

Maria Helena Mateus and Ernesto d'Andrade.
***The Phonology of Portuguese.* Oxford:**
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The Phonology of Portuguese is intended for students of phonology, for researchers in Romance languages, and for the linguistic community in general. It presents the main aspects of Portuguese phonology, including those processes that affect segments, syllables, and stress, as well as morphophonological aspects, discussing their implications in phonological theories. Although the book is mainly about European Portuguese (as spoken in the Lisbon area), comparisons are made with Brazilian Portuguese so that the reader obtains an idea of what is similar and what is not between these varieties.

The book presents Portuguese phonology from the point of view of non-linear phonology and within a computational framework that resorts to the ordering of rules. The authors make use of the following theories: Constriction-Based Model of Feature Geometry (Clements and Hume) joined with Radical Underspecification (Archangeli); X-Skeleton Syllable Theory (Levin); "Grid-Only" Metrical Theory (Prince; Selkirk); and Lexical Phonology (Kiparsky; Mohanan).

Chapter 1 explains the aim of the book as well as provides a brief overview of previous studies of Portuguese phonology. Chapter 2 describes the segmental inventory, the main phonotactic patterns and phonological phenomena, previewing how they can be analyzed in the light of Feature Geometry and Radical Underspecification.

Chapter 3 accounts for syllable structure and discusses phonological aspects within this domain (for example: glide insertion; diphthongization; diphthongs with different weights and their relation with stress). Chapters 4 and 5 provide information about the intricacies of Portuguese morphology and discuss its interaction with phonology. The former chapter addresses inflectional morphology whereas the latter, derivational morphology.

In Chapter 6, the authors present the word stress of Portuguese as being actually two stress systems, one for nouns and adjectives and the other for verbs, a situation also found in other Romance languages such as Spanish (Hualde). One of the most interesting points made in this chapter is the discussion of why Portuguese is not a quantity-sensitive language. The authors argue, instead, for a morphology-oriented account of Portuguese stress.

Chapter 7 accounts for the main phonological processes of Portuguese. In contrast to the previous chapters, which address phenomena that are morphologically-conditioned or conditioned by the interplay of morphology, lexical marks, and prosody, this chapter presents phenomena that are only conditioned by prosodic factors. Nasalization, vowel reduction in unstressed syllables, processes sensitive to syllable structure (point of articulation and voicing of codas, palatalization of coronal onsets) and connected speech (coalescence, hapology, etc.) are all investigated.

Although one of the authors' stated aims is to discuss Portuguese phonology in the context of evaluating modern phonological theory, they do not explain their neglect of Optimality Theory (Prince and Smolensky) nor do they establish a dialogue with its proponents. Thus, the reader is unable to benefit from evaluating the pros and cons of differing approaches. Even within the representational theories they use, no explanation is provided as to why they reject other more widely accepted alternatives (for example, the use of the Skeleton-Syllable Theory for syllable structure and syllable weight instead of Moraic Theory [Hayes]).

Having said that, this book provides a wealth of empirical data, enlightening descriptive generalizations, and clever analytical insights. In particular, the discussion of stress is revealing and it will serve as an obligatory point of reference for any linguist interested in metrical phonology. Overall, the book is a success and definitely a must-have for those linguists interested in Romance phonology in general and especially for those who study the phonology of Portuguese. The authors do an excellent job in presenting the main aspects of Portuguese phonology. They emphasize characteristics particular to Portuguese. Undoubtedly, the authors make a significant and up-to-date contribution to the understanding of Portuguese phonology.

Works Cited

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