

36*

Length for emphasis

36.1*. In addition to the typical (phonemic and phonetic) *durations* of the vowels and diphthongs of English, there is a clear difference (apparently in contrast with the canonical ones), which depends on *emphasis* (and *paraphonics*, too).

This happens in emphatic tunes, also with different possible paratonic differences, not included here.

As the vocograms in fig 36* show, the ‘normal’ length of the vocalic elements becomes augmented by the monotimbric (or even ditimbric) diphthongization of the nuclear vocoid.

Of course, also short vowels (even if followed by voiceless consonants, in emphatic tunes) undergo such an extension of length thanks to the mentioned diphthongization, rather than to a simple chronetic lengthening.

36.2*. Let us consider the following examples (given in the neutral British accent, while the vocograms also show the neutral American accent, and the meditative American and British ones, in addition to the native-like international accent):

There were only six! ["/suks, "suks],
The floor was all wet! ["/WEEʃ, "WEəʃ],
Madam, don't forget your map! ["/mæəp, "mæəp],
It fell right on my foot! ["/fəət, "fəət],
There's a stop! ["/stɒɒp, "stɒəp].

36.3*. In addition: *A bit!* [ə"bit], ə"bitʃ], *Yes!* ["/jɛs, "jɛs], *And that!* [ən"ðæəʃ, ən-ðæəʃ], *It's hot!* [ɪts"hotʃ, its"hotəʃ], *Enough!* [ɪ"nʌəf, i"nəəf], *Look!* ["/lʊək, "ləək].

Also with the phonemic long vowels, as [VV]: *My shirt!* ["/ʃɜːʃʃ, "ʃɜːrəʃʃ], *Too short!* ["/ʃɔːɔʃʃ, "ʃɔːɔrəʃʃ], *Most part!* ["/phɑːɑʃʃ, "phɑːɔrəʃʃ].

36.4*. And with the phonemic diphthongs (shown in fig 10.1-2): *Sweet!* ["/swiːɪʃ, "swiːiɪʃ], *Wait!* ["/wɛɪʃ, "wEEɪʃ], *Right!* ["/rɑːɪʃ, "rɑːəɪʃ], *Point!* ["/phɔːəŋʃ, "phɔːɔŋʃ], *Shoot!* ["/ʃuːʃʃ, "ʃuːuʃʃ], *Both!* ["/bɔːθ, "bɔːɔθ], *Shout!* ["/ʃaːt, "ʃaaot].

Also with no final voiceless consonants (even if not explicitly shown): *No!* ["/nɔːɔ], *Now!* ["/naːao], *Today!* ["/dɔːɔɪ], *Destroy!* [dɪ"stɹɔːɔɪ], *It's bad!* [ɪts"bæ·æd], *Indeed!* [ɪn-ðiːd]; and: *There!* ["/ðEːEʒ], *It's wrong!* [ɪts"rɒːŋ], *Ten!* ["/fheen:], *Destroy it!* [dɪ"stɹɔːɔsəʊɪʃ] (cf § 2).

fig 36*. Exceptional length due to emphasis.

