g-e: -tø:l</i>	{ <i>norve:g</i> + <i>B</i> } { <i>norve:g</i> + <i>F</i> }	<i>*(o...ø)</i>	<i>*(io)</i>		<i>*(e...o)</i>

(15iii) shows the analysis of “harmonic stability” effect⁴⁴ we discussed in Section 3.1., when forms that contain a root alternant lacking the vowel that unambiguously determines harmony “inherit” the harmonic behaviour of the forms in their paradigm that have a root alternant in which the vowel is present. The forms in (15iii:bc) contain the “shortened” root allomorphs of a truncating stem *be:n-* and an epenthetic stem *pisk-* (the “full” allomorphs are *be:na* and *pisok*). It can be seen in (15iii) that HARUNI (which dominates the harmony constraints) selects the grammatical candidate forms independently of how the candidates fare on the harmony constraints. (15iii:a) is included to show that HARUNI is crucial because forms based on stems whose vocalic makeup is identical (*be:k-i:t*, *be:n-i:t*) can be evaluated differently by HARUNI because the listed forms in their paradigms are harmonically different and this determines that the winner is the front harmonic form in (15iii:a) and the back harmonic one in (15iiib).

(15iii) Stems containing harmonic and anti-harmonic “shortened” bound roots

<i>STEM</i> + <i>1PL.NDF</i>	HARUNI	HAR- <i>F_R</i> (≥2) (* <i>BVV</i> + <i>F</i>)	HAR- <i>N_L</i> (0) (* <i>NB</i>)	HAR- <i>N_L</i> (≥1) (* <i>NV</i> + <i>B</i>)
a. * <i>be:k-i:t -uŋk</i> <i>be:k-i:t -yŋk</i>	*{ <i>be:k(ε)</i> + <i>F</i> }		<i>*(iu)</i>	<i>*(e...u)</i>
b. <i>be:n-i:t -uŋk</i> * <i>be:n-i:t -yŋk</i>	*{ <i>be:n(a)</i> + <i>B</i> }		<i>*(iu)</i>	<i>*(e...u)</i>
c. <i>pisk-i:t -uŋk</i> * <i>pisk-i:t -yŋk</i>	*{ <i>pis(o)k</i> + <i>B</i> }		<i>*(iu)</i>	<i>*(i...u)</i>

⁴³Glosses: *kaſte:j* ‘castle’, *norve:g* ‘Norwegian’.

⁴⁴This effect is not unlike tonal stability, cf. Goldsmith (1990).



(15iv) is an analysis of harmonic and antiharmonic free roots that we have already analysed in (7ii), where we saw that the difference between the harmonic and antiharmonic behaviour of these roots is attributable to the high ranking HARUNI constraint. The only difference here is that in (7ii) we were examining forms of harmonic and antiharmonic N roots with a single harmonically alternating suffix and in (15iv) we are comparing these forms ((15iva), (15ivd)) to multiply suffixed forms based on the same roots where the harmonically alternating suffix is preceded by one or more invariant N suffix ((15ivbc), (15ivef)). We can see that the analysis works in the same way: the highest ranking HARUNI determines the selection of the winning candidate form based on the listed forms of the paradigms if the individual roots (the paradigm of harmonic **hi:m** only contains listed forms with front allomorphs of harmonic suffixes and the paradigm of antiharmonic **hi:d** only contains listed forms with back allomorphs of harmonic suffixes). The effect of the lower ranking harmony constraints is overridden by HARUNI whenever they are in conflict.

(15iv) Harmonic and anti-harmonic free roots

<i>STEM+DEL</i>	HARUNI	HAR-F _R (≥2) (*BVV+F)	HAR-N _L (0) (*NB)	HAR-N _L (≥1) (*NV+B)
a. *hi:m -rø:l hi:m -rø:l	*{hi:m+F}		*(io)	
b. *hi:m-e: -rø:l hi:m-e: -rø:l	*{hi:m+F}		*(eo)	*(i...o)
c. *hi:m-e:-i -rø:l hi:m-e:-i -rø:l	*{hi:m+F}		*(io)	***(i/e...o)
d. hi:d -rø:l *hi:d -rø:l	*{hi:d+B}		*(io)	
e. hi:d-e: -rø:l *hi:d-e: -rø:l	*{hi:d+B}		*(eo)	*(i...o)
f. hi:d-e:-i -rø:l *hi:d-e:-i -rø:l	*{hi:d+B}		*(io)	***(i/e...o)

In the Appendix we show the analysis of some more complex cases involving most of the harmony constraints used in the analysis in which the harmony constraints ordered higher than HARUNI (HAR-F_R(0) and HAR-F_L(1), see Section 4.5 below), are not violated and therefore HARUNI makes the selection of the grammatical forms).

