

Allophonic Emergence: three ways allophonic rules come to be

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Formal Ways of Analyzing Variation (FWAV)
Háskóli Íslands

Emergence of Phonological Categories inspired by(Fruehwald, 2013)

Phonetic processes

- Operate over continuous phonetic dimensions

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- Are categorical, and operate over featural representations
- Are part of the mental representation of language

Introduction

In this talk, we'll argue that there are at least three ways that allophonic categories can emerge. We provide evidence that they have all been attested in recent sound changes, and outline a research program with the goal of supporting or falsifying these hypotheses.

Introduction

Three paths to allophony

- Mechanical Means

- Spontaneous Phonologization

- Phonological Specialization

Testing for the types

- Effect of duration

- Rate of change

Conclusions

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Traditionally assumed scenario (Ohala, 1981)

- A **mechanical**, non-grammatical effect skews the distribution of outputs perceived by the learner

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Mechanical Means

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- A **mechanical**, non-grammatical effect skews the distribution of outputs perceived by the learner
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- **Our interpretation:** some generation reanalyzes a phonetic effect as an allophonic rule, introducing a new rule variant into the populations (of utterances within speakers, of speakers in a speech community).

Mechanical Means

- Some generation reanalyzes a phonetic effect as an allophonic rule, introducing a new rule variant into the populations (utterances, speech community).
- **Preaspiration and coda-devoicing in Icelandic** (Árnason, 1980, 1986):

/hattur/ ('hat') → [hahtyr]
/henta/ ('to suit') → [hɛnt̚a]

Mechanical Means

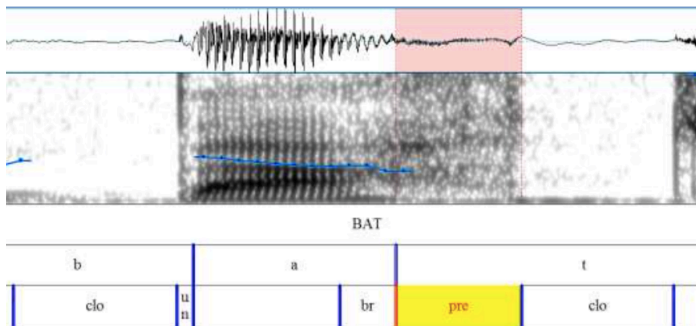
/hattur/ ('hat') → [hahtyr]
 /henta/ ('to suit') → [hɛnta]

Diachrony (Árnason, 1980, 1986):

1. Icelandic loses contrastive vowel length.
2. Lengthening Rule: vowels in open syllables lengthen, closed syllables shorten (active rule)
3. Spread glottis gesture is (mis-)timed in the segment preceding voiceless non-continuant codas.
4. Given Lengthening Rule, speakers reanalyze the early-timed gesture as an allophonic rule (our interpretation of Árnason 1986).
 - The new rule, new allophone, must spread through the populations of speakers and utterances.
 - Árnason (1986) suggests that the rule has not entirely spread through Northern Iceland yet.

Preaspiration in Aberystwyth English (Hejná, 2014)

- The same change appears to be in progress in Aberystwyth English, Northwest British English, and possibly other British Englishes.
- As in Icelandic, it effects both vowels preceding voiceless codas and liquids preceding a voiceless consonant in codas (Hejna, p.c.).

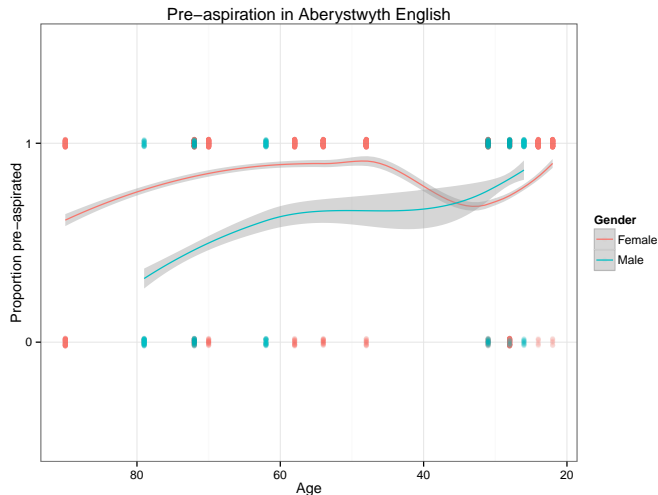


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Preaspiration in Aberystwyth English (Hejná, 2014)

