



The phonetics of derivation

Segmentability (and other) effects on the acoustic duration of affixed words

Simon David Stein Ingo Plag









SPOKEN MORPHOLOGY

Our research unit investigates the phonetics and phonology of morphologically complex words in English, German, and Maltese.



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VAR

This project investigates morpho-phonetic variation in English.



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SUB-PROJECT 1

My sub-project looks at the phonetics of derived words and compounds.



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According to which morphological and other parameters does the phonetic detail of English derivatives differ, and under which circumstances?

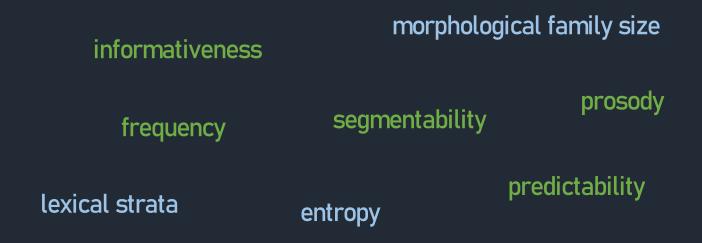




SUB-PROJECT 1

My sub-project looks at the phonetics of derived words and compounds.

According to which morphological and other parameters does the phonetic detail of English derivatives differ, and under which circumstances?





Frequency and duration



Frequency and duration

Lexical frequency

How often does a linguistic unit occur in a language?

Acoustic duration

How long do we pronounce linguistic units?



Frequency and duration

Lexical frequency

How often does a linguistic unit occur in a language?

higher

Acoustic duration

How long do we pronounce linguistic units?

shorter





Whole-word storage





complex words are stored unanalyzed



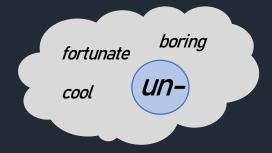
Whole-word storage





complex words are stored unanalyzed

Compositional models





morphemes are stored separately



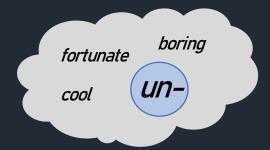
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morphemes are stored separately

Dual-route models





both morphemes and complex words are stored



Whole-word storage



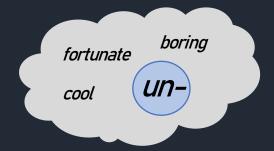


complex words are stored unanalyzed



durations will be shorter the higher the word frequency

Compositional models



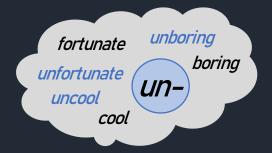


morphemes are stored separately



durations will be shorter the higher the base frequency

Dual-route models





both morphemes and complex words are stored





Dual-route models

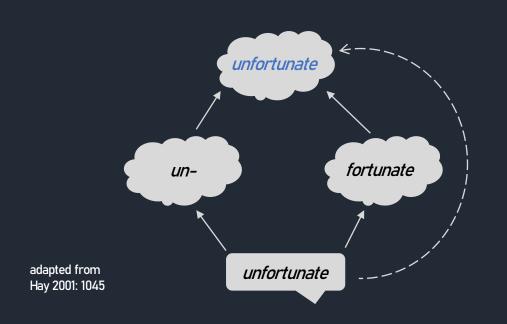




both morphemes and complex words are stored





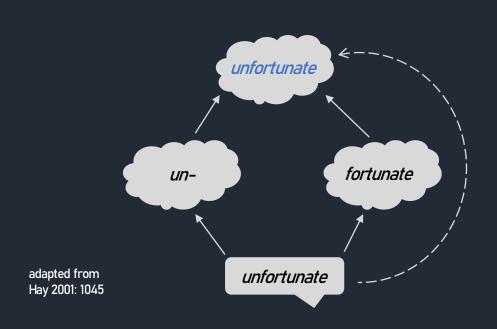


fortunate unboring boring uncool cool

both morphemes and complex words are stored



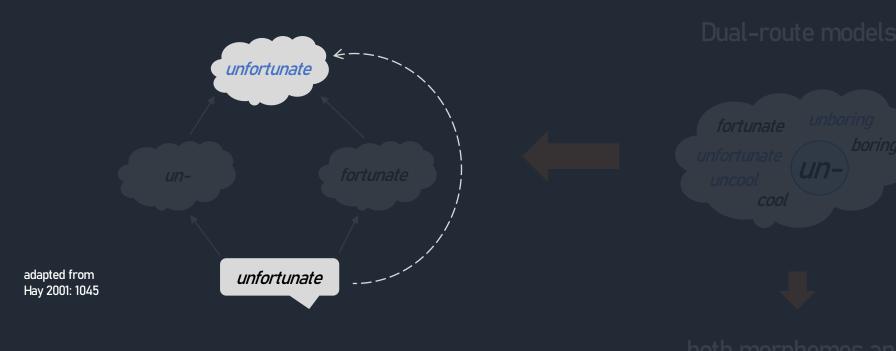






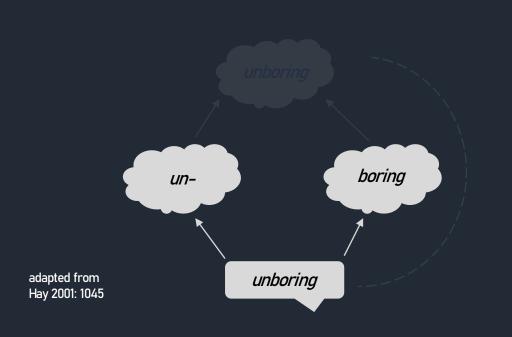
Word	Frequency	Segmentability	Prediction
fortunate	6000	low	shorter duration
unfortunate	6915		
boring	7483	high	longer duration
unboring	4		

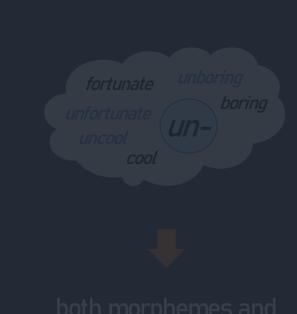




Word	Frequency	Segmentability	Prediction	
fortunate	6000	leve	shorter	
unfortunate	6915	low	duration	
	4			

