

Hiatus Resolution in Québécois French
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Québécois French (QF) has a number of phonological phenomena that are motivated by hiatus avoidance. I argue that these include not only processes such as vowel deletion and diphthongization, but also liaison. There are also many contexts where QF tolerates hiatus well. I propose to model the patterns of hiatus and hiatus resolution in QF with three sets of constraints organized in a serial manner. This is based on the claims that the relevant processes are variable, and that they exhibit opacity. The proposed model combines aspects of Stochastic Optimality Theory (Boersma & Hayes 2001), multi-level Optimality Theory (Kiparsky 2000, 2010; Rubach 2000), and the Contrastivist Hypothesis (Dresher & Rice 2002, Dresher 2009, Hall 2007). Within the model, the constraint levels are defined prosodically: the first level targets the clitic group and produces categorical outputs, the second applies to the phonological phrase and allows for optionality, and the third targets the intonational phrase and produces complex patterns of variability.