- New allophone is still spreading:



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Spontaneous Phonologization

Scenario proposed by Janda and Joseph (2003); Fruehwald (2013)

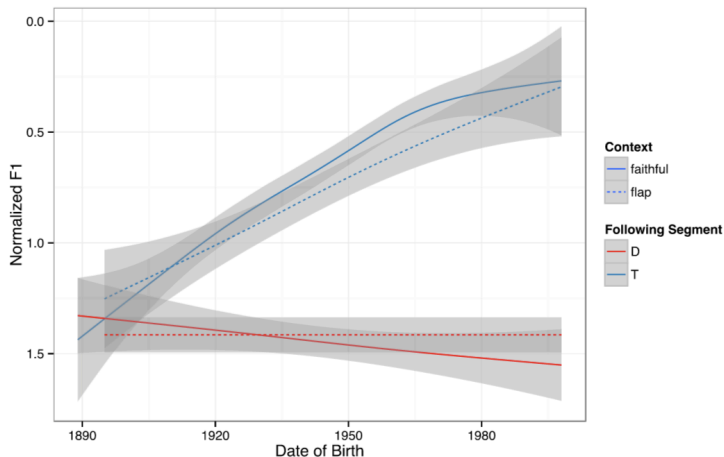
- Speakers **spontaneously** create an allophone without any phonetic motivation.
 - Allophonic categories emerge in individual speakers' grammars before any phonetic motivation

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Spontaneous Phonologization:

PRICE-raising in Philadelphia English (Fruehwald 2013)



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Phonological Specialization

Proposed by us



Phonological Specialization

Proposed by us

- A phonetic change begins, creating variation in phonetic space

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 - Different from Ohala (1981) because the phonologization is not the result of compounded perception or production errors



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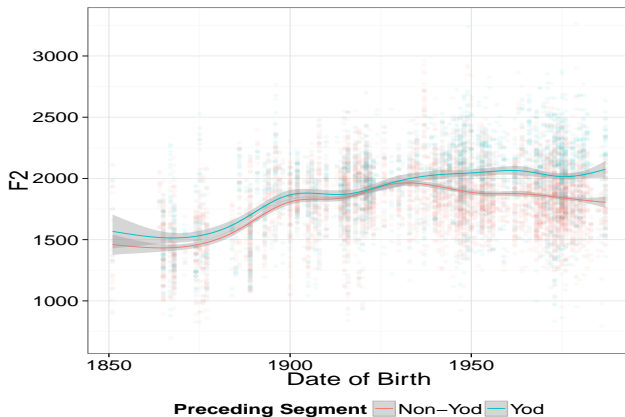
- A phonetic change begins, creating variation in phonetic space
- This variation is reanalyzed as an allophonic distinction for a generation of speakers
 - Different from Ohala (1981) because the phonologization is not the result of compounded perception or production errors
 - Different from Fruehwald (2013); Janda and Joseph (2003) because phonetics still play a role

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Phonological Specialization:

GOOSE-NEW split in New Zealand English (Seyfarth and Sneller 2014)



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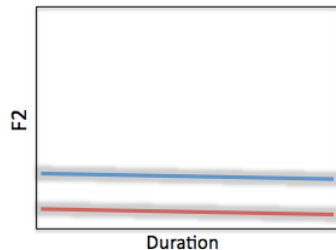
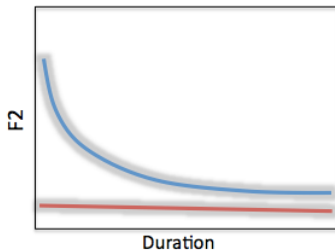
Conclusions

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Effect of duration: coarticulation vs. allophony

- If a difference in acoustic output is caused by coarticulation rather than allophony, then the difference will be bigger for shorter tokens
- If the difference is caused by allophony, then long and short tokens will all show a difference



Effect of duration: Mechanical means

Mechanical means

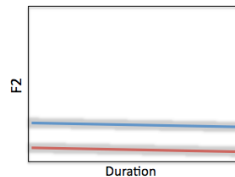
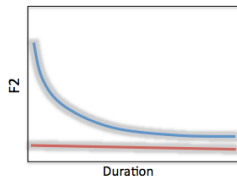
- Because the allophonic split is the result of accruing phonetic effects, we should see an effect of duration for most speakers, until a reanalysis has been made.
- After the reanalysis, as the new allophone spreads, the earlier effect of duration should decrease over time.

