

## How Diverse are Repairs for Multiple Labial Consonants?

Juliette Blevins  
CUNY Graduate Center

In early work on Proto-Austronesian word structure, it was observed that non-identical labial consonants are strongly disfavoured in stem-initial [CVCV... sequences (Chrétien 1965). A recent review of similar constraints in Austronesian daughter languages highlights the diverse nature of observed repair strategies (Zuraw and Lu 2009). Reflexes of PAN \*-um- in labial-initial stems can surface: (i) with no change; (ii) with loss of either the stem or infix labial consonant; (iii) with dissimilation of either the stem or infix labial consonant; or (iv) with infix realized as prefix. Diverse repair strategies are predicted by models like Optimality Theory, where a single markedness constraint like \*<sub>[Stem]LAB V LAB...</sub> can be resolved in different ways depending on rankings of other markedness and faithfulness constraints in particular grammars. In contrast, Evolutionary Phonology (Blevins 2004, 2006, to appear) highlights the natural and unnatural evolutionary pathways that give rise to recurrent sound patterns, suggesting that the absence of diverse repairs for, e.g. final obstruent voicing, is directly related to the natural phonetic basis of final devoicing sound change. In this talk, the Austronesian data is reviewed from an evolutionary perspective, in an attempt to understand several patterns that are unexplained in previous accounts. These include: the high frequency of C-C fusion as a repair strategy; the low frequency of stem-dissimilation as repair; and the implicational relationship, that if a language has a zero realization of the affix, it will also have fusion. High frequency patterns and co-occurring patterns appear to reflect natural historical sound changes, while low frequency repairs seem to spring from language-internal analogical extension.

### Selected References

- Blevins, J. To appear. Evolutionary Phonology: A holistic approach to sound change typology. In, P. Honeybone and J. Salmons (eds.), *Handbook of Historical Phonology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Blevins, Juliette. 2006. A theoretical synopsis of Evolutionary Phonology. *Theoretical Linguistics* 32:117-65.
- Blevins, Juliette. 2004. *Evolutionary phonology: The emergence of sound patterns*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Chrétien, C. Douglas. 1965. The statistical structure of the Proto-Austronesian morph. *Lingua* 14: 243-270.
- Zuraw, Kie and Yu-An Lu. 2009. Diverse repairs for multiple labial consonants. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 27: 1997-224.