Abstract title: Vowel Harmony in Tatar and its Exceptions

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In Tatar, the vowel located in the initial syllable of a native word is fully contrastive for height, roundness, and backness, whereas the inventory of all subsequent vowels is restricted (Poppe, 1963; Shakhmayev, 1994). These noninitial syllable vowels are predictably [-high] and [-round] and each must match the initial syllable vowel in its specification for backness. With an appeal to positional faithfulness constraints (e.g., Beckman, 1997), a phonological analysis couched in OT of this regular process of vowel harmony in native Tatar words will be offered. Even though vowel harmony and the accompanying inventory restriction are regular and productive, there exist important exceptions to the stated generality. In the second half of the presentation, I will propose an analysis for one group of words that demonstrates an exception to this pattern: derived vowel-vowel sequences. In response to a derived hiatus sequence created from the concatenation of a vowel-initial morpheme to a vowel-final verb stem, Tatar has two different strategies at its disposal: coalescence or tolerance of hiatus. Both strategies violate the noninitial vowel restriction and it will be shown that the choice of strategy is dependent on the featural specification of the two vowels involved. To accommodate these morphologically derived hiatus sequences, my analysis will rely on two different locally conjoined constraints based on proposals by Smolensky (1995) and Łubowicz (2002).

Beckman, J. (1997). Positional faithfulness, positional neutralization and Shona vowel harmony. Phonology, 14, 1-46.

Łubowicz, A. (2002). Derived environment effects in Optimality Theory. Lingua, 112, 243-280.

Poppe, N. (1963). <u>Tatar Manual</u>. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Publications.

Shakhmayev, S. (1994). <u>Tatar-English/English-Tatar Dictionary</u>. New York: Hippocrene Books Inc.

Smolensky, P. (1995, April). On the internal structure of the constraint component CON of UG. <u>Colloquium presented at the University of California, Los Angeles.</u> [Rutgers Optimality Archive, 86-0000].