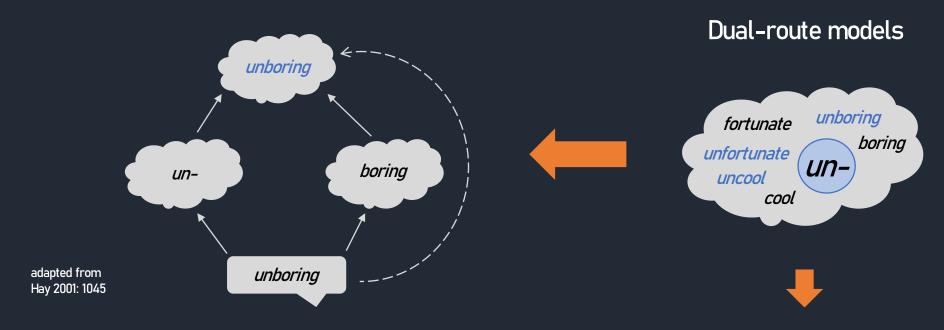






Word	Frequency	Segmentability	Prediction
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Word	Frequency	Segmentability	Prediction
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both morphemes and complex words are stored





Whole-word storage



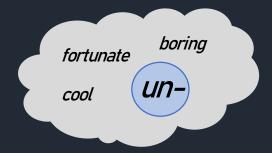


complex words are stored unanalyzed



durations will be shorter the higher the word frequency

Compositional models





morphemes are stored separately



durations will be shorter the higher the base frequency

Dual-route models





both morphemes and complex words are stored



Introduction



Previous research



Caselli et al. 2016

- inflectional suffixes ing, -ed, and -s
- > evidence for both whole-word storage and composition
 - → higher base frequency → shorter word duration
 - higher word frequency → shorter word duration



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Hay 2003, 2007

segmentability effects for un- and -ly



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segmentability effects for un- and -ly

Plag and Ben Hedia 2018

- > segmentability effects for *un* and *dis*-
- > null effects for negative *in*-, locative *in*-, and -*ly*



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Plag and Ben Hedia 2018

- segmentability effects for un- and dis-
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Contradictory evidence:

Why do the frequency measures sometimes show and sometimes not show effects?

Introduction



Present study



Hypothesis 1

Higher word frequency - shorter duration



Hypothesis 1

Higher word frequency - shorter duration

Hypothesis 2

Higher base frequency → shorter duration



Hypothesis 1

Higher word frequency → shorter duration

Hypothesis 2

Higher base frequency → shorter duration

Hypothesis 3

Higher relative frequency → longer

≈ more segmentability

longer duration



Hypothesis 1

Higher word frequency - shorter duration of word, base, and affix

Hypothesis 2

Higher base frequency → shorter duration of word, base, and affix

Hypothesis 3

Higher relative frequency → longer duration of word, base, and affix ≈ more segmentability



