

Andrew Nevins: Tutorial on Overwriting

This tutorial focuses on segmental overwriting: cases of exponence that do not affix material to an existing stem, but rather replace stem material itself with new segmental content. In the context of consonantal overwriting (echo-words and otherwise) we will focus on the analytic questions of (a) whether overwriting can be treated as concatenative morphology plus partial copying (b) how to handle apparent dissimilation-at-a-distance (e.g. *schmidt-schmidt) (c) whether overwriting is an optimization reflecting well-formedness constraint interaction or not, (d) how to handle apparent intra-language variability in what is overwritten. In the context of vocalic overwriting we will address root re-harmonization in vowel-harmony languages and assess whether certain aspects of the Semitic vocalic melodies should be assimilated under the rubric of overwriting.