(Non-)Interactions of Initial Geminates and Stress: A case study of Pattani Malay

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Pattani Malay is often cited as a prime example of a language with moraic onset: Initial geminates (IGs) attract stress (Hajek & Goedeman 2003, Topintzi 2008)\textsuperscript{[buˈwoh]} ‘fruit’ [bawɔh] ‘to stand’ [jaˈlɛ] ‘path, road’ [jalɛ] ‘road, path’

Caveat: based on a single impressionistic description (Yupho 1989)

Introduction

- Pattani Malay is often cited as a prime example of a language with moraic onset: Initial geminates (IGs) attract stress (Hajek & Goedeman 2003, Topintzi 2008)
- Caveat: based on a single impressionistic description (Yupho 1989)

Research Question

Do words with and without IGs display different prominence patterns, based on acoustic data correlating with stress?
- Words without IGs display final prominence
- Words with IGs display initial prominence

Prediction

If IGs attract stress and words with and without IGs have different stress patterns...

Data Collection

- 14 speakers (6M; 8F) in age range 20-61 y.o. ($\mu = 33, \sigma = 16$)
- Target words: 13 disyllabic minimal pairs x 6 repetitions
- Each target word embedded in a sentence
- Cued by natural sounding Thai sentences

Data Analyses

- Two sets series of comparison
  1) Paradigmatic: IG vs non-IG condition
  2) Syntagmatic: Initial vs final syllables condition
- Data was analyzed by fitting linear mixed effect regressions

Results

- No difference between words with and without IGs
- Final syllables are always longer than initial syllables

Duration

- No difference between words with and without IGs
- Initial syllables have higher $F_0$ than final syllables

Results (cont.)

Intensity

- No difference between words with and without IGs
- Initial syllables have higher intensity than final syllables

Conclusion

- Three acoustic measurements correlating with stress suggest that IGs do not affect prominence profile
- Duration: Final syllables are always longer
- $F_0$ & intensity: All words show falling profile over the word
- There is no evidence, so far, for moraic status of IGs in Pattani Malay

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References