(In)complete Vowel Lengthening:

Japanese Monomoraic Lengthening as Incomplete Neutralization

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Introduction

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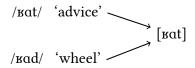
Experiment I

Experiment II

Discussio

Complete neutralization

- Complete neutralization: two underlyingly distinct segments become identical
- Classically-cited case: German final devoicing (Trubetzkoy 1939/1969, p. 235; Bloomfield 1933/1984, pp. 218-219; Jakobson et al. 1952/1975, p. 9; Hyman 1975, pp. 29, 71-72)
- The classic picture:



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Discussion

Introduction

- Japanese: bimoraic minimality (e.g., Poser 1990, Itô 1990)
- Experiment I: monomoraic noun lengthening
 - Vowel length contrast: incompletely neutralized
- Experiment II: number recitation lengthening
 - Vowel length contrast: completely neutralized
- lacktriangle One phonological constraint o complete *and* incomplete neutralization

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Incomplete neutralization

- Incomplete neutralization: two underlyingly distinct segments become nearly identical
- Some small trace of the underlying distinction is manifested on the surface, in the direction of the canonical realization of the contrast

•
$$/X/ \rightarrow [Z^{(\alpha F)}] / (Context A)$$
 $[\alpha F]$
 $/Y/ \rightarrow [Z^{(\beta F)}] / (Context A)$

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German devoicing, redux

- German devoicing is actually incompletely neutralizing (Port and O'Dell 1985)

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Phonetic duration and phonological length

Incomplete neutralization: often small surface difference in phonetic duration

but

We know of no previously-reported cases of incompletely neutralized phonological length distinctions¹

See discussion of trochaic lengthening in Hayes (1995) and final lengthening in Chickasaw in Gordon and Munro (2007), which suggest that vowel lengthening might be an area rich for investigation.

Introduction

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Commonly-cited cases of incomplete neutralization

- German final devoicing (Port and O'Dell 1985, Mitleb 1981a,b, Dinnsen and Garcia-Zamor 1971, though see Fourakis and Iverson 1984)
- Catalan final devoicing (Dinnsen and Charles-Luce 1984)
- Polish final devoicing (Slowiaczek and Dinnsen 1985, Slowiaczek and Szymanska 1989)
- Russian final devoicing (Dmitrieva 2005)
- Dutch final devoicing (Warner et al. 2004, though see Warner et al. 2006)

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Questions

- (1) Can we expand the typology of incomplete neutralization to include new types of phonological contrasts?
- (2) When we say that a contrast is (in)completely neutralized, what is the scope of that claim?

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Japanese prefers minimally bimoraic words (Poser

1990, Itô 1990)

Nicknames map to bimoraic units

Name	Possible	Nickname	Impossil	ole Nickname
yumiko	$(yumi)_{Ft}$	-chaN	$*(yu)_{Ft}$	-chaN (1 mora)
megumi	$(\text{megu})_{\text{Ft}}$	-chaN	$^*(\mathrm{me})_{\scriptscriptstyle{\mathrm{Ft}}}$	-chaN (1 mora)
keiko	$(\mathbf{kei})_{\scriptscriptstyle{\mathrm{Ft}}}$	-chaN	$^{*}(\mathrm{ke})_{\scriptscriptstyle{\mathrm{Ft}}}$	-chaN (1 mora)
se	$(see)_{\scriptscriptstyle Ft}$	-chaN	$*(se)_{Ft}$	-chaN (1 mora)

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Introduction

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Monomoraic noun lengthening

Nouns without case particles

Case particles can be dropped in colloquial speech

- a. me-ga akai-yo
 - b. me-Ø akai-yo '(Your) eyes are red'
- a. te-o aratta?
 - b. te-Ø aratta? '(Did you) wash (your) hands?'

Examples from Mori (2002)

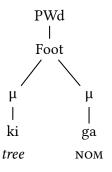
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Monomoraic noun lengthening

Nouns with case particles

Introduction

- Japanese has monomoraic nouns (e.g., ki 'tree')
- A case particle (e.g., ga, 'NOM') can provide the second mora



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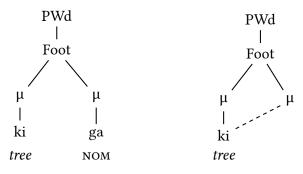
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Monomoraic noun lengthening

Nouns without case particles

Monomoraic nouns without particles undergo lengthening of 40-50% (Mori 2002)



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Monomoraic noun lengthening

Nouns without case particles

...But:

- Japanese bimoraic syllables are generally 66–80% longer than monomoraic syllables (Beckman 1982, Hoequist 1983)
- Why only 40–50% longer, then?
 - Mori (2002): to preserve the length contrast

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What would it look like?

Monomoraic lengthening as complete vs. incomplete neutralization

Vowel duration if neutralization is *complete*

Short
Lengthened
Long

Vowel duration if neutralization is incomplete

Short
Lengthened
Long

Monomoraic lengthening as incomplete neutralization

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Incomplete neutralization: some small trace of an underlying distinction remains on the surface

Does a trace of the underlying 'shortness' remain in lengthened nouns?

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Motivation for Experiment I

- Two subclaims to prove incomplete neutralization:
 - lengthened nouns > short nouns (Mori 2002, but for only two nouns)
 - long nouns > lengthened nouns
 - Never shown for nouns with identical segmental content
- Most cases of incomplete neutralization: devoicing, feature/segment-level contrasts
- Itô (1990): Japanese bimoraicity requirement is 'deep' or 'early' in phonology



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Stimuli

- 11 sets of three sentences (n=33)
 - Monomoraic noun, with a particle ('short/prt')
 - Monomoraic noun, without a particle ('short/Ø')
 - Underlyingly long noun ('long')
- Nouns within each set had the same segmental content
 - Accent was matched in 9 sets
- Standard Japanese orthography
- Long vowels indicated by either (a) kanji alone, or (b) kana with a length mark $(-)^2$
- See appendix

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Experiment I

Discussion

Participants and recording information

- Participants
 - 7 native speakers of Japanese (one excluded)
 - Undergrad and grad students at Japanese universities
 - Paid ¥500 (≈\$5)
- Recording details
 - Sound-attenuated room at International Christian University (Tokyo, Japan)
 - TASCAM DR-40 recorder

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Sample stimuli sets

a. short/prt 麩 素晴らしい subarashi-i fu gluten NOM excellent-PRES

b. short/Ø

麩 素晴らしい fu Ø subarashi-i gluten Ø excellent-pres

c. long

封か゛ とれた fuu ga tore-ta seal NOM come.off-pst a. short/prt

Experiment |

でた ga de-ta blood NOM going.out-PST

b. short/Ø

でた Ø de-ta chi blood Ø going.out-PST

c. long

地位 ある chii ga aru social.status nom have

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Procedure

- Speakers practiced all items once
- 2 Read all 33 sentences in random order
 - Speakers were instructed not to pause mid-sentence
- 3 Repeated 9 more times, re-randomized each time



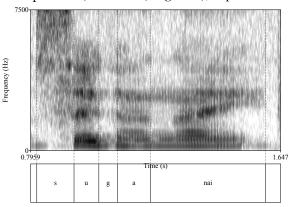
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Some 'long' morphemes written with kanji, had they been written in hiragana, would have been written as diphthongs. They are generally pronounced as long monophthongs, in spite of this orthographic convention (see Vance 2008, pp.63-68, for discussion).

Acoustic measurements

■ Vowel duration

Speaker 14, 酢がない (su ga nai), repetition 9



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A three-way distinction

Vowel duration

Mean Vowel Duration

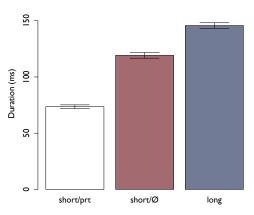
Averaged over all speakers, items, and repetitions

Mean vowel durations

■ short/prt: 73.54ms

■ short/Ø: 119.19ms

■ long: 145.74ms



ction $|\mu| \ge 2$ and lengthening **Experiment I** Experiment II

Statistical analysis

Linear mixed model (via 1me4 package in R).

- Vowel duration was regressed against condition (short, lengthened, underlyingly long) as a fixed factor, and speaker and item as random factors
 - Planned contrasts (treatment coding): short vs. lengthened nouns, and lengthened vs. underlyingly long nouns.

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Results

Statistical significance

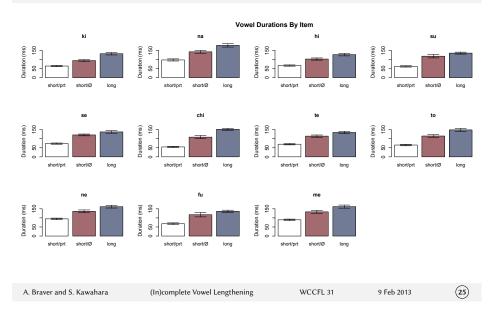
Condition has a significant effect on measured vowel duration^{3,4}

- Short/prt vs. short/Ø: mean difference -45.65ms, t =-8.018, p <0.001
- Long vs. short/Ø: mean difference 26.55ms, t = 1.369, p < 0.05

 $^{^3}$ $\,p$ values estimated by Markov Chain Monte Carlo method, via languageR package in R.

⁴ A t-test confirms the significance fo the long vs. short/Ø vowel length distinction: t(1278.99) = -14.90, p < 0.001

The pattern holds for all sets



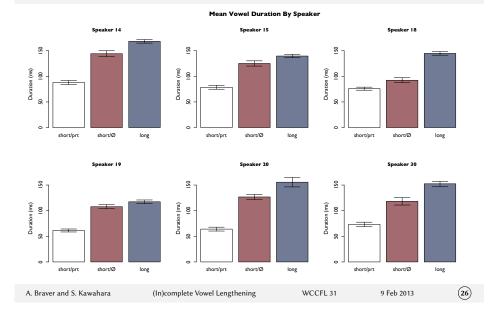
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Monomoraic nouns lengthen to meet the bimoraicity requirement $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right$

Vowel length is incompletely neutralized in this context

And for all 6 speakers

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Experiment |

Implications for incomplete neutralization

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- Most cases of incomplete neutralization are based on final devoicing
- Languages can incompletely neutralize a very different type of contrast (phonological length)
- A truly phonological process that leads to a case of incomplete neutralization which can't be relegated to phonetic implementation

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Experiment II

- Is the vowel length contrast incompletely neutralized *everywhere* in Japanese?
- Lengthening in a number recitation context, motivated by bimoraic minimality

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Stimuli

Main stimuli sets

- 2 sets of three phrases
 - Monomoraic number, non-lengthening context ('teens')
 - (juu-<u>ni</u>)_{Ft} ban kara ten-two(=12) NUM from
 - Monomoraic number, lengthening context ('recitation')
 - ichi (<u>ni</u>)_{Ft} san roku one two three six
 - Long noun, with identical segmental content ('long')
 - ano (<u>nii</u>)_{Ft} san tachi those older.brother HON PL
- Target words shared segmental content, modulo vowel length
- Frames in matched in mora count

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Telephone number recitation (Itô 1990)

- Each digit in a phone number stands as its own prosodic word
- If the digit has more than one mora, it gets used with no modification
 - 3: saN (μμ)
- If the digit has a bimoraic allomorph, that one gets used
 - 4: yoN (μμ), *shi (μ)
- If a bimoraic allomorph does not exist, the digit is lengthened
 - 5: /go/ → [goo], *[go]

A sample phone number

4	5	9	-	3	2	8	4
yoN	goo	kyuu	(no)	saN	nii	hachi	yoN
*shi	*go				*ni		*shi

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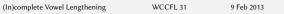
Discussion

Stimuli

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Additional stimuli sets

- 'Bimoraic' set (expectation: no lengthening)
 - san '3' in 'teens' and 'recitation' contexts
- 'Alternators' (expectation: bimoraic allomorph)
 - shi/yon '4' and ku/kyuu '9' in 'recitation' context



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Participants, recording information, procedure, and statistics

All details as in Experiment I, except:

- 12 native speakers of Japanese (different from Experiment I)
- Each speaker read all items in random order 7 times

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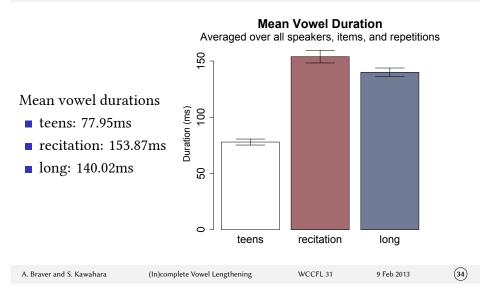
Statistical significance

- 'recitation' (lengthened) vowels were significantly longer than 'teens' (short) vowels
 - mean difference: 75.92ms
 - t = 10.586
 - p < 0.001
- 'recitation' (lengthened) vowels are *not* significantly different from 'long' vowels
 - mean difference: 13.85ms
 - t = 1.90
 - \blacksquare n.s.

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Vowel duration

Main sets



Lengthened vs. long and the bimoraic set

- Lengthened 'recitation' vowels were slightly longer than 'long' numbers (mean difference: 13.85ms, t = 1.90, n.s.)
- Bimoraic set: comparable difference

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- 'recitation' vowels were 15.92ms longer than 'teens' vowels
- The 'recitation' condition may induce \approx 15ms of lengthening beyond bimoraic lengthening



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Alternator sets

■ All speakers produced all tokens of all items using the bimoraic allomorph (i.e., yoN for '4' and kyuu for '9')

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Summary

- Experiment I: short/long vowel length contrast is *incompletely* neutralized in monomoraic noun lengthening
- Experiment II: short/long vowel length contrast appears *completely* neutralized in number recitation
- Duration-based length contrasts can be incompletely neutralized (Experiment I)
- A given contrast can be incompletely neutralized by one phonological process, but completely neutralized by a related process in the same language (Experiments I and II)

Discussion

Experiment II

- The short/long vowel length contrast appears to be *completely* neutralized in number recitation
- This lengthening is due to the same bimoraicity requirement as in Experiment I
- Non-significant difference between 'recitation' and 'long' vowels
 - Bimoraicity-lengthening $+ \approx$ 15ms additional lengthening

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Where does the difference come from?

A working hypothesis...

- Lexical vs. post-lexical levels (Kiparsky 1982a,b, 1985, Mohanan 1982, Kaisse and Shaw 1985)
- Monomoraic noun lengthening is conditioned by syntactic particles dropping (→ post-lexical)
- \blacksquare Allomorph selection in number recitation is affected by bimoraicity (\to lexical)
- Structure preservation (Kiparsky 1982a): lexical processes cannot introduce new segments



Hypothesis

- Hypothesis: Only post-lexical processes can introduce incompletely neutralized contrasts
- Preliminary typological support:
 - Devoicing in Russian is incomplete (Dmitrieva et al. 2010), and occurs across word-boundaries (Padgett 2011)
 - Flapping in American English is incomplete (Braver under review, Herd et al. 2010) and occurs across word-boundaries

AND

■ Manner neutralization in Korean codas is complete (Kim and Jongman 1996), and lexical (Kang 1993)

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Conclusion

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Introduction

■ The typology of processes leading to incomplete neutralization must include those that affect contrasts of length or prosodic structure

 A given phonological contrast within a language can be completely and incompletely neutralized by different processes

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 $|\text{Introduction} \qquad |\mu| \geq 2 \text{ and lengthening} \qquad \text{Experiment I} \qquad \text{Experiment II} \qquad \text{Discussion}$

Appendix: Experiment I Stimuli, Part I

Japanese orthography	Transcription	Gloss
木が倒れた。	ki ga taore-ta	tree NOM fall-PST
木倒れた。	ki taore-ta	tree NOM fall-PST
キー見つかった。	kii mitsukat-ta	key find-PST
菜が煮えた。	na ga nie-ta	vegetable NOM COOK-PST
菜煮えた。	na nie-ta	vegetable COOK-PST
「なー」と言われた。	"naa" to iw-are-ta	"DISC" COMP SAY-PSV-PST
火が消えた。	hi ga kie-ta	fire nom go.out-pst
火消えた。	hi kie-ta	fire go.out-pst
「ひー」と叫んた゛。	"hii" to saken-da	"interject." comp shout-pst
酢がない。 酢ない。 スーが見つからない。	su ga nai su nai suu ga mitsukar-anai	vinegar NOM NEG vinegar NEG Sue NOM find NEG (continued)

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Experiment I

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Appendix: Experiment I Stimuli, Part III

Japanese orthography	Transcription	Gloss
根がぬけた。	ne ga nuke-ta	root nom pull.out-pst
根ぬけた。	ne nuke-ta	root pull.out-pst
「ねー」と言われた。	"nee" to iw-are-ta	"disc" comp say-psv-pst
素晴らしい。	fu ga subarashi-i	gluten NOM excellent-PRES
素晴らしい。	fu subarashi-i	gluten excellent-PRES
封がとれた。	fuu ga tore-ta	seal NOM come.off-PST
目が腫れた。	me ga hare-ta	eye nom swell-pst
目腫れた。	me hare-ta	eye nom swell-pst
「メー」と鳴いた	"mee" to nai-ta	"[sheep sound]" comp make.sound pst

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Appendix: Experiment I Stimuli, Part II

Japanese orthography	Transcription	Gloss
背がのびた。	se ga nobi-ta	height NOM stretch-PST
背のびた。	se nobi-ta	height stretch-PST
正の整数。	sei no seisuu	positive MOD integer
血がでた。	chi ga de-ta	blood nom going.out-PST
血でた。	chi de-ta	blood going.out-PST
地位がある。	chii ga aru	social.status nom have
手がしびれた。	te ga shibire-ta	hand NOM become.numb-PST
手しびれた。	te shibire-ta	hand become.numb-PST
低の長さ。	tei no nagasa	base.of.shape MOD length
戸が壊れた。 戸壊れた。 「とー」と叫んだ。	to ga koware-ta to koware-ta "too" to saken-da	door nom break-pst door break-pst "Interject." comp shout-pst (continued)

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Appendix: Experiment II Stimuli

 $|\mu|{\ge}2$ and lengthening

Set	Japanese orthography	Transcription	Gloss
Main (ni)	12番から	juu- ni ban kara	ten-two number from
	1236	ichi ni san roku	one two three six
	あのにいさんたち	ano nii -san tachi	those older brother-hon PL
Main (go)	15番から	juu-go ban kara	ten-five NUMBER from
	1578	ichi go nana hachi	one five seven eight
	あの豪くんたち	ano gou kun tachi	those (name) NAME.SUFFIX PL
Bimoraic (san)	13番から 1364	juu- san ban kara ichi san roku shi/yon	ten-three NUMBER from one three six four
Alternators	1432	ichi shi/yon san ni	one four three two
	1980	ichi ku/kyuu hachi zero	one nine eight zero



