

**Phonotactic complexity in interaction with other systems of language structure:
some cross-linguistic patterns**

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In this talk I will discuss some cross-linguistic associations between phonotactic complexity and other properties of phonological and morphological structure.

In the first part of the talk, I will discuss correspondences between phonotactic complexity and the presence of particular consonant contrasts. Large-scale typological studies have established a positive correlation between syllable structure complexity and both consonant phoneme inventory size (Maddieson 2006) and the presence of “elaborated” consonant articulations (Maddieson et al. 2013, Lindblom & Maddieson 1988). In a recent typological study (Easterday 2017), I additionally found that languages at extreme ends of the phonotactic complexity cline are associated with different kinds of consonant phoneme contrasts. Languages with simple syllable structure are more likely to have prenasalized consonants, flaps or taps, and a voicing distinction in their obstruent inventories, while languages with highly complex phonotactics are more likely to have palato-alveolar, uvular, ejective, and affricate consonants. The consonant contrasts associated with simple phonotactics often come about diachronically through processes of lenition, while those associated with highly complex phonotactics often come about through processes of assimilation and fortition. These findings raise the question of whether the two groups of languages may be characterized by different patterns of coarticulation and gestural organization at earlier historical stages, co-occurring with or perhaps even preceding the development of their present-day phonotactic patterns.

In the second part of the talk, I will present data from my current typological research on interactions between phonotactic complexity and morphology. In particular, I will show that patterns from diverse non-European languages challenge common claims (cf. Dressler & Dziubalska-Kołaczyk 2006) regarding structural differences between morpheme-internal and morphologically complex consonant clusters.

Dressler, Wolfgang U. & Katarzyna Dziubalska-Kołaczyk. 2006. Proposing morphonotactics. *Rivista di Linguistica* 18(2): 249-266.

Easterday, Shelece. 2017. Highly complex syllable structure: a typological study of its phonological characteristics and diachronic development. PhD dissertation: University of New Mexico.

Lindblom, Björn & Ian Maddieson. 1988. Phonetic universals in consonant systems. In Larry M. Hyman, Victoria Fromkin, & Charles N. Li (eds.), *Language, speech, and mind: Studies in honor of Victoria A. Fromkin*. London: Taylor and Francis. 62-78.

Maddieson, Ian. 2006. Correlating phonological complexity: data and validation. *Linguistic Typology* 10(1): 106-123.

Maddieson, Ian, Sébastien Flavien, Egidio Marsico, Christophe Coupé & François Pellegrino. 2013. LAPSyD: Lyon-Albuquerque Phonological Systems Database. In Proceedings of the 14th Interspeech Conference, Lyon, France, 25-29 August 2013.