On the Structure and Origin of Honorific Truncation in Sibe

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November 19, 2021

Introduction

Sibe (Tungusic) employs a kind of truncation in the use of honorifics. The following data uses the honorific title [səf] (Ma: [səfu]):

Form	Context	Example
Name	Non-honorific mention	[kʰitʃʰəŋːə]
Truncated Honorific	Honorific address	[kʰi-səf]
Name + Trunc. Hon.	Honorific mention	[kʰitʃʰəŋːə kʰi-səf]

where **mention** refers to instances where the referent of the name is not present in the discourse, and **address** refers to instances where the referent of the name is present in the discourse

Presentation Outline

Claim 1: Truncation in Sibe targets the first syllable of a name, but may delete the coda consonant due to constraints on non-sonorant (obstruent) codas, or through Sibe internal processes ([n]).

Claim 2: Truncation in Sibe arose from the reinterpretation of surname use in Mandarin as a monosyllabic template for honorific use. Mandarin resyllabification $\rightarrow$ obstruent coda dropping.

(1)   Outline for the presentation:

      a.   Quick overview of truncation: Japanese truncation
      b.   Data and generalizations of Sibe truncation
      c.   Proposal for underlying structure of truncation in Sibe
      d.   Historicity and proposal for Sinitic origins

What does Truncation do?

Truncation: phonological material of a word is changed (mostly through deletion) to fit a kind of prosodic template (Mester 1990).

These templates are not arbitrary; rather they are natural units of prosody: morae, syllables, or feet (Poser 1990).

Truncated forms usually betray some 'emergence of the unmarked', where marked structures which are maintained in untruncated words are abandoned in the truncated form (McCarthy and Prince 1994; Benua 1995; Colina 1996).

Example: Japanese Truncation

Structure	Name (Hepburn)	Name (IPA)	Truncated Hypocoristic (with [tɕaɴ])
(C)VCV	Megumi	[meguɯᵝmʲi]	[meguɯᵝ-tɕaɴ]
	Akira	[akʲiɾa]	[akʲi-tɕaɴ]
(C)VN	Junko	[dʑuɯᵝŋko]	[dʑuɯᵝn-tɕaɴ]
(C)VV	Yōko	[joːko]	[joː-tɕaɴ]

Mester (1990); Poser (1990) show that various forms of honorific and hypocoristic truncation in Japanese follow bimoraic foot template.
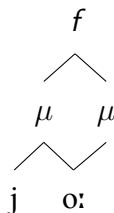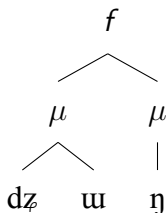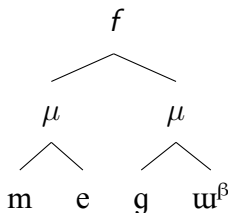
How About Sibe?

Structure	Name (Möllendorff)	Name (IPA)	Truncated Honorific (with [səf])
(C)VG	Jaisai	[tʃajsaj]	[tʃaj-səf]
	Ooba	[ɔwpa]	[ɔw-səf]
(C)VL	Kūrcan	[qʰʊrtʃʰan]	[qʰʊr-səf]
	Erdeni	[ərtəni]	[ər-səf]
	Elden	[əɹtən]	[əɹ-səf]
CVŋ	Longdon	[lɔŋtɔn]	[lɔŋ-səf]
CVn	Mentai	[məntʰaj]	[mən-səf] or [mə-səf]
CVq	Jakdan	[tʃaqtan]	[tʃa-səf]

Generalizations

Truncation removes all material except for the first syllable (and sometimes the coda of the first syllable)

First syllable codas with higher sonority than nasals are maintained in the truncated form

First syllable codas with lower sonority than nasals are deleted in the truncated form

[n] codas are optionally deleted while [ŋ] codas are maintained

Presence of onset does not affect what is truncated

Emergence of the Unmarked in Sibe

Why do we get full syllables in some instances and only (C)V structures in others?
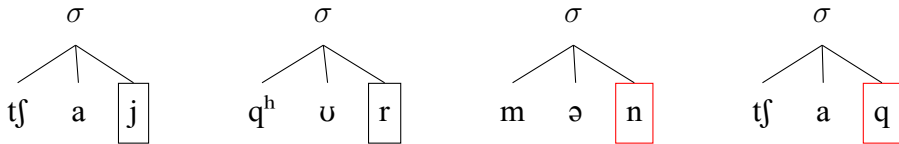
(2)   Sibe (inconsistently) drops [n] and [q] codas:

    a.   [mørin-s(ə)] > [møris] (plural [ns] > [s] is productive)

    b.   [saqsaχa] > [sasχ(ə)]

Languages commonly avoid obstruent codas: NoCoda(Obs) (McCarthy 2002). Sibe may allow obstruent codas in non-truncated contexts, but truncation allows unmarked forms to emerge.

Origins: Reinterpretation in Mandarin

This form of truncation is not seen in written Classical Manchu-relatively recent development.

Honorific titles in Mandarin are used after a Chinese surname, typically one syllable, rather than the full name.

(3) a. Mandarin name: [li + tɕʰiŋʈʂɑʊ̯] (李清照, Li Qingzhao)
     b. Mandarin title: [li + lɑʊ̯ʂɨ] (李老師, teacher Li)

For Mandarin speakers, Sibe given names reinterpreted as surname + given name, the first syllable stood in as surname.

(4) a. Sibe [mutʰəpu] > Mandarin [mu + tʰɤpu]
     b. Mandarin Title: [mu + lɑʊ̯ʂɨ]

Mandarin Reinterpretations, Reinterpreted

Due to Mandarin phonotactics, obstruent codas were reinterpreted as onsets of epenthetic syllables.

(5)   a.   Sibe [tʃaq.tan] > Mandarin [tʂa + kʰɤ.tan]
        b.   Mandarin Title: [tʂa + lɑʊ̯ʂɨ]

Sibe speakers reinterpret this division of names as a templatic truncation, rather than as the splitting of surnames and given names.

The lack of obstruent codas due to Mandarin resyllabification is interpreted as a productive part of the truncation strategy.

Conclusion

(6) Explanation for the origin and structure of Sibe honorific truncation:

   a. Contact with Mandarin; first syllable of Sibe name (minus obstruent coda) is interpreted as surname.

   b. Sibe speakers reinterpret Mandarin surname use as truncation: single syllable, no obstruent coda.

   c. Sibe integrate truncation approach into native use: Mandarin obstruent coda ban becomes 'emergence of the unmarked' in Sibe.

   d. Optional [n] deletion motivated by other Sibe internal processes.

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