

A Study of English Loanwords

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English segments adopted into Korean can be divided into three types: Some English segments /m, n, ŋ, p^h, t^h, k^h/ are adopted into the original sound [m, n, ŋ, p^h, t^h, k^h] in Korean. Other segments /b, d, g/ appear in the voiceless stop form [p, t, k].

Generative Phonology explains the presence of the above English segments in Korean but it cannot explain why the English segments /f, v, θ, ʒ, ʃ, ʝ/ disappear during the adopting process.

I present a set of universal constraints from the Optimality Theory proposed by Prince and Smolensky(1993) and I show how English segments differently adopted into Korean can be explained by these universal constraints such as Faith(feature), NoAffricateStop,

Faith(nasal), NoNasalStop, Faith(voice), NoVoicedStop and the interaction of these constraints.

I conclude that this Optimality Theory provides insights that better capture the nature of the phonological phenomena of English segments in Korean