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Effect of duration: Mechanical means

Mechanical means



Effect of duration: Spontaneous phonologization

Spontaneous phonologization

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 1. Speakers with one category show no coarticulation (no difference to be found)

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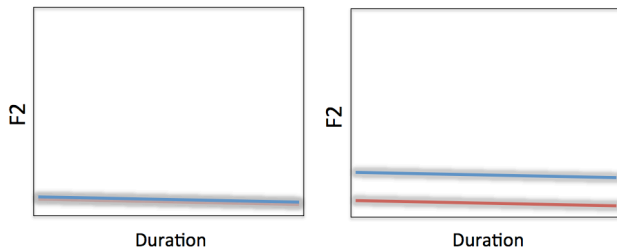
- Because there is no phonetic effect that precedes the phonological effect, we should see no effect of duration at any time
 1. Speakers with one category show no coarticulation (no difference to be found)
 2. Speakers with two categories show two phonological categories (no effect of duration)

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Effect of duration: Spontaneous phonologization

Spontaneous phonologization



Effect of duration: Phonological specialization

Phonological specialization

- Because the phonologization is the result of reanalyzed coarticulation, we should see older speakers showing an effect of duration (shorter tokens more distinct)

Effect of duration: Phonological specialization

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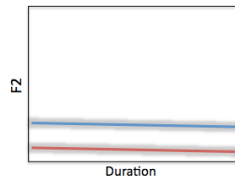
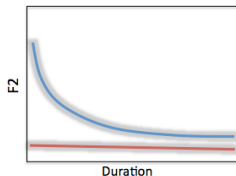
- Because the phonologization is the result of reanalyzed coarticulation, we should see older speakers showing an effect of duration (shorter tokens more distinct)
- and younger speakers with two distinct categories for tokens of all duration

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Effect of duration: Phonological specialization

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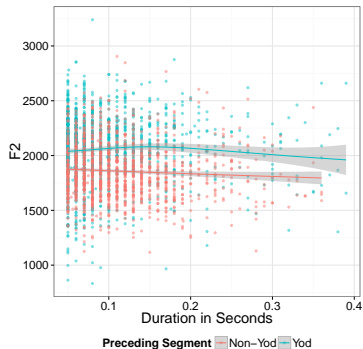
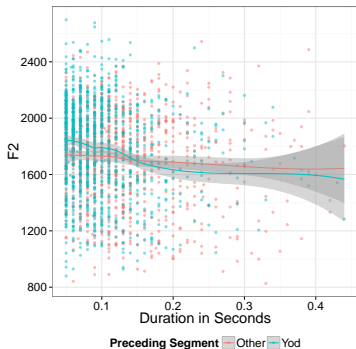


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Rate of change: coarticulation

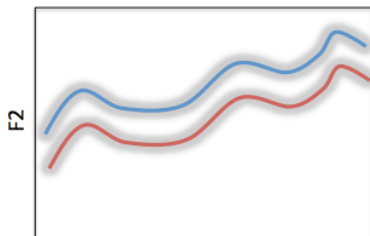
- A phonological rule operates on a single phonological category (Fruehwald, 2013).

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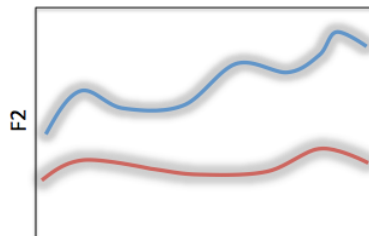
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- If two variables have different rates of change, it means there are two rules at work (Fruehwald 2013's application of the Constant Rate Effect, Kroch 1989).

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Date of Birth



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Rate of change: Mechanical means

Mechanical means

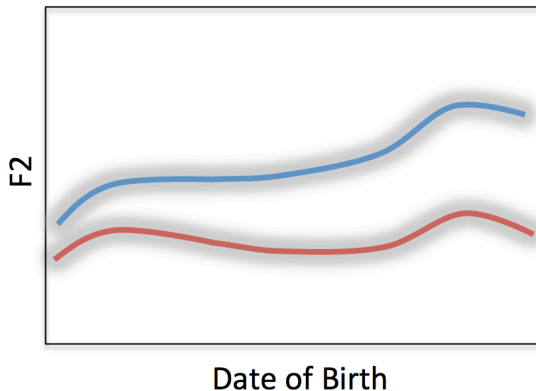
- Because the allophonic split is the result of accruing phonetic effects, we should see a gradual drift in the two variables

