Are French Pwd-final Cs codas or onsets? Why not both? An argument for ambisyllabicity

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This is a 50-word squib written for a conference talk to follow. It is a simple document made for attendees to read. I will replace this document with my slides AND the video recording after I give this talk.

Problem

Here are several words in Quebec French:

[mIn], 'appearance'

[prYn], 'plum'

[lYn], 'moon'

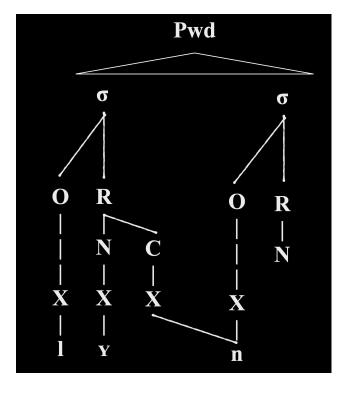
[pʊl], 'chicken'

If [n] is a coda, then how come [n] never occur after a nucleus pwd-medially? (Charette 1991)

If [n] is an onset, then what triggers the laxing of high vowels?

Solution

I propose that [n] is ambisyllabic in words 1-3. It is first parsed as an onset, then it spreads to the coda to trigger laxing. So far, no paper that I have come across has proposed this.



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