4.5. Some violations of Harmonic Uniformity

We have noted at the end of Section 3 that some systematic violations of Harmonic Uniformity do occur. One such case we will briefly consider here concerns forms with invariant suffixes that have a *harmonic* (back) vowel. The number of these suffixes is extremely low. The most frequent one is temporal **-kor**, but there are others e.g. denominal verbalizers **-a:l** and **-ol** shown in the forms in (16i) below. Whenever such a suffix occurs in a form and is followed by a harmonically alternating suffix, the latter suffix takes its back harmonic alternant irrespective of the harmonic properties of the root,



In the OT analysis, the phonological (markedness) constraints distinguish three sets of vowels based on their harmonic behaviour: i. harmonic vowels (F: \emptyset , \emptyset ; γ , γ ; B: \mathbf{u} , \mathbf{u} ; \mathbf{o} , \mathbf{o} ; \mathbf{a} , \mathbf{a}), ii. ϵ , and iii. neutral vowels (N: \mathbf{i} , \mathbf{i} ; \mathbf{e}) which reflects the intermediate status of ϵ in neutrality. Some generalisations can be made about the ranking of these constraints. This is shown in formulae in (18), where we have always identified the harmony patterns the relevant constraints refer to.

(18) Generalizations about the ranking of the harmony constraints

Monotonic properties (universal):

a. Locality:

$$X_Y(n) \geq X_Y(n+1), \text{ where } X \in \{F, \epsilon, N\}; Y \in \{R, L\}; \text{ for all } n$$

b. Height Effect:

$$F_Y(n) \geq \epsilon_Y(n) \geq N_Y(n), \text{ where } Y \in \{R, L\}; \text{ for all } n$$

Stipulations (language specific):

c. Opacity of B:

$$X_R(n) \gg F_L(n+1) \text{ where } X \in \{F, \epsilon, N\}; \text{ for all } n$$

d. Opacity of F:

$$F_L(n) \gg X_R(n+1) \text{ where } X \in \{F, \epsilon, N\}; \text{ for } n=0, 1, 2$$

e. Transparency of N:

$$X_R(n+1) \gg N_L(n) \text{ where } X \in \{F, \epsilon, N\}; \text{ for all } n$$

f. F and ϵ behave similarly in suffixes:

$$F_R(n) = \epsilon_R(n) \text{ for all } n$$

g. Non-final ϵ and N behave similarly in roots:

$$\epsilon_L(n) = N_L(n), \text{ where for all } n > 0$$

Some of the rankings (18ab) are universal (follow from some aspect of monotonicity) and/or cross-linguistic facts:⁴⁵ a less local constraint (measured in the number of vowels) cannot rank higher than more local one that has the same orientation (18a); given constraints whose orientation and locality parameters are identical the one that refers to harmonic vowels always ranks higher than the one that refers to neutral ones and the one that refers to ϵ is in between (18b). Of the language-specific constraints the ordering in (18cd) and (18e) express the opacity of harmonic vowels and the transparency of neutral vowels. (18f) and (18g) model the special status of ϵ . (18f): ϵ counts as non-neutral (harmonic) in suffixes (it always alternates harmonically), i.e., the right-oriented harmony constraints are the same for F and ϵ (F/ϵ_R). (18g): ϵ counts as neutral within stems in non-stem-final positions (non-local left-oriented harmony: $\epsilon/N_L(\geq 1)$).

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⁴⁵For (18b) see e.g. Anderson (1980).



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APPENDIX

Complex cases: forms obeying Harmonic Uniformity

<i>STEM+ABL</i> <i>STEM+PRES</i>	HARUNI	HAR-F _R (1) (*BVF)	HAR-ε _L (0) (*εB)	HAR-F _L (2) (*FVVB)	HAR-F _R (≥2) (*BV _{≥2} F)	HAR-N _L (0) (*NB)	HAR-F _L (≥3) (*FV _{≥3} B)	HAR-N _L (≥1) (*NV+B)
a. <i>krø:zus-i -to:l</i> * <i>krø:zus-i -tø:l</i>	*{k.+B}	*{u...ø}		*{ø...o}		*{io}		
b. <i>krø:zus-e-i -to:l</i> * <i>krø:zus-e-i -tø:l</i>	*{k.+B}				*{u...ø}	*{io}	*{ø...o}	*{e...o}
c. <i>ødipus-e: -to:l</i> * <i>ødipus-e: -tø:l</i>	*{ø.+B}	*{u...ø}			*{u...ø}	*{eo}	*{ø...o}	*{i...o}
d. <i>ødipus-e-i -to:l</i> * <i>ødipus-e-i -tø:l</i>	*{ø.+B}				*{u...ø}	*{io}	*{ø...o}	*{i/e...o}
e. <i>tsøno:zis-e: -to:l</i> * <i>tsøno:zis-e: -tø:l</i>	*{ø.+B}				*{o...ø}	*{eo}		*{i...o}

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