

# LAD Conferences

6 mars 2009, 11:00  
DS-6365, 320 Ste-Catherine Est, Montréal

L a b o r a t o i r e   d e   r e c h e r c h e   s u r   l e s   a s y m é t r i e s   d ' i n t e r f a c e s

**Birgit Alber, University of Verona**  
(Co-author: Sabine Lappe, University of Siegen)

## Towards a Universal Typology of Truncation

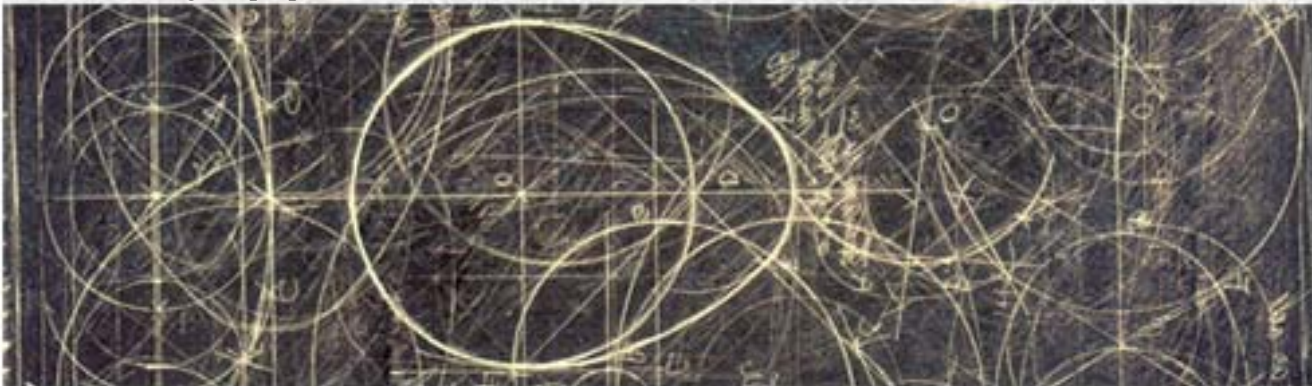
We explore the typology of truncation patterns by proposing a set of violable constraints targeting the typical properties of truncation and then studying the interaction of the proposed constraints in an optimality-theoretic framework.

As typical properties of truncation patterns (*Patricia-Pat*, *Patricia-Tricia*) we observe:

- templatic shapes: the generation of truncation morphemes of one or two syllables;
- anchoring: preservation of prominent positions of the base in the truncation morpheme (typically the first or the stressed syllable);
- maximality: by default maximal copying of the base material into the truncation morpheme.

We propose constraints which are responsible for these properties, integrate them into the frame of Generalized Template Theory (McCarthy&Prince 1999) and then study the patterns predicted by the factorial typology of the proposed constraint set. We then compare the languages thus predicted with our database of 88 truncation patterns.

We find that constraint interaction predicts truncation patterns which are atemplatic, doubly anchored or copy submaximally, while still preserving other characteristic properties of truncation. In our database, we do find truncation patterns of this type, where the various constraints shaping truncation are violated minimally. However, we do not find non predicted patterns such as e.g. truncation templates consisting of three syllables, thus confirming the proposed constraint set.



*Geometria dell'ovale incisione su rame stampa in negativo* © 2007 - Patrizio Di Sciullo - Tutti i diritti riservati.

**Birgit Alber** is a professor for German Linguistics at the University of Verona, Italy. She has obtained a Ph.D. in Linguistics at the Universities of Padova and Venice and has taught at the Universities of Marburg, Germany and Trento, Italy. Her main research interests are in the field of phonology, specifically, in metrical theory and prosodic morphology.

### Selected Publications

Alber, Birgit. 1997b. 'Quantity Sensitivity as the Result of Constraint Interaction' In Booij, G., & van de Weijer, J. (eds.), *Phonology in progress - progress in phonology*, HIL Phonology Papers III. The Hague: Holland Academic Graphics. 1-45. ROA

Alber, Birgit. 1998. "Stress preservation in German loan words", in: Wolfgang Kehrein & Richard Wiese (eds.), *Phonology and Morphology of the Germanic Languages*, Niemeyer, Tübingen, 113-141. ROA

Alber, Birgit. 2001. "Regional Variation and Edges: Glottal Stop Epenthesis and Dissimilation in Standard and Southern Varieties of German". *Zeitschrift für Sprachwissenschaft* Vol. 20.1, 3-41. ROA

Alber, Birgit. 2005. 'Clash, lapse and directionality' *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*, 23.3

**Anna Maria Di Sciullo**

[www.interfaceasymmetry.uqam.ca](http://www.interfaceasymmetry.uqam.ca)

CRSH | FQRSC