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Rate of change: Mechanical means

Mechanical means



Rate of change: Spontaneous phonologization

Spontaneous phonologization

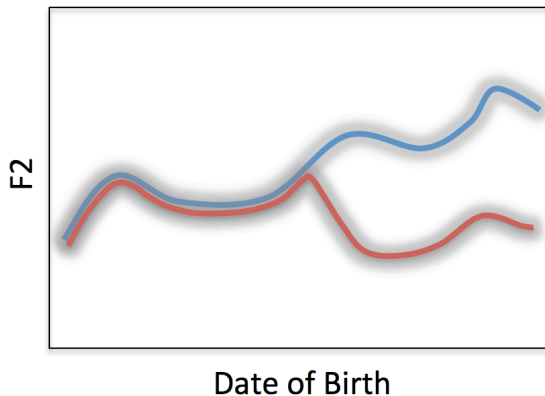
- Because the allophonic split occurs suddenly, we should see both variables in lock step until the community spontaneously creates a new category

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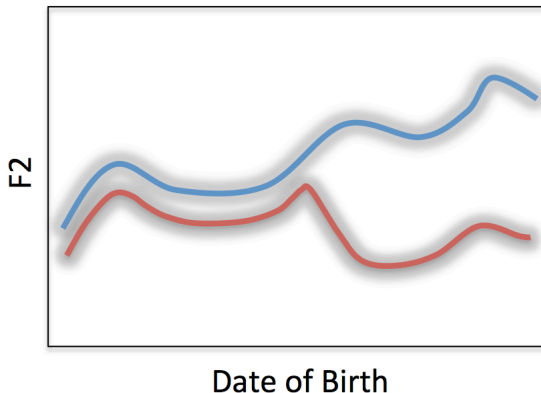
- Because the allophonic split occurs suddenly, we should see both variables in lock step until the community spontaneously creates a new category
- However, we may still see an effect of coarticulation for the early speakers

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Rate of change: Phonological specialization

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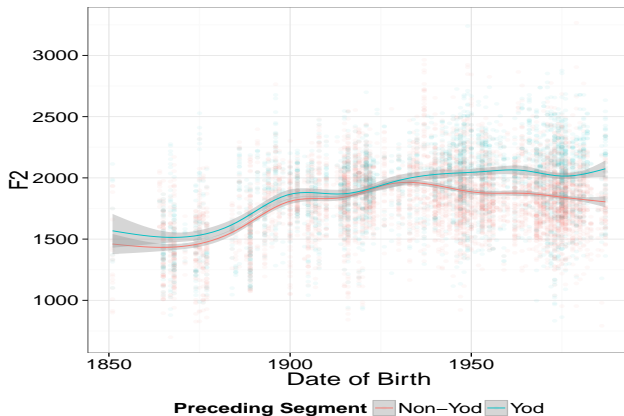


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Rate of change: Phonological specialization

Phonological specialization in New Zealand English /u/-fronting

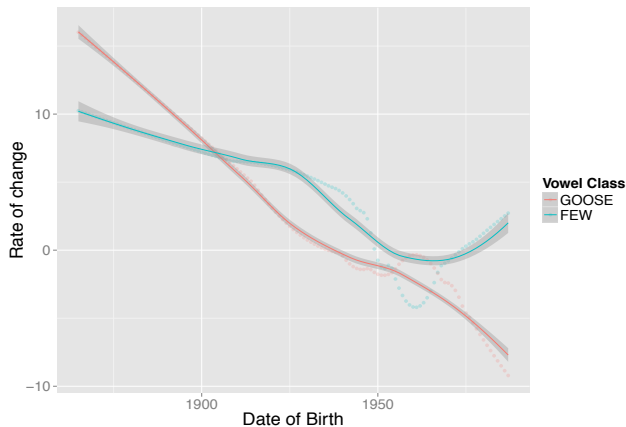


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Rate of change: Phonological specialization

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Conclusions: 3 types of allophonic splits

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Final thoughts and questions

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 - Duration and ROC are good metrics for vocalic and consonantal change
 - Cho (2015) Development of pitch contrast in Korean prosody
- Questions going further: how does allophone emergence relate to phoneme emergence?
- What's the role of learned phonetic targets (pre-phonological) in allophonic split, or gradient phonological rules in Bermúdez-Otero's work?

References I

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Thank you!