

# Compensatory lengthening in French language acquisition Evidence from a nonword repetition task

Nicola Lampitelli, Emeline Bronner-Huard, Andrea Briglia, Christophe dos Santos

#### ▶ To cite this version:

Nicola Lampitelli, Emeline Bronner-Huard, Andrea Briglia, Christophe dos Santos. Compensatory lengthening in French language acquisition Evidence from a nonword repetition task. Old World Conference of Phonology – OCP 20, Université de Tours, CNRS, Jan 2023, Tours, France. hal-04622540

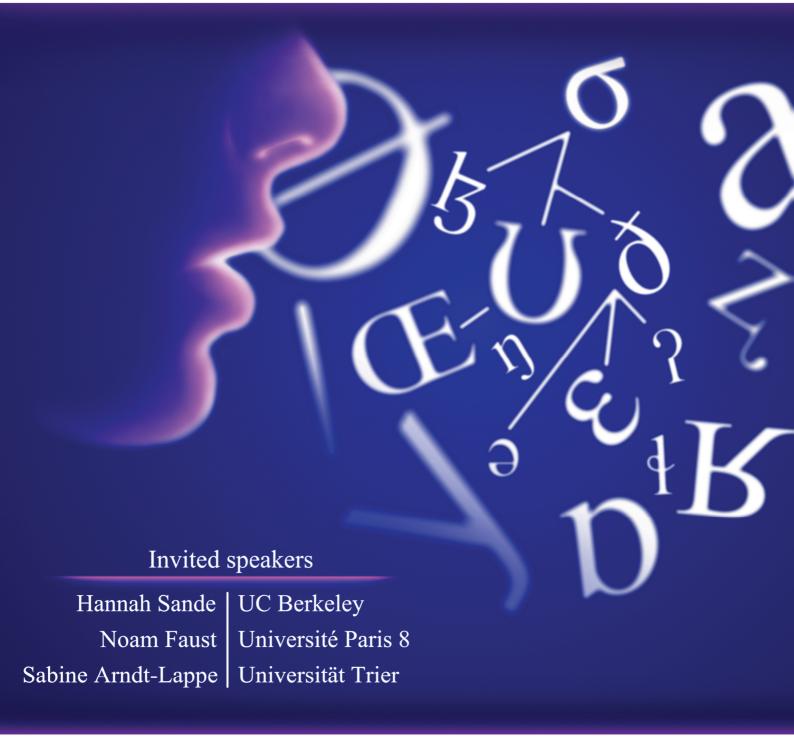
# HAL Id: hal-04622540 https://hal.science/hal-04622540v1

Submitted on 24 Jun 2024

**HAL** is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

# OCP20 – The 20th Old World Conference on Phonology











# Old World Conference of Phonology – OCP 20

# Université de Tours (France) January 25th-27th, 2023

# Program

## Wednesday January 25th, 2023

	Speaker(s) Title				
9:30	Welcome/Opening remarks				
10:00	Invited talk: Hannah	Discontinuous harmony is movement			
	Sande (Berkeley)	after local phonology			
11:00		Coffee break			
11:30	Posters				
	Kappa Ioanna & Katerina Ilioupoulou (Crete)	Child speech vs aphasic speech: heterogeneously motivated homogeneous Consonant Harmony patterns			
	Wang Yuxuan (Harvard)	Experimentally comparing the learnability of transparent and opaque rule interactions			
	Jesús Jiménez (Valencia) & Maria-Rosa Lloret (Barcelona)	Explaining deviations from sonority preferences in the distribution of rhotics in Catalan			
	Nikolay Hakimov (Bamberg)	Preliterate children's intuitions shed light on the variable syllable structure in Russian			
	Stephanie Kaucke & Marcel Schlechtweg (Oldenburg)	Learning a non-native vowel contrast with vowel harmony in clear speech and in noise			
13:00		Lunch break			
15:00	Madeleine Gilbert (Sorbonne Nouvelle)	The role of perceptual factors in laryngeal metathesis			
15:30	Julian Bradfield (Edinburgh) & Shanti Ulfsbjorninn (Memorial U.)	Mirage of Gradience in !Xóõ Vowel Raising			
16:00	Coffee break				
16:45	Alireza Jaferian (Tours & SFL Paris 8)	Consonant-clusters and the Word-initial position in Farsi			
17:15	Armel Jolin (Leipzig)	A non-polar, concatenative account of Kipsigis across-the-board tonal polarity			
17:45	Guillaume Enguehard (Orléans)	The erosion of the end of the word			
18:15		End of day 1			

