An Optimality Theoretical Approach to Reduplication Tone Sandhi in Hai-lu Hakka

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this research is to investigate reduplication tone sandhi in Hai-lu Hakka. In particular, disyllabic and trisyllabic adjective reduplication are focused, and the framework of Optimality Theory (Prince and Smolenscky 1993) is employed. In disyllabic words, I observe that OCP can not account for the tone sandhi, since Shang tone (LM) and Yin-ru tone (H) will change before any tone. I thus incorporate the notion of constraint conjunction to resolve this problem. In trisyllabic reduplication, I reexamine the tone value of the first syllable by way of acoustic measurements, and discover that the tone in question is a high-rise, but not a low-rise (as claimed in Gu 2002, among others). With a floating high tone (Yip 1980; Ou 1996, 2000) assumed, the high-rise can be obtained by aligning the floating H at the right edge of the first syllable.