More on Austronesian nasal substitution

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Nasal substitution (NS) in Austronesian languages is a process whereby the stem-initial consonant is replaced by a homorganic nasal. Previous analyses of NS within Optimality Theory (OT) (Pater 1999, 2001; Archangeli et al. 1998) do not account for several general patterns found across Austronesian languages. This paper proposes an OT analysis of three of the problematic cases pointed out by Blust (2004), and shows that these data are explainable within OT by extending Pater’s (2001) analysis with a minimum of additional machinery, and no diachronic explanation is necessary at least for them.