Data and measurement



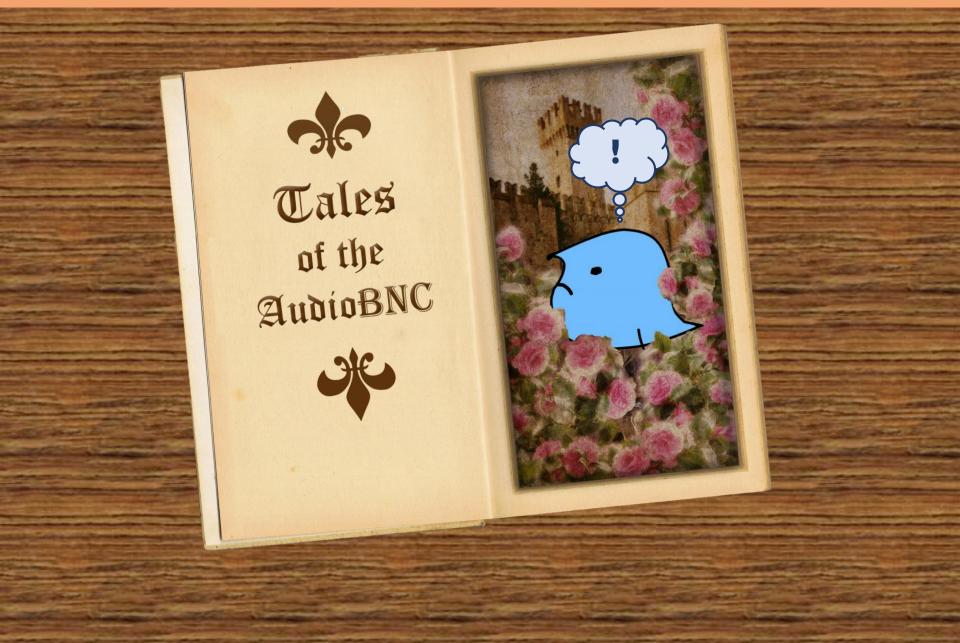
Data collection

> AudioBNC



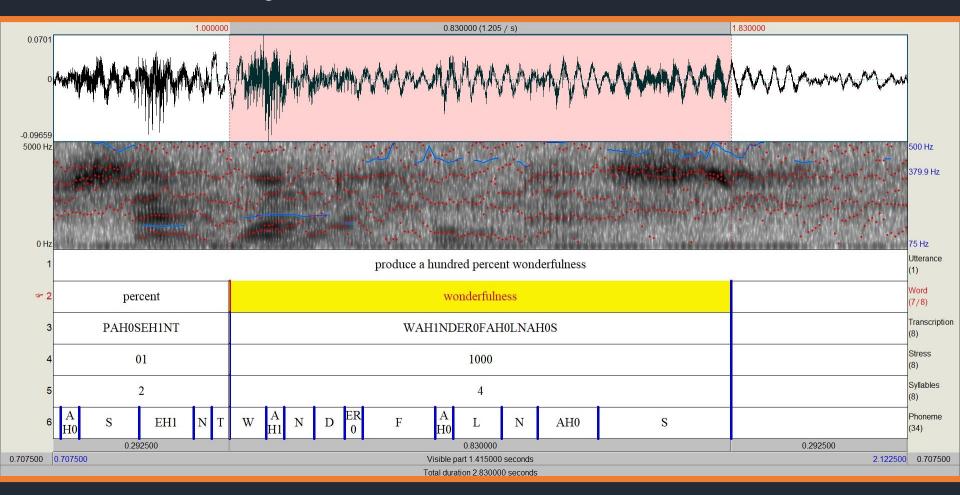






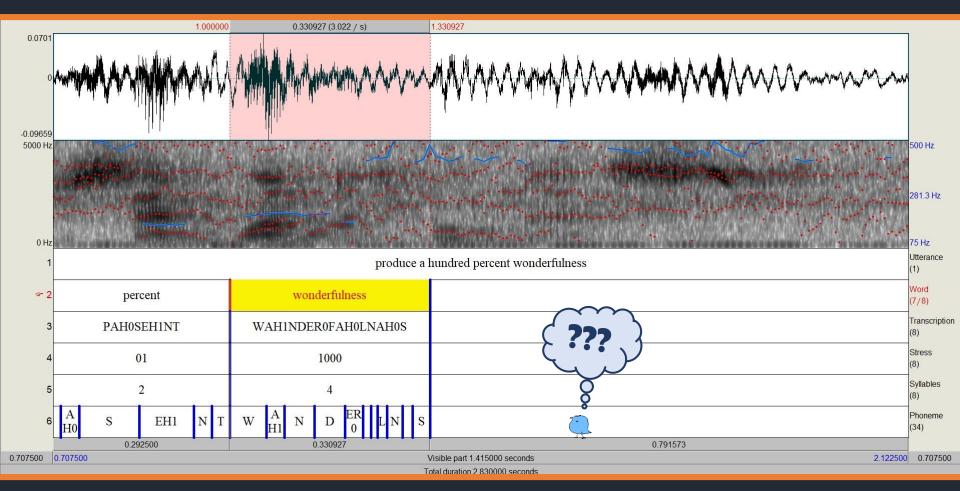


Automatic forced alignment





"Automatic failed alignment"





Data collection

- > AudioBNC
- Forced Alignment
- Praat textgrids
- manual cleaning of results



Data collection

Affixes N

- > AudioBNC
- Forced Alignment
- > Praat textgrids
- manual cleaning of results

- *-ness* 363 *pre* 123
- *-less* 216 *dis-* 689
- -wise 289 un- 960
- *-ize* 476 *in-* 342
- *-ation* 3979



Data collection

- AudioBNC
- Forced Alignment
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Affixes N

-ness	363	pre-	123
-less	216	dis-	689
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Modeling

- multiple linear regression in R using lm-function
- variable transformations
- trimming of datasets
- backwards exclusion of non-significant variables



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Responses

- > word duration
- affix duration
- base duration



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Affixes N

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Responses

- word duration
- affix duration
- base duration

Predictors

-ation 3979

- word frequency
- base frequency
- relative frequency



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Responses

- word duration
- affix duration
- base duration

Predictors

-ation 3979

- > word frequency
- base frequency
- relative frequency

Covariates

- speech rate
- number of syllables
- biphone probability sum
- bigram frequency



Data collection

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Affixes N

-ness 363 pre- 123-less 216 dis- 689-wise 289 un- 960

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-ation 3979

-ize

Modeling

- multiple linear regression in R using lm-function
- variable transformations
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- backwards exclusion of non-significant variables

Responses

- word duration
- affix duration
- base duration
- separate models for durations and frequencies: 81 models

Predictors

- > word frequency
- base frequency
- relative frequency

Covariates

- speech rate
- number of syllables
- biphone probability sum
- bigram frequency



duration	word	affix	base
affix		-ness	
word frequency			
base frequency			
relative frequency			

p < .001 expected direction



duration	word	affix	base	word	affix	base
affix		-ness			-ize	
word frequency						
base frequency						
relative frequency						

p < .001 p < .001

expected direction

unexpected direction



duration	word	affix	base	word	affix	base	word	affix	base
affix		-ness			-ize			-ation	
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									

p < .001 p < .001

expected direction

unexpected direction



duration	word	affix	base	word	affix	base	word	affix	base
affix		-ness			-ize			-ation	
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									
affix		-less							
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									

p < .001 p < .001



duration	word	affix	base	word	affix	base	word	affix	base
affix		-ness			-ize			-ation	
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									
affix		-less			pre-				
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									

p < .001 p < .001



duration	word	affix	base	word	affix	base	word	affix	base
affix		-ness			-ize			-ation	
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									
affix		-less			pre-			-wise	
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									

p < .001 p < .001



duration	word	affix	base	word	affix	base	word	affix	base
affix		-ness			-ize		-ation		
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									
affix		-less			pre-			-wise	
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									
affix		dis-							
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									

p < .001 p < .001



duration	word	affix	base	word	affix	base	word	affix	base	
affix		-ness			-ize			-ation		
word frequency										
base frequency										
relative frequency										
affix		-less			pre-			-wise		
word frequency										
base frequency										
relative frequency										
affix		dis-			un-					
word frequency										
base frequency										
relative frequency										

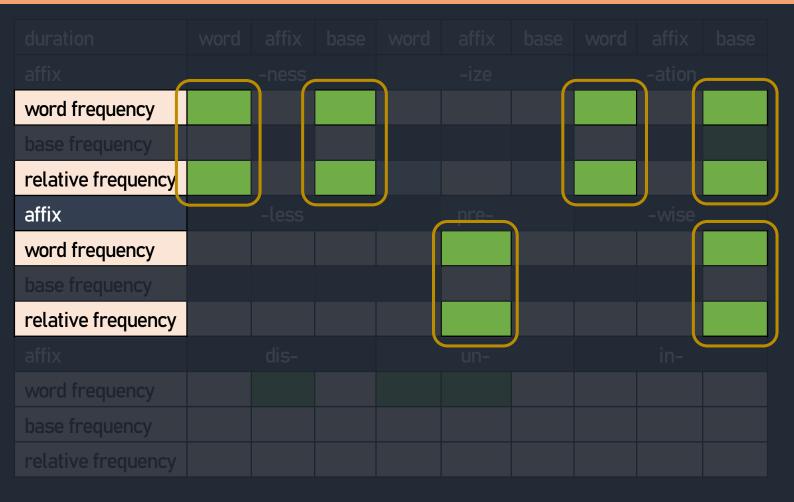
p < .001 expect
p < .001 unexpe



duration	word	affix	base	word	affix	base	word	affix	base
affix		-ness			-ize			-ation	
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									
affix		-less			pre-			-wise	
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									
affix		dis-			un-			in-	
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									

p < .001 expected direction
p < .001 unexpected direction





p < .001

p < .001 p < .001



duration	word	affix	base	word	affix	base	word	affix	base
affix		-ness			-ize			-ation	
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									
affix		-less			pre-			-wise	
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									
affix		dis-			un-			in-	
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									

p < .001 expected direction
p < .001 unexpected direction



duration	word	affix	base	word	affix	base	word	affix	base
affix		-ness			-ize		-ation		
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									
affix		-less			pre-			-wise	
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									
affix		dis-			un-			in-	
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									

p < .001 p < .001

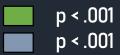
expected direction unexpected direction

Are the differences related to ...



