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## Nota di contenuto

GENERATIVE PHONOLOGY A Case-Study from French; Editorial page; Title page; Copyright page; PREFACE; Table of contents; INTRODUCTION; FINAL SEGMENTS AND GENDER INFLECTION IN FRENCH; 1. THE DELETION RULES; 1.1 Liaison as non-deletion; 1.2 Liaison as metathesis; 1.3 Liaison as syntax; 2. EXCEPTIONS TO THE DELETION RULES; 2.1 There are exceptions to the deletion rules; 2.2 There are no exceptions to the deletion rules; 2.3 There are exceptions to the deletion rules; 3. INVARIANT ADJECTIVES; 3.1 Vowel-final stems; 3.2 Consonant-final stems; 4. THE SCOPE OF THE DELETION RULES 4.1 Nasals and nasalisation 4.2 Derivational augments and 'secondary derivation'; 5. ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS; 5.1 There is no consonant deletion rule: liaison as epenthesis; 5.2 There is a (minor) consonant deletion rule; 6. THE FUNCTIONAL UNITY OF ELISION AND LIAISON; 6.1 Elision and liaison as natural rules; 6.2 Elision and liaison as conspiratorial rules; 7. SUMMARY; 7.1 Final segments; 7.2 Gender inflection; CONCLUSION; REFERENCES

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## Sommario/riassunto

This study is a discussion of, rather than a contribution to, generative phonology. The central question posed, is: Does linguistic theory provide a basis for choosing between competing grammars - that is, an evaluation procedure for grammars? If so, then what is its form? If not, then how are we to interpret controversies between linguists as to the relative merits of competing grammars? These issues will be discussed in relation to a particular problem of evaluation in the treatment of the morphonology of final segments in Modern French.

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