

I argue in this paper that ordering restrictions on obstruents in Bolivian Quechua root morphemes result from a cross-linguistic tendency to place more complex segments before less complex segments. While similar patterns in Cuzco Quechua dialects have been analyzed previously (e.g. Parker & Weber, 1996, Parker, 1997, MacEachern, 1997), this paper presents data from the Quechua dialect spoken in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Using these data, I argue that the pattern ‘more-complex before less-complex’ can be modeled using a family of constraints $*X_{\text{simp}} \dots X_{\text{cmplx}}$ and $*X_{\text{cmplx}} \dots X_{\text{cmplx}}$. This is an extension of the first $*X_{\text{simp}} \dots X_{\text{cmplx}}$ constraint proposed by Curtin, 2000. I argue that this family of constraints has two possible motivations: to reduce the occurrence of anticipatory errors which can appear as erroneous gestural intrusions, and to increase the speed of spoken word recognition. I examine these motivations and apply the proposed constraint family to Bolivian Quechua. I then examine how this approach could be used to analyze ordering patterns that occur in Javanese (Mester, 1986), Latin (Jensen, 1974) Basque (MacEachern 1997), and Aymara (Rose & Walker, 2004).