Prefixes vs. suffixes

duration	word	affix	base	word	affix	base	word	affix	base
affix	-ness				-ize		-ation		
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									
affix		-less			pre-			-wise	
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									
affix		dis-			un-			in-	
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									



expected direction unexpected direction

Are the differences related to ... the type of affix?



Prefixes vs. suffixes

duration	word	affix	base	word	affix	base	word	affix	base
affix		-ness			-ize		-ation		
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									
affix		-less						-wise	
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									
word frequency									
relative frequency									

suffixes

p < .001

p < .001

expected direction unexpected direction

Are the differences related to ...

the type of affix?





Prefixes vs. suffixes

word frequency							
relative frequency							
			pre-		-wise	, F	orefixes
word frequency							
relative frequency							
affix	dis-		un-		in-		
word frequency							
base frequency							
relative frequency							

p < .001

p < .001

expected direction unexpected direction Are the differences related to ...

the type of affix?



Affix length

duration	word	affix	base	word	affix	base	word	affix	base
affix	-ness				-ize		-ation		
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									
affix		-less			pre-			-wise	
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									
affix		dis-			un-			in-	
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									

p < .001 p < .001

expected direction unexpected direction Are the differences related to ...

the type of affix? the affix length?



Affix length

word frequency							
relative frequency							
word frequency							
relative frequency							
			un-		in-		around
word frequency							100–150 ms
							1113
relative frequency							

p < .001 p < .001

expected direction unexpected direction

Are the differences related to ...

the type of affix? the affix length?



Affix length

				word	affix	base	
					-ation		around
word frequency							250–300 ms
relative frequency							
					-wise		
word frequency							
relative frequency							
word frequency							
relative frequency							

p < .001 p < .001

expected direction unexpected direction Are the differences related to ...

the type of affix? the affix length?



Manual resegmentation

duration	word	affix	base	word	affix	base	word	affix	base
affix	-ness				-ize		-ation		
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									
affix		-less			pre-			-wise	
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									
affix		dis-			un-			in-	
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									



p < .001 p < .001 expected direction unexpected direction

Are the differences related to ...

the type of affix? the affix length? the segmentation? ×

×



Manual resegmentation

duration	word	affix	base	word	affix	base	word	affix	base
affix		-ness			-ize		-ation		
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									
affix		-less			pre-			-wise	
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									
affix		dis-			un-			in-	
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									

p < .001

p < .001

p < .01

expected direction unexpected direction weaker effect

Are the differences related to ...

the type of affix? the affix length? the segmentation?

×

×

x





The prosodic hierarchy

- U Phonological utterance
- Intonation phrase
- Phonological phrase
- (Prosodic word
- Foot
- Syllable



The prosodic hierarchy

- U Phonological utterance
- Intonation phrase
- Phonological phrase
- ω Prosodic word
- Foot
- Syllable



The prosodic hierarchy

- U Phonological utterance
- IP Intonation phrase
- Phonological phrase
- **ω** Prosodic word
- Foot
- Syllable

Some pword-diagnostics

- > onset or coda conditions, LOI-violations
- > ambisyllabicity
- stress and relative prominence
- > trisyllabic laxing, vowel reduction
- > minimal word requirements
- compositionality, type of base



The prosodic hierarchy

- U Phonological utterance
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Some pword-diagnostics

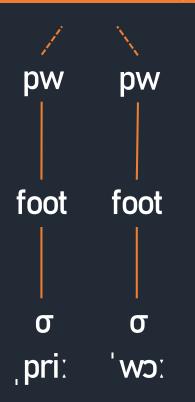
- onset or coda conditions, LOI-violations
- > ambisyllabicity
- stress and relative prominence
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- > minimal word requirements
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Morpho-prosodic alignment

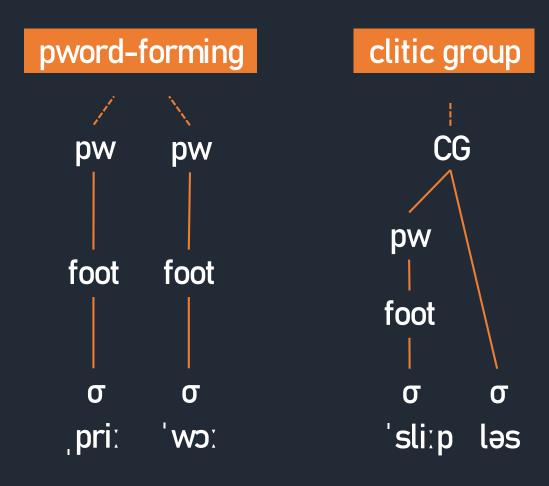
 A morpheme cannot include multiple pwords, but a pword can include multiple morphemes.



