

Table of contents	I
Preface	III
Prologue	1
Chapter 1. <i>What is Ockham's Razor?</i>	3
1.1. A definition of Ockham's Razor	3
1.1.1. Razor vs. Anti-Razor	3
1.1.2. An ontological and / or epistemological (methodological) principle?	4
1.1.3. Intellectual elegance	6
1.2. Two possible candidates for Ockham's Razor	6
1.2.1. French <i>h-aspiré</i> : 'abstract' vs. 'concrete' accounts	7
1.2.2. Universal constraints in Optimality Theory	14
1.3. Ockham's Razor and Dupuy's <i>catastrophisme éclairé</i>	16
Chapter 2. <i>Applying Ockham's Razor to theories of French phonology (and morphology) over the last half century</i>	19
2.1. The origin of Generative Phonology in structuralism	19
2.1.1. American structuralism	19
2.1.2. European structuralism	25
2.2. Generative Phonology	27
2.2.1. Transformational Generative Phonology: The Anti-Razor lives!	27
2.2.1.1. Introductory comments	27
2.2.1.2. Elision and Liaison	28
2.2.1.3. The Vowel System	32
2.2.1.4. The Verb System	42
2.2.1.5. Evaluation: The logic of the Anti-Razor	49
2.2.2. The rise and fall of 'concreteness' in phonology: Ockham's Razor in action	53
2.2.2.1. Background: Splitting up generative phonology	53
2.2.2.2. (De)nasalization in French	54
2.2.2.3. zero vs. C alternations	57
2.2.2.4. Oral vowels	60
2.2.2.5. Verbs revisited	62
2.2.2.6. On the 'local' nature of the Razor	66

II

2.3. Two recent ‘incarnations’ of Generative Phonology	69
2.3.1. Non-linear Phonology	69
2.3.1.1. Encrevé’s <i>phonologie tridimensionnelle</i>	69
2.3.1.2. Charette’s <i>Government phonology</i>	74
2.3.1.3. Tranel 1995	77
2.3.1.4. A critique of NLP : return of the Anti-Razor ?	79
2.3.2. Optimality Theory	85
2.3.2.1. On the functional unity of French liaison and elision	85
2.3.2.2. Evaluating the OT account	89
2.3.2.3. The place of OT in the history of phonological studies of French	92
2.4. Natural Morphology	94
2.4.1. Theoretical introduction and overview	94
2.4.2. Confrontation of NM principles with TGP	100
2.4.3. Does NM anticipate OT?	105
2.4.4. On the relevance of the Razor vs. Anti-Razor dichotomy for NM	109
Excursus. <i>A sampling of Ockham’s reasoning on issues of his time</i>	112
Chapter 3. <i>Can linguistics use a shave from Ockham’s Razor?</i>	124
3.1. Review of analyses of topics in French phonology	124
3.1.1. Ockham’s Razor and Chatton’s Anti-Razor in GP and CP	124
3.1.2. Other approaches	124
3.1.3. On the necessity of a ‘historical perspective’	125
3.2. Chatton’s Anti-Razor vs. Ockham’s Anti-Razor	125
3.3. The geometry of Ockham’s (Anti)-Razor	128
Epilogue	133
References	134
Index of authors	138