

Contrast emergence, preservation, and loss: A case study of Initial Geminate

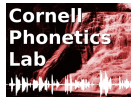
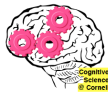
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ICHL 24th, July, 3rd



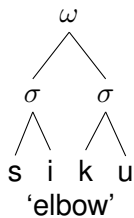
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Introduction

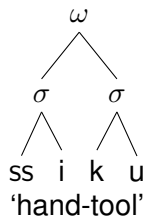
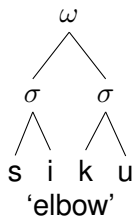
Pattani Malay

Malayic, Austronesian



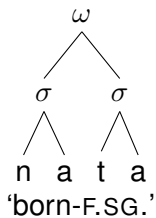
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Salentino

Romance, Indo-European



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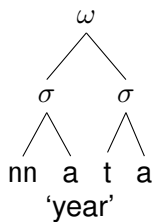
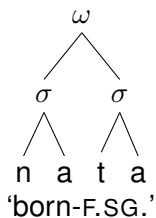




Figure 1: Typological distribution of IGs

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- ② **Phonetic Instability** (e.g. Blevins 2004)

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- Onsets effects on weight are probabilistic (e.g. Ryan 2014)
- IGs, however, have categorical effects on weight computation, but only in some languages
- Why are IGs moraic in some languages but non-moraic in others?
- Is this a language-specific property? How do we model it in either moraic (Topintzi, 2008) or gestural terms (Shaw, 2006)?

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- There are languages where IGs are “stable” (Bertinetto and Loporcaro, 1999) in both synchronic and diachronic terms
- How are stable and unstable initial geminates different?

Our take on these problems

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- Derive synchronic properties of IGs from their diachrony *a lá* Evolutionary Phonology
- Acoustic study of two languages that can represent stable and unstable IGs (preliminary)

Diachrony and the Moraic Status of IGs

One caveat

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- In 28/44 (64%) languages of our database the moraic status of IGs cannot be determined

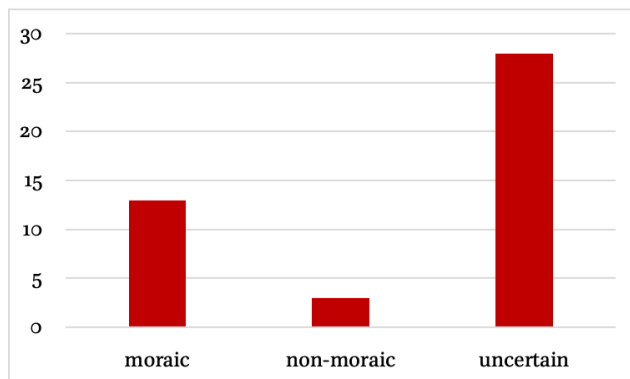


Figure 2: Frequency of (non-)moraic IGs in the database

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- No consensus on the phonetic correlates of moraic structure (acoustic e.g. Cohn 2003, Gordon et al. 2008, articulatory, e.g. Nam 2007, Tilsen 2016, *etc.*)

Moraic status of IGs seems to correlate with language family

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Family	Moraic IGs	Non-Moraic IGs
Austronesian	Trukese Ponapean Pattani Malay Piro	Leti
Indo-European		Thurgovian Swiss German
Afro-Asiatic		Tashlhiyt Berber
Semitic		Arabic (Moroccan, Levantine, Gulf)
Japonic	Okinawan (Tedumuni, Shuri, Antoh) Hatoma Ikema Ryukyuan	
Niger-Congo	LuGanda	

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/ppaar/	'pair'	<i>cf.</i> Fr. [pɛʁ]
/tturtə/	'layered cake'	<i>cf.</i> Fr. [tuʁt]
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UR	Gloss	Pl.	Sg.
/has/	‘hare’	has-e	h aː s
/ttak/	‘day’	ttak-e	tt aː k
/walt/	‘forest’	walt-e	walt
/fett/	‘fat’	fett-e	fett

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krz	kkrz	'to plough'
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‘to plough’

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‘to peel’

tḱ.kṣt

ta.zṇ.k^wṭt

ttsḵ.xan

‘you took off’

female gazelle’

‘dip (in sauce)’

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Standard Jap

kura

huro

saroi

‘store house’

‘portable stove’

‘white’

Antoh Okinawan

fɪa

fɪo

sɪoi

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huro	'portable stove'	fɪo
saroi	'white'	sɔi

There is a ban on *CV word

kusi	'back'
mi:	'eye'
fɪa	'child'

- ② **Luganda**, has moraic IGs resulting from CV(C) prefix deletions (Clements, 1986)