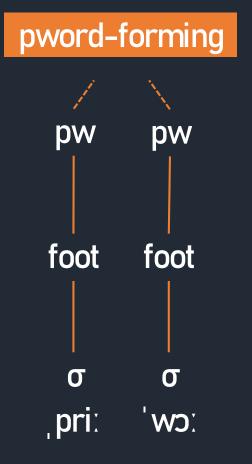
pword-forming

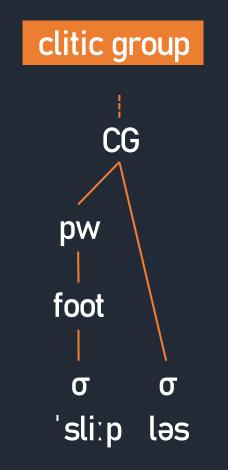






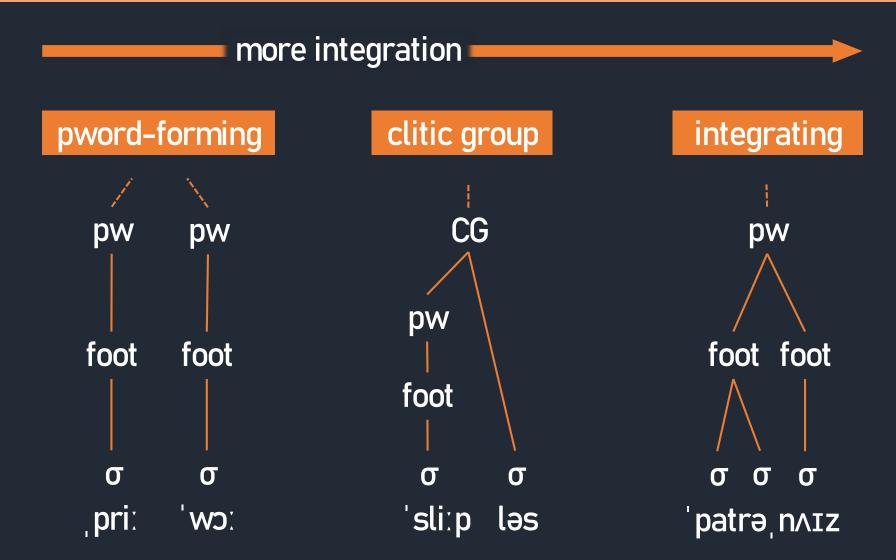




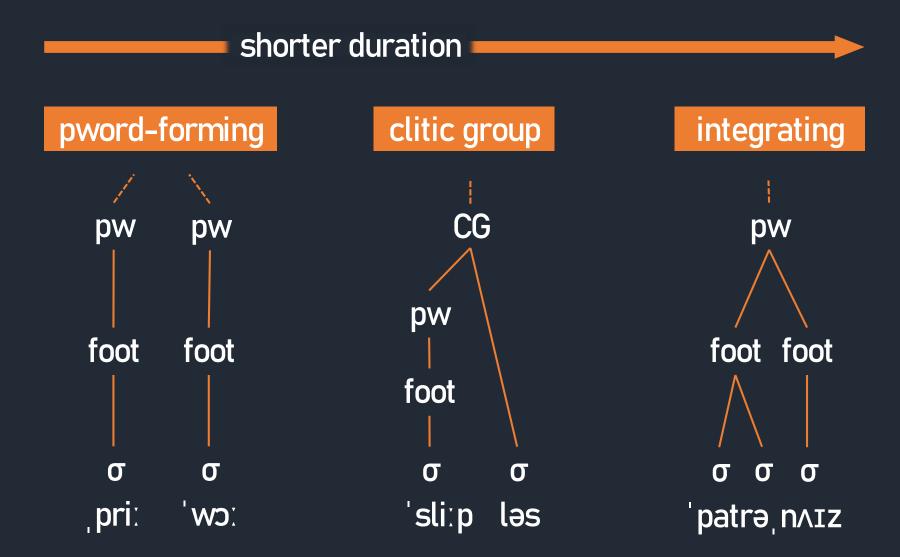












Results



Type of prosodic integration

duration	word	affix	base	word	affix	base	word	affix	base
affix		-ness			-ize			-ation	
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									
affix		-less			pre-			-wise	
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									
affix		dis-			un-			in-	
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									



p < .001

expected direction unexpected direction

Are the differences related to ...

the type of affix? the affix length? the segmentation? prosodic structure?



word frequency							
relative frequency							
			pre-		-wise		prosodic
word frequency							words
relative frequency							
	dis-		un-		in-		
word frequency							
relative frequency							



p < .001

expected direction unexpected direction

Are the differences related to ...

the type of affix? the affix length? the segmentation? prosodic structure? ×

×

*



	word	affix	base				
		-ness		cliti	C		
word frequency				group	05		
relative frequency							
		-less		pre-			
word frequency							
relative frequency							
word frequency							
relative frequency							

p < .001

p < .001

expected direction unexpected direction

Are the differences related to ...

the type of affix? the affix length? the segmentation? prosodic structure?

×

x

×

Results



Type of prosodic integration

		word	affix	base	word	affix	base
			-ize			-ation	
word frequency							
relative frequency							
word frequency							
relative frequency							
word frequency							
relative frequency							

integrating

p < .001

p < .001

expected direction unexpected direction

Are the differences related to ...

the type of affix? the affix length? the segmentation? prosodic structure?

Results



Type of prosodic integration

		word	affix	base	word	affix	base
			-ize			-ation	
word frequency							
relative frequency							
word frequency							
relative frequency							
word frequency							
relative frequency							

integrating

p < .001

p < .001

expected direction unexpected direction

Are the differences related to ...

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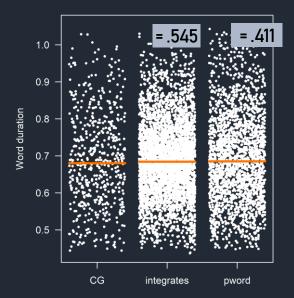
- Additional predictor: type of prosodic integration
- > Additional covariate: number of timing slots
- N = 7441



Meta-model including all affixes

- > Additional predictor: type of prosodic integration
- > Additional covariate: number of timing slots
- N = 7441

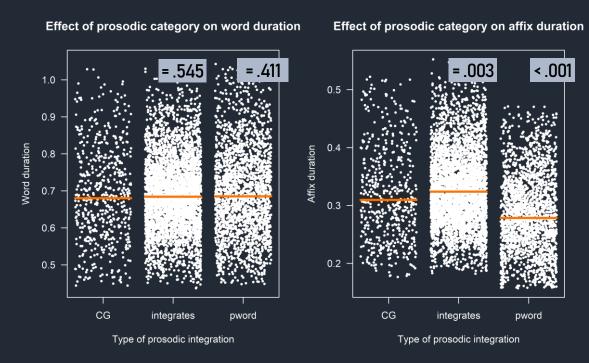
Effect of prosodic category on word duration



Type of prosodic integration

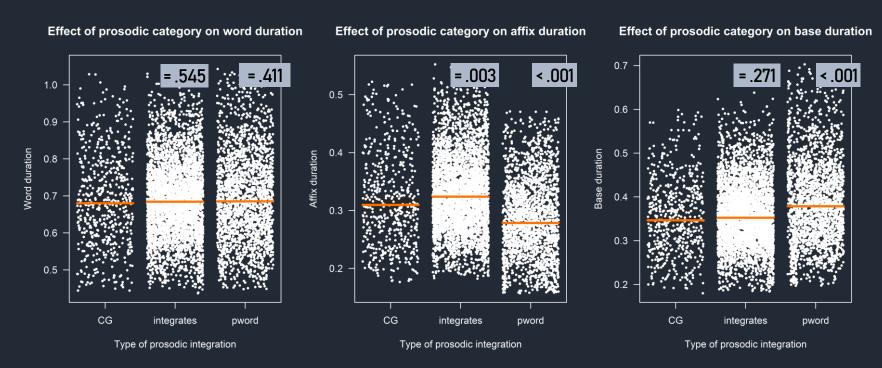


- Additional predictor: type of prosodic integration
- > Additional covariate: number of timing slots
- N = 7441



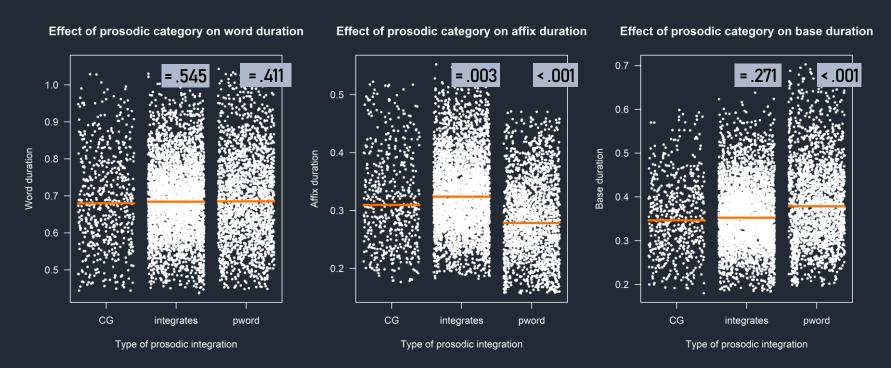


- > Additional predictor: type of prosodic integration
- > Additional covariate: number of timing slots
- N = 7441





- > Additional predictor: type of prosodic integration
- > Additional covariate: number of timing slots
- > N = 7441
- > This does not support the predictions of pword integration.



Results



Informativity

duration	word	affix	base	word	affix	base	word	affix	base
affix		-ness			-ize			-ation	
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									
affix		-less			pre-			-wise	
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									
affix		dis-			un-			in-	
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									



p < .001

expected direction unexpected direction

Are the differences related to ...

the type of affix? the affix length? the segmentation? prosodic structure? affix informativity?



Measured in two ways:



Measured in two ways:

Semantic information load score



Measured in two ways:

Semantic information load score

5-point Likert scales coded for:

- > clearness of semantic meaning
- type of base: free vs. bound root
- > semantic transparency
- productivity



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Semantic information load score

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Affix-specific semantic segmentability hierarchy



Measured in two ways:

Semantic information load score

5-point Likert scales coded for:

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Affix-specific semantic segmentability hierarchy

H: The higher the semantic information load, the longer the duration.



Measured in two ways:

Semantic information load score

Conditional affix probability C_{aff}

5-point Likert scales coded for:

- clearness of semantic meaning
- type of base: free vs. bound root
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- > productivity



Affix-specific semantic segmentability hierarchy

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Measured in two ways:

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Affix-specific semantic segmentability hierarchy

H: The higher the semantic information load, the longer the duration.

Conditional affix probability C_{aff}

Affix probability given preceding word:

SUFFIX EX	AMPLE	PREFIX EXAMPLE					
Α	В	Α	В	С			
random	ize	her	pre-				



Measured in two ways:

Semantic information load score

5-point Likert scales coded for:

- clearness of semantic meaning
- type of base: free vs. bound root
- > semantic transparency
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Affix-specific semantic segmentability hierarchy

H: The higher the semantic information load, the longer the duration.

Conditional affix probability C_{aff}

Affix probability given preceding word:

SUFFIX E	XAMPLE	PREFIX I	EXAMPLE	
Α	В	Α	В	С
randon	n ize	her	pre-	



$$C_{aff} = \frac{Freq(AB)}{Freq(A)}$$



Measured in two ways:

Semantic information load score

5-point Likert scales coded for:

- clearness of semantic meaning
- > type of base: free vs. bound root
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Affix-specific semantic segmentability hierarchy

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Conditional affix probability C_{aff}

Affix probability given preceding word:

SUFFIX E	XAMPLE	PREFIX	EXAMPLE	
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H: The higher the conditional affix probability, the shorter the duration.



duration	word	affix	base	word	affix	base	word	affix	base
affix		-ness			-ize			-ation	
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									
affix		-less			pre-			-wise	
word frequency									
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relative frequency									
affix		dis-			un-			in-	
word frequency									
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p < .001

expected direction unexpected direction

Are the differences related to ...

the type of affix? the affix length? the segmentation? prosodic structure? affix informativity?



duration	word	affix	base					
affix		-ness		high		-ation		
word frequency				information load				
base frequency				10	au			
relative frequency								
				pre-				
word frequency								
relative frequency								
				un-				
word frequency								
relative frequency								

p < .001

p < .001

expected direction unexpected direction

Are the differences related to ...

the type of affix? the affix length? the segmentation? prosodic structure? affix informativity? ×

×

×

×



		word	affix	base	word	affix	base
			-ize			-ation	
word frequency							
relative frequency							
word frequency							
relative frequency							
word frequency							
relative frequency							

low information load

p < .001

p < .001

expected direction unexpected direction

Are the differences related to ...

the type of affix? the affix length? the segmentation? prosodic structure? affix informativity? ×

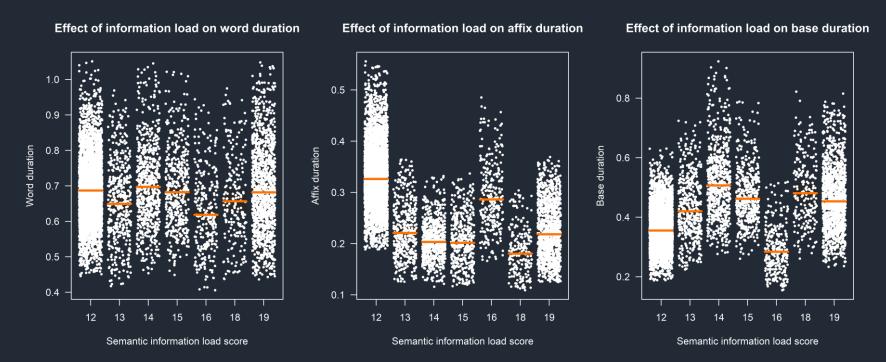
×

×

×



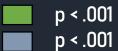
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Informativity: Conditional affix probability

duration	word	affix	base	word	affix	base	word	affix	base
affix		-ness			-ize			-ation	
word frequency									
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relative frequency									
affix		dis-			un-			in-	
word frequency									
base frequency									
relative frequency									



expected direction unexpected direction

Are the differences related to ...

the type of affix? the affix length? the segmentation? prosodic structure? affix informativity?

×

×

×

Results



Informativity: Conditional affix probability

duration	word	affix	base	word	affix	base	word	affix	base
affix		-ness			-ize			-ation	
affix probability									

affix	-less		pre-			-wise		
affix probability								

affix	dis-		un-	in-			
affix probability							

p < .001 negative correlation

Are the differences related to ...

the type of affix? the affix length? the segmentation? prosodic structure? affix informativity?

Conclusion



Summary



Summary

In sum, we have a mixed picture.

- > Some results are in line with Caselli et al. 2016:
 - > All three frequency measures can independently predict duration.
 - > This is evidence for both types of storage in the mental lexicon, as well as for segmentability effects.



Summary

In sum, we have a mixed picture.

- > Some results are in line with Caselli et al. 2016:
 - > All three frequency measures can independently predict duration.
 - > This is evidence for both types of storage in the mental lexicon, as well as for segmentability effects.
- However, there are also null effects, which require explanation.
 - So far, we cannot attribute the differences to:
 - the domain of durational measurement (word, affix, base)
 - the type of affix (prefix, suffix)
 - the prosodic category (pword, clitic group, integrating)
 - the informativity of the affix (information load, probability).



Discussion



Discussion

Our findings imply that ...

> morphological structure can at least partly influence the phonetic output.



Discussion

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- morphological structure can at least partly influence the phonetic output.
- models that prohibit post-lexical access of morphological information (e.g. Kiparsky 1982, Levelt et al. 1999, Bermúdez-Otero 2018) should be revised.



Discussion

Our findings imply that ...

- morphological structure can at least partly influence the phonetic output.
- > models that prohibit post-lexical access of morphological information (e.g. Kiparsky 1982, Levelt et al. 1999, Bermúdez-Otero 2018) should be revised.
- we need to investigate further factors that might cause frequency effects to surface or to not surface.





More corpus data

ONZE, Quakebox



More corpus data

ONZE, Quakebox

Experimental data



More corpus data

ONZE, Quakebox

Some things I have to do next or think about:

Experimental data



More corpus data

ONZE, Quakebox

Some things I have to do next or think about:

Get familiar with the LaBB-CAT interface, query structure, and variables

Experimental data



More corpus data

ONZE, Quakebox

Some things I have to do next or think about:

- Set familiar with the LaBB-CAT interface, query structure, and variables
- > Learn how to write scripts that can deal with the new textgrid files

Experimental data



More corpus data

ONZE, Quakebox

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Experimental data



More corpus data

ONZE, Quakebox

Some things I have to do next or think about:

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- Learn how to write scripts that can deal with the new textgrid files
- > Which affixes can I extract, depending on the token counts?
- > Which subcorpora should I include?

Experimental data





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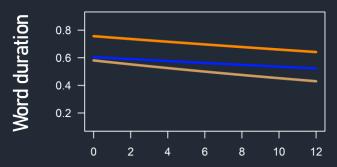


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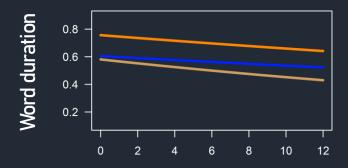