# Thursday January 26th, 2023

	Speaker(s)	Title			
9:00	Birgit Alber (Bozen) &	Language change as minimal change of			
	Eirini Apostolopoulou	property values.			
	(Bozen)				
9:30	Geoffrey Schwartz &	Cross-language prosodic differences in			
	Ewelina Wojtkowiak	onset clusters – acoustic evidence from			
	(Poznań)	Polish-English bilinguals			
10:00	Quentin Dabouis	Opaque yet still complex: Proper names in			
	(Clermont Ferrand)	English			
10:30	Coffee break				
11:15	Claudia Parfene (Leipzig)	On the Shape of Roots in Romanian:			
	& Shanti Ulfsbjorninn	Deriving the Nominal Inflectional Classes			
	(Memorial U.)	3			
11:45	Maude Bouvier (UQAM)	Double allomorphy in Korean nominative			
	, , ,	pronouns? Additional evidence from			
		demonstrative and interrogative proforms for			
		a floating segment analysis and derivation			
		by phase.			
12:15		Lunch break			
14:00	Invited talk: Sabine	Have a little FAITH? Stress alternations,			
	Arndt-Lappe (Trier)	variability, and meaning			
15:00	Posters				
	Karolina Broś (Warsaw) &	Stop lenition in Canary Islands Spanish – a			
	Peter Krause (Santa	motion capture study			
	Cruz)				
	Liu Haiyang (Lisbon)	Violable cyclic construction of syntactic of			
		post-syntactic linearization at PF & cyclicity			
		of postlexical phonology			
	N M				
	Veronica Miatto (Stony	Word-final schwas in Italian are non-syllabic			
	Brook)	vocoids			
	Markua Dächtrager	Variaba valvala and the representation of			
	Markus Pöchtrager (Vienna)	Yoruba vowels and the representation of openness			
16:00	Coffee break	Openness			
16:30	Benjamin Storme	The best of both worlds: variation and global			
10.30	(Leiden)	evaluation in constraint-based grammars.			
17:00	Razieh Shojaei (Leipzig)	A Gradient Harmonic Grammar account of			
17.00	Trazien Shojaei (Leipzig)	Choguita Raramuri stress-accent			
17:30	Sahrina Rendiahallah	On Somali geminates: Phonetics,			
17.30	Sabrina Bendjaballah (LLING CNRS) & David	,			
	Le Gac (Rouen)	Phonology and Diatopic variation.			
18:00	Clément Michard (Bern)	Selection of the epenthetic 'I' in French with			
10.00		travlo words			
		End of day 2			
18:30					

#### Friday January 27th, 2023

		Title	
9:00	Sören Tebay (Leipzig)	Parallel interaction between infixation and	
		root domain constraints	
9:30	N. Lampitelli (Paris	Compensatory lengthening in French	
	Nanterre), A. Briglia, E.	language acquisition: Evidence from a	
	Bronner-Huard & Ch. Dos	nonword repetition task.	
	Santos (Tours)		
10:00	Andrew Nevins (UCL) &	Acoustic for nouns, orthography for verbs:	
	Damulakis Gean (UFRJ)	differential loanword adaptation and	
		defectivity.	
10:30	Coffee break		
11:15	Chris Golston & Christian	Ancient Greek Accentual Classes	
	Paulsen (Fresno)		
11:45	Invited talk 3: Noam	Metrical weight as incorporation in Strict	
	Faust (Paris 8)	CV metrics	
12:45	Farewell/Closing remarks		
13:15	End of day 3/End of OCP20		

### Venue:

The conference will take place at the following address: 3, rue des Tanneurs 37000 Tours (the building is known as "Les Tanneurs", you cannot miss it).