UR

li-kubo

li-tabu

ku-gula

ku-mu-gulila

SR

kkubo

ttabu

kugula *or* ggula

kumugulila *or* mmugulila

'path'

'branch'

'to buy'

'to buy for him or her'

- Unaccented words have LH(H)... tonal pattern

mùgó 'rim of pot'

màtá 'milk'

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- Unaccented words with IGs have H(H)... tonal pattern, L is “absorbed” on the IG

bbégá	‘back’	*bbègá
ggúlú	‘sky’	*ggùlú
ddágálá	‘medicine’	*ddàgálá

- ③ **Trukese**'s IGs is also the result of the loss of initial syllable (Davis, 2017)

<i>Proto-Micronesian</i>	<i>Trukese</i>
*kakaŋi	kken
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/omosu/	[omos]	'turban shell'
/maa/	[maa]	'behavior'
/ttoo/	[tto]	'clam'

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- Forms in the lexicon are learned anyway
- What we need is synchronic evidence of C:V productively manipulated as H syllables

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- Trukese has a lullaby where each of the 5 lines has a fixed number of trochees (6-5-4-4-5) of shape (H) or (LL)

a)	aa	li	kə	li	kə	saan	tei	roo
	(H)	(L L)	(L L)	(H)	(H)	(H)		
b)	i	se	i	se	iist	taa	roo	
	(L L)	(L L)	(H)	(H)	(H)			
c)	ma	ra	ma	ra	kii	Nei		
	(L L)	(L L)	(H)	(H)				
d)	ma	ra	ma	ra	kaa	Nei		
	(L L)	(L L)	(H)	(H)				
e)	mart	tei	nii	yaa	nii			
	(H)	(H)	(H)	(H)	(H)			

Figure 3: Trukese lullaby derived from names (*Alexander, Isttaro, Marki, Marka, and Martenia*) (Shaw, 2007)

- A CVCV word, e.g. *sipa*, fit into the lullaby yields:

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- More evidence is necessary to assess phonological knowledge of speakers.

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- *Contra* Hume et al. (1997), Curtis (2003) points out that secondary stress, and word-minimality, can be reanalyzed in quantity-insensitive terms.

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- However, that moraic IGs may become non-moraic is to be expected
- IGs would simply be losing their affiliation in the lexicon with CV syllable, becoming C or C-clusters
- Their status in the phonology is simply being 'updated'

Putting it all together

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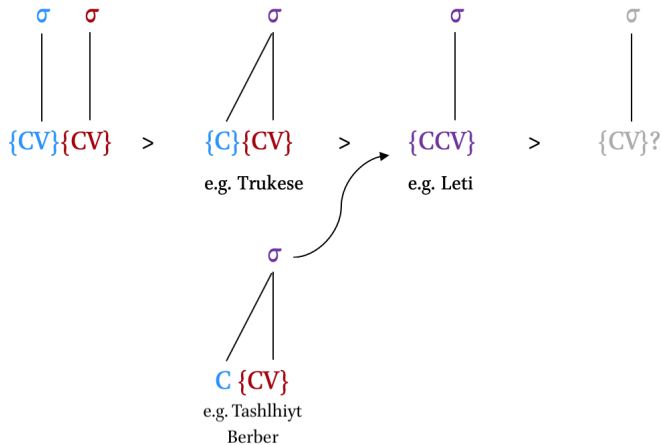


Figure 4: Life cycle of IGs

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- One final note: what happens at the end of the life cycle of IGs?

Phonetic Instability of IGs (preliminary)

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- Are there cases of IGs that are stable synchronically and diachronically?

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- In contrast, **Pattani Malay** only has IGs and no active process creating them
- Pattani Malay data looks much different from what Abramson (1987) described.

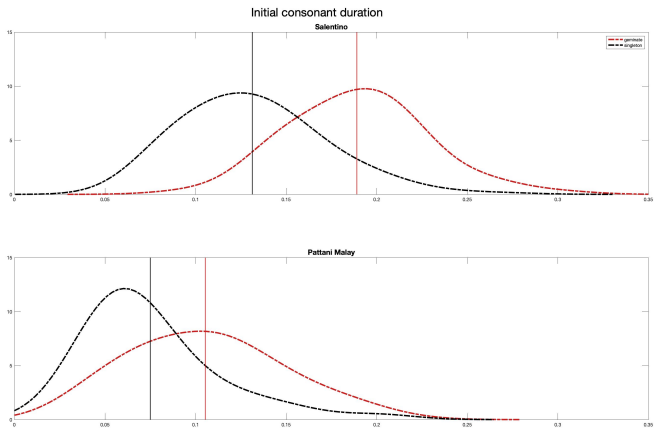


Figure 5: Durational distribution of singletons and geminates in Salentino and Pattani Malay

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- Pattani Malay shows more overlap of singletons and geminates than Salentino
- Contra Abramson (1987) IGs are (no) 3x the singletons in Pattani Malay
- The durational differences is not as large (30 msec).
- This may suggest that closure duration differences are being reduced (and other cues are coming into play Abramson 1986; 1992)

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- Salentino IGs go back a long way (early Romance times) and are still synchronically cued in terms of closure duration
- Similar example of diachronically 'stable' IGs can be found in Tashlhiyt Berber, for which IGs can be reconstructed for the proto-language

Morpho-phonology as a stabilizing agent of phonological systems

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Morpho-phonology as a stabilizing agent of phonological systems

- A shared feature of Salentino and Tashlhiyt Berber is that the IGs can be derived productively through phono-morphological processes
- These could be one (among many reasons) why a poorly cued phonetic contrast remains stable

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- Phonetic implementation is more multidimensional than phonological representation
- Stability in the phonological system depends not only on phonetics, but also phonological process, phonotactics, morphology *etc.*
- Synchrony and diachrony, i.e. lexical distributions, are both necessary for a more nuanced understanding of IGs and linguistic knowledge at large.

Thank you!

Special Thanks to

- Draga Zec
- Abby Cohn
- Sam Tilsen
- John Whitman
- Pittayawat Pittayaporn
- Pimthip Kochaiyaphum

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Bonus slides

- ② **Luganda**: Unaccented words have an unmarked H tone which spreads leftward, but leaves the initial syllable as a 'buffer'

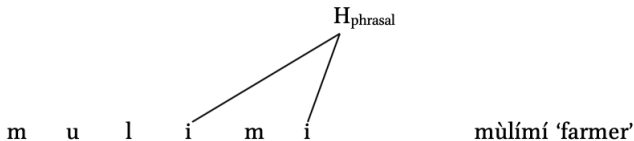


Figure 6: Tonal spreading in unaccented words in Luganda (Muller, 2001)

⑤ **Ponapean** has a reduplication process that relies on the moraic structure of the stem

- Monomoraic stems: $\mu\mu - L$

pa	'weave'	ppa-pa
dod	'frequent'	don-dod
tep	'begin'	tepi-tep

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- Bimoraic stems: μ - H

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pei	'fight'	pe-pei

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pei	'fight'	pe-pei

- Stems with two monomoraic syllables: $\mu\mu$ - LL

dune	'attach in a sequence'	dun-dune
siped	'shake out'	sipi-siped

- Stems with IGs pattern with stems with two monomoraic syllables

mmed	'full'	m <i>mi</i> -mmed
ŋŋar	'to see'	ŋŋ <i>i</i> -ŋŋar
mm ^w us	'frequent'	mm ^w <i>u</i> -mm ^w us



Figure 7: Moraic representation of words with an IG (Kennedy, 2003)

- Stems with IGs pattern with stems with two monomoraic syllables

mmed	'full'	m <i>mi</i> -mmed
ŋŋar	'to see'	ŋŋ <i>i</i> -ŋŋar
mm ^w us	'frequent'	mm ^w <i>u</i> -mm ^w us



Figure 7: Moraic representation of words with an IG (Kennedy, 2003)

- **Diachronically**, IGs in Ponapean also derived from the loss of a syllable. This can explain why they are patterned with disyllabic stems.

⑤ **Pattani Malay** is claimed to display stress shift (from final) to initial syllables whose onset is geminate.

- This is not correct, stress remains final.
- No difference in duration, F0, or intensity in final in **CV.CV** vs **CCV.CV** disyllabic forms (Pittayaporn et al. *in prep*)

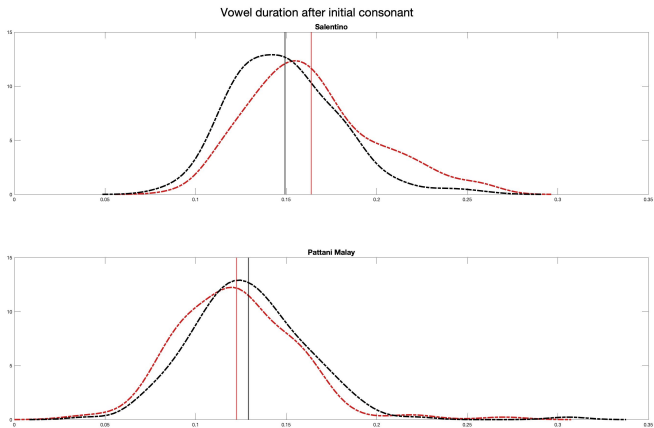


Figure 8: Durational distribution of vowel following geminates and singletons in Salentino and Pattani Malay