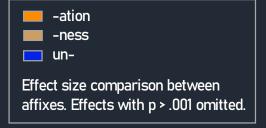
Log word frequency



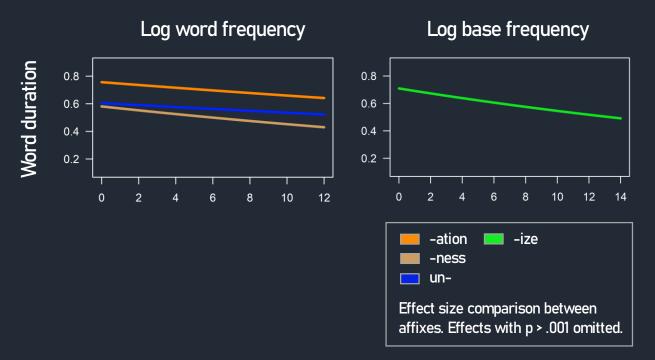


Log word frequency

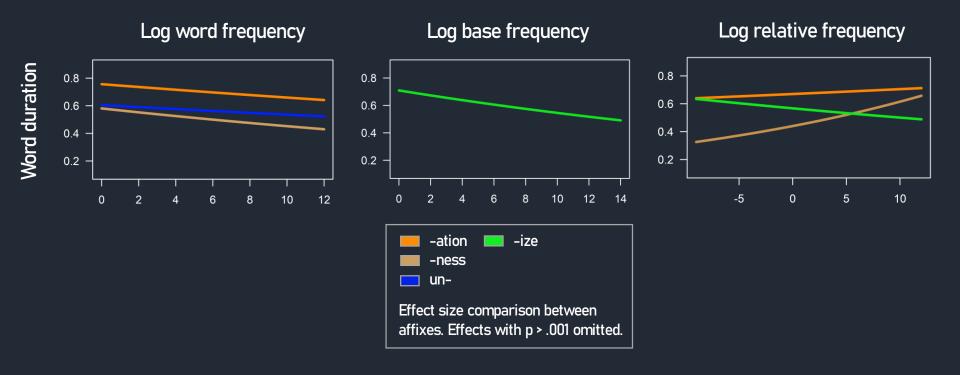




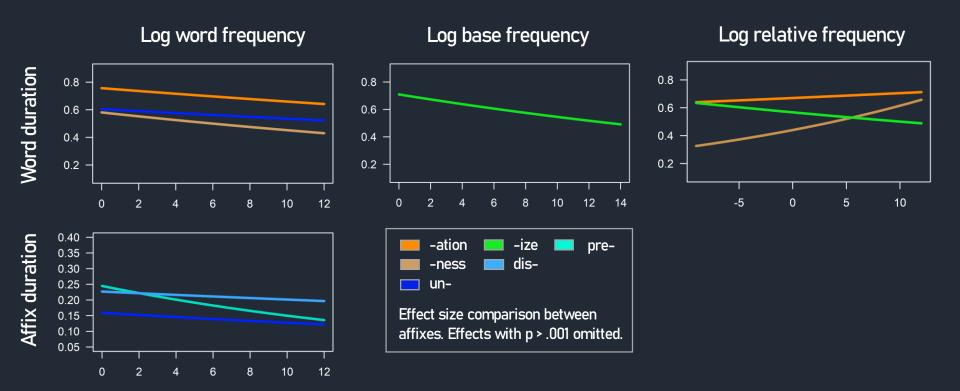




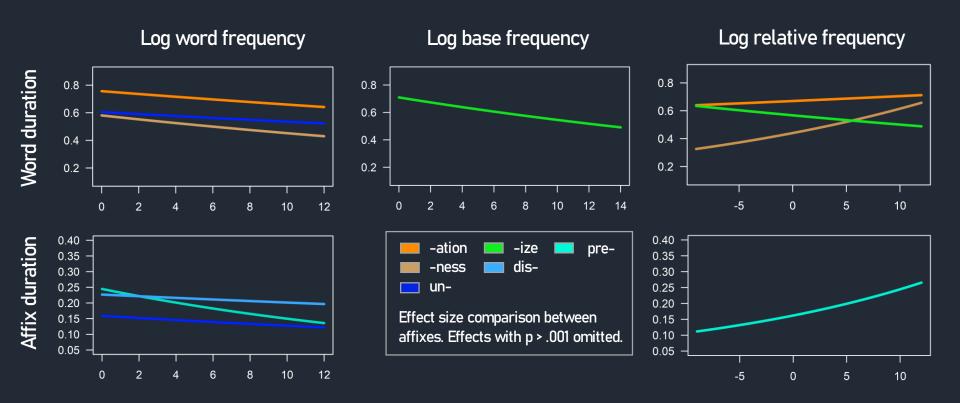




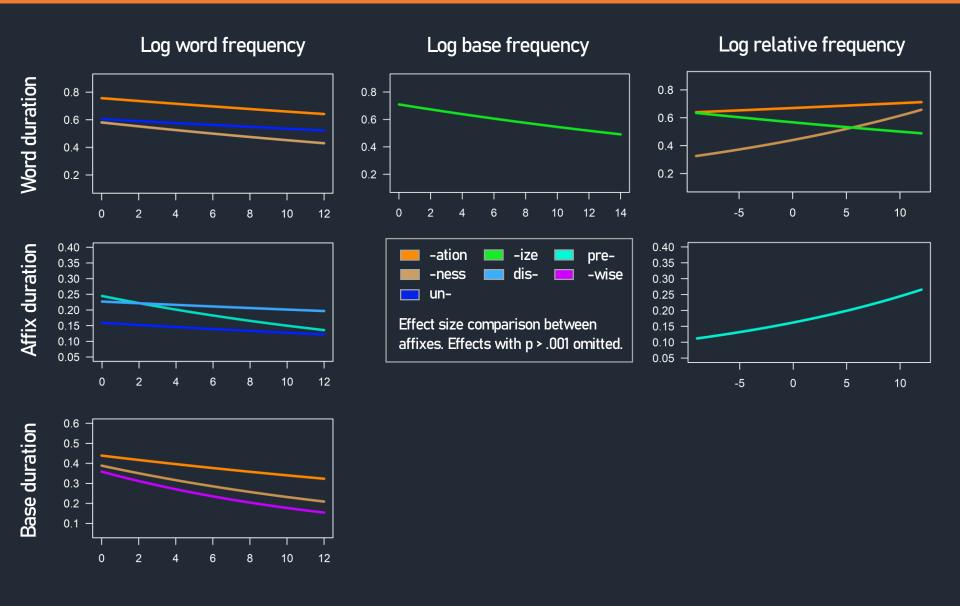




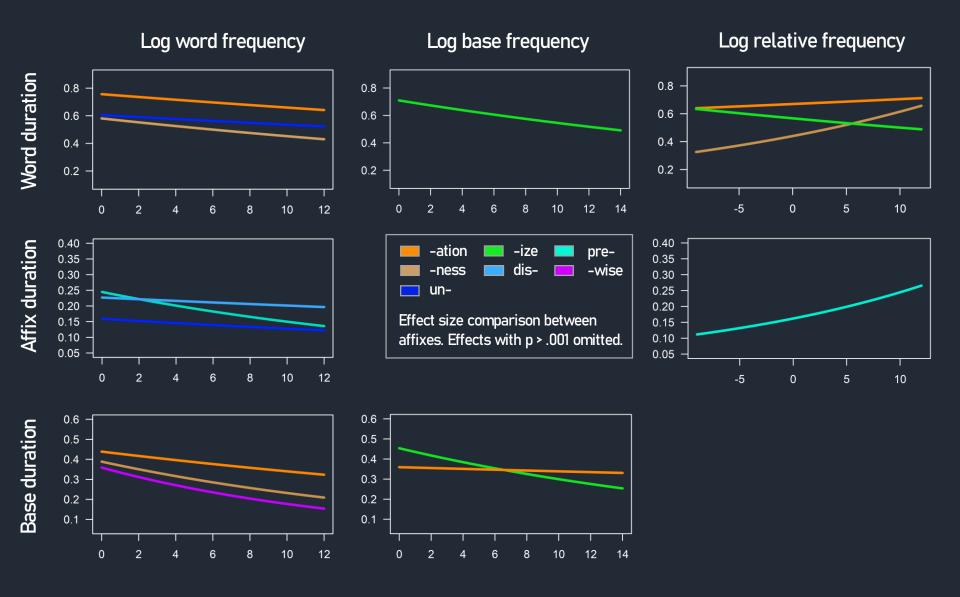




