Typologically informed Phonetic/Phonological Fieldwork, Phonetically/Phonologically grounded Typology

The tradition of phonological and phonetic typology developed in the second half of the XXth century relied on the comparison of phonemic inventories (Greenberg, 1978; Maddieson, 1984). The works from this period summarized the knowledge available from phonemic transcriptions in grammars and descriptive phonological studies at the time, and proposed the typology and universal tendencies observed across languages. The representation of sound patterns in the form of inventory charts consituted the main methodological tool to propose universal tendencies across languages. At the core of phonemic typology there is the premise that the generalizations and claims are based mainly on discrete representations, which by necessity leave aside the phonetic matter of speech properly. As a result of developments in instruments available to linguists and the maturity in the discipline, towards the end of the century, the research in phonetic typology experienced a paradigm shift associated with the work of Peter Ladefoged and Ian Maddieson on the phonetics of the World's languages; this new type of research incorporated the theoretical developments in phonetic theory together with technological advances and intensive fieldwork to produce phonetic descriptions of natural languages that were the basis for cross-linguistic comparisons validated quantitatively. This shift in the paradigm has paved the road for contemporary phonetically and phonologically grounded typology, which, in turn, informs fieldwork research on the sounds of the World's languages. I will present original crosslinguistic phonetic data collected in the field and typological analyses of partially nasal consonants and glottalized consonants to illustrate the synergy between fielwork and typology.