Oral talks will be in Room 70 (ground floor): follow the signs from the building's main entrance.

Posters and coffee breaks will be in the library (5<sup>th</sup> floor, take the lift): follow the signs from Room 70 and/or ask the organizers.

Welcome desk will be right in front of Room 70.

#### **Organizing Committee:**

Véronique Abasq, Guillaume Enguehard, Jean-Michel Fournier, Nicola Lampitelli, Mohamed Lahrouchi, Marjolaine Martin, Stéfany Thierry

#### Institutional partners:









#### Compensatory lengthening in French language acquisition: Evidence from a nonword repetition task

Nicola Lampitelli<sup>1</sup>, Émeline Bronner-Huard<sup>2</sup>, Andrea Briglia<sup>2</sup> & Christophe dos Santos<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>MoDyCo UMR 7114 CNRS & Université Paris Nanterre

<sup>2</sup>UMR 1253, iBrain, Université de Tours, Inserm, Tours, France

The issue. This paper investigates compensatory lengthening (CL) occurrences in the production of 59 French children, aged 4 and half years old on average during the first session and 6 and half years old on average during the second session. They have been tested through a nonword repetition task known as LITMUS-QU-NWR-FRENCH (LQNF, dos Santos & Ferré 2016, dos Santos et al. 2020). CL consists of replacing the loss of a segment through lengthening of another segment (Gess 2011). One of the most common cases of CL involves the loss of a coda ( $\underline{C}$  in 1) followed by lengthening of the preceding vowel:

#### (1) $(C)VC.CV \rightarrow (C)V:.CV$ [C stands for consonant and V for vowel.]

Analyses of CL (Hayes 1989, Ingria 1980 a.o.) have generally postulated a requirement imposing the parsing of the mora originally associated with the lost coda: thus, lengthening the vowel preceding the dropped consonant has the immediate effect of realizing that underlying mora. This approach assumes that i. languages displaying CL must be moraic, and ii. morae cannot remain unparsed (in synchronic terms). It is generally claimed that mora is irrelevant in French (Dell 1995 a.o., but see Féry 2003); consequently, we should expect CL not to be occurring in this language. Rather, our data supports the hypothesis that words realize an underlying sequence of strict alternation of Cs and Vs (Lowenstamm 1996, Scheer 2004). We argue that CL results from a CV unit in the template associated with each nonword.

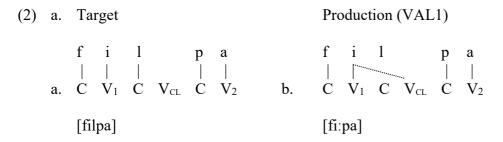
Children and data. The 59 children have been recruited in 2018-2019 in Tours (France), for none of them parents reported any kind of pathology (including speech pathologies). Each child was tested twice: first, in *moyenne section* (MS, roughly equivalent to Preschool in the US) then later in *cours préparatoire* (CP, roughly equivalent to 1<sup>st</sup> grade) (Plasse 2021, Bellakhal 2021). LQNF consists of some items fitting this specific template (CV.)CV(C).CV where codas are limited to /l/ or /s/ (see dos Santos & Ferré 2016). Overall, seven such items with internal coda (IC) exist in the corpus: [kupalfi], [kufalpi], [fikuspa], [pafuski], [kuspa], [filpa], [pilfu], and seven without IC: [kifapu], [pufaki], [piklafu], [kuflapi], [fupli], [paklu], [plifu]. Each session was first recorded, then transcribed with Phon (Hedlund & Rose 2022); later we segmented vowels and consonants manually using Praat (Boersma & Weening, 2022) available directly through Phon.

**Methodology.** The production of the target items with IC was grouped into two categories, those whose IC was produced, and those whose IC was not produced by the children. For each of these productions, vowel length was obtained. The table below presents the data analyzed to date, i.e. the average vowel length for each item according to the presence or absence of IC in production in MS and CP. Whatever the item, the average vowel length is systematically longer if the item is produced without internal coda. For comparison purposes, the vowel length of the seven target-items without IC is given.

NW (target)			Vowel length in s. $(\sigma)$	
			Produced with IC	Produced without IC
with IC	MS	n=391	n=336   0.116 (.052)	n=55   0.162 (.058)
	CP	n=398	n=391   0.093 (.028)	n=7   0.164 (.053)
without IC	MS	n=403	NA	n=403   0.138 (.057)
	CP	n=405	NA	n=405   0.109 (.032)

**Results.** As our data do not follow normal distribution, we used a non-parametric statistical test. The duration of the vowel in MS is statistically longer when the target NW with IC is produced without IC (U(391) = 14093.000; p < .001). The same statistical difference is found in CP (U(398) = 2495.000; p < .001). Our data shows therefore that the vowel is clearly lengthened when the IC of a target NW with an IC is not produced in MS or in CP.

**Discussion.** Differing from Almeida (2008) who assumes that Portuguese/French bilingual children employ CL as a repair strategy to realize an underlying mora, then discharge it from their representation when the acquisition process is over, we hypothesize that children compute first the prosodic template of (non)words, namely (CV.)CV<sub>1</sub>(.CV<sub>CL</sub>).CV<sub>2</sub>, then they realize each CV unit. The CV<sub>CL</sub> refers to the site of realization codas /l/ and /s/. In case the child does not produce codas yet, the repair strategy consists of spreading the vowel associated to CV<sub>1</sub> onto CV<sub>CL</sub>. In other words, CL emerges from the underlying sequence of prosodic positions, and this is orthogonal to the purported moraicity of French. In (2a), we show the representation of target form [filpa] and the form [fi:pa] produced by VAL1, one of the children in MS (2b). The duration of the lengthened vowel is 0.184 s.



In conclusion, robust statistical evidence militates in favor of vowel lengthening as a repair strategy when codas are omitted. Strict CV naturally accounts for CL with no need to assume morae in a non-moraic language like French.

References. Almeida, L. 2008. Compensatory Lengthening in Bilingual Acquisition of Languages Insensitive to Syllable Weight. A. Gavarró & M. J. Freitas (eds) Proceeding of GALA 2007. Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars, 30-40. Bellakhal, S. 2021. Prédire les performances en orthographe dès la maternelle, pertinence de l'épreuve LITMUS-NWR-QU-FR. MA Thesis, U. Tours. Boersma, P. & D. Weening. 2022. Praat: doing phonetics by computer version 6.2.06 [Computer Software]. Retrieved from https://www.praat.org. Dell, F. 1995. Consonant Clusters and Phonological Syllables in French. Lingua 95. 5-26. Féry, C. 2003. Markedness, Faithfulness, Vowel Quality and Syllable Structure in French. Journal of French Studies 13. 247-280. Gess, R. 2011. Compensatory Lengthening. M. van Oostendorp et al. Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Phonology. Oxford: Blackwell, 1513-1536. Hayes, B. 1989. Compensatory Lengthening in Moraic phonology. Linguistic Inquiry 20, 235-306. Hedlund, G. & Y. Rose. 2022. Phon 3.4.2 [Computer Software]. Retrieved from https://phon.ca. Ingria, R. 1980. Compensatory Lengthening as a metrical phenomenon. Linguistic Inquiry 11, 465-495. Lowenstamm, J. 1996. CV as the Only Syllable Type. Current Trends in Phonology Models and Methods, ed. by J. Durand & B. Laks, ESRI, Salford. 419-442. Plasse, C. 2021. Liens entre représentations phonologiques en maternelle et apprentissage de la lecture : une étude longitudinale. MA Thesis, U. Tours. dos Santos, C. & S. Ferré 2016. A Nonword Repetition Task to Access Bilingual Children's Phonology. Language Acquisition, 1-14. dos Santos, C., Frau, S., Labrevoit, S., & Zebib, R. 2020. L'épreuve de répétition de non-mots LITMUS-NWR-FR évalue-t-elle la phonologie ? SHS Web of Conferences (Vol. 78, p. 10005). EDP Sciences. Scheer, T. 2004. A Lateral Theory of Phonology. Vol 1: What is CVCV, and Why Should it Be? Berlin: Mouton.