## (In)complete Vowel Lengthening:

Japanese Monomoraic Lengthening as Incomplete Neutralization

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## 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:



## 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

■ One phonological constraint $\rightarrow$ complete and incomplete neutralization

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| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

Introduction Experiment I $|\mu| \geq 2$ and lengthening Experiment II Discussion

## 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
- $/ \mathrm{X} / \rightarrow\left[\mathrm{Z}^{(\alpha F)}\right] /($ Context A)
$\left.{ }^{[\alpha F}\right]$
$/ \mathrm{Y} / \rightarrow\left[\mathrm{Z}^{(\beta F)}\right] /($ Context A)
[ $\beta$ F]

German devoicing, redux

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

■ /bat/ $\neq / \mathrm{sad} /$, even on the surface
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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 distinctions ${ }^{1}$

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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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Introduction Experiment I Experiment II Discussion

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?

## Japanese prefers minimally bimoraic words (Poser

1990, Itô 1990)

Nicknames map to bimoraic units

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

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## Monomoraic noun lengthening

Nouns without case particles

Case particles can be dropped in colloquial speech
(1) a. me-ga akai-yo
b. me-Ø akai-yo
'(Your) eyes are red'
(2) a. te-o aratta?
b. te-Ø aratta?
'(Did you) wash (your) hands?'

[^1]
## Monomoraic noun lengthening

Nouns with case particles

- Japanese has monomoraic nouns (e.g., $k i$ 'tree')
- A case particle (e.g., ga, ' ${ }^{\prime}$ ' ${ }^{\prime}$ ) can provide the second mora

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| :--- | :--- | :--- |

## Monomoraic noun lengthening

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


## 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
Introduction Experiment | $|\mu| \geq 2$ and lengthening Experiment II Discussion


## What would it look like?

Monomoraic lengthening as complete vs. incomplete neutralization

## Vowel duration if neutralization is complete



Vowel duration if neutralization is incomplete


Short

Long

## Monomoraic lengthening as incomplete neutralization

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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Introduction $||\mu|>2$ and lengthening Experiment I Experiment II Discussion

## 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

## Stimuli

－ 11 sets of three sentences（ $\mathrm{n}=33$ ）
－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
2 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）．
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## Participants and recording information

## －Participants

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

## Sample stimuli sets

（3）
a．short／prt
麩 が 素晴らしい
fu ga subarashi－i gluten NOM excellent－pres
b．short／Ø
麩 素晴らしい
fu $\varnothing$ subarashi－i gluten $\varnothing$ excellent－pres
c．long
封がとれた
fuu ga tore－ta
seal NOM come．off－pst
（4）a．short／prt
血がでた
chi ga de－ta
blood NOM going．out－PST
b．short／$\varnothing$
血 でた
chi $\varnothing$ de－ta
blood Ø going．out－PST
c．long
$\begin{array}{lll}\text { 地位 } & \text { が } & \text { ある } \\ \text { chii } & \text { ga } & \text { aru }\end{array}$
social．status NOM have
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## Procedure

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

## Acoustic measurements

■ Vowel duration


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| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

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A three-way distinction
Vowel duration

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## Statistical analysis

## Linear mixed model (via lme4 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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| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

Introduction Experiment I $|\mu| \geq 2$ and lengthening Experiment II Discussion

## Results

Statistical significance

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

■ Short/prt vs. short/Ø: mean difference $-45.65 \mathrm{~ms}, t=-8.018$, $p<0.001$
■ Long vs. short/ $\varnothing$ : mean difference $26.55 \mathrm{~ms}, t=1.369, p<0.05$
$p$ 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 $t(1278.99)=-14.90, p<0.001$
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| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

The pattern holds for all sets

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## Conclusions

Monomoraic nouns lengthen to meet the bimoraicity requirement

Vowel length is incompletely neutralized in this context

And for all 6 speakers


## Implications for incomplete neutralization

- 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


## 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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WCCFL $31 \quad 9$ Feb 2013

| Introduction $\|\mu\| \geq 2$ and lengthening | Experiment I Experiment II | Discussion |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |

## Stimuli

Main stimuli sets

- 2 sets of three phrases
- Monomoraic number, non-lengthening context ('teens')

■ (juu-ni) $)_{\mathrm{Ft}}$ ban kara ten-two(=12) num from
■ Monomoraic number, lengthening context ('recitation')
■ ichi $(\underline{\text { ni }})_{\mathrm{Ft}}$ san roku one two three six
■ Long noun, with identical segmental content ('long')
■ ano (nii) $)_{\mathrm{Ft}}$ san tachi those older.brother HON PL

- Target words shared segmental content, modulo vowel length
- Frames in matched in mora count


## 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 ( $\mu$ )
- If the digit has a bimoraic allomorph, that one gets used
- 4: yoN ( $\mu \mu$ ), *shi ( $\mu$ )

■ If a bimoraic allomorph does not exist, the digit is lengthened

- 5: /go/ $\rightarrow$ [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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| :--- | :--- | :--- |

## Stimuli

Additional stimuli sets

- 'Bimoraic' set (expectation: no lengthening)
- san ' 3 ' in 'teens' and 'recitation' contexts

■ 'Alternators' (expectation: bimoraic allomorph)

- shi/ yon ' 4 ' and $k u / k y u u$ ' 9 ' in 'recitation' context


## 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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Introduction $|\mu| \geq 2$ and lengthening Experiment I Experiment II Discussion


## Results

Statistical significance

- 'recitation' (lengthened) vowels were significantly longer than 'teens' (short) vowels

■ mean difference: 75.92 ms
■ $t=10.586$

- $p<0.001$
- 'recitation' (lengthened) vowels are not significantly different from 'long' vowels

■ mean difference: 13.85 ms
■ $t=1.90$

- n.s.


## Vowel duration

Main sets
Mean Vowel Duration
Averaged over all speakers, items, and repetitions


## Lengthened vs. long and the bimoraic set

- Lengthened 'recitation' vowels were slightly longer than 'long' numbers (mean difference: $13.85 \mathrm{~ms}, t=1.90$, n.s.)
- Bimoraic set: comparable difference
- 'recitation' vowels were 15.92 ms longer than 'teens' vowels
- The 'recitation' condition may induce $\approx 15 \mathrm{~ms}$ of lengthening beyond bimoraic lengthening


## Alternator sets

## Discussion

Experiment II

- 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)


## 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 ( $\rightarrow$ post-lexical)
- Allomorph selection in number recitation is affected by bimoraicity $(\rightarrow$ lexical)

■ Structure preservation (Kiparsky 1982a): lexical processes cannot introduce new segments

- 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 $+\approx 15 \mathrm{~ms}$ additional lengthening
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| ntroduction $\|\mu\| \geq 2$ and lengthening | Experiment I |
| :--- | :--- |

## Hypothesis

## Conclusion

- 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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■ 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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(In)complete Vowel Lengthening
WCCFL 31
(45)

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| Introduction $\|\mu\| \geq 2$ and lengthening | Experiment I | Experiment II | Discussion |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

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## 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」と叫んだ。 | ＂hii＂to saken－da | ＂interject．＂comp shout－pst |
| 酢がない。 <br> 酢ない。 <br> スーが見つからない。 | su ga nai | vinegar NOM NEG |
|  | su nai | vinegar neg |
|  | suu ga mitsukar－anai | Sue nom find neg |

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WCCFL 31

| Introduction $\|\mu\| \geq 2$ and lengthening | Experiment I | Experiment II | Discussion |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

## 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 <br> 「ねー」と言われた。 <br> ＂nee＂to iw－are－ta | ＂DISC＂comp sall．out－PST |
| 素晴らしい。 |  |  |
| 素晴らしい。 | fu ga subarashi－i | gluten nOM excellent－PRES |
| 封がとれた。 | fu subarashi－i | gluten excellent－PRES |
| 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 |

## 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 nом have |
| 手がしびれた。 | te ga shibire－ta | hand пом 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 mор length |
| 戸が壊れた。 | to ga koware－ta | door NOM break－PST |
| 戸壊れた。 | to koware－ta | door break－PST |
| 「とー」と叫んだ。 | ＂too＂to saken－da | ＂interject．＂COMP shout－pst <br> （continued．．．） |

## Appendix：Experiment II Stimuli

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


[^0]:    1 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.

[^1]:    Examples from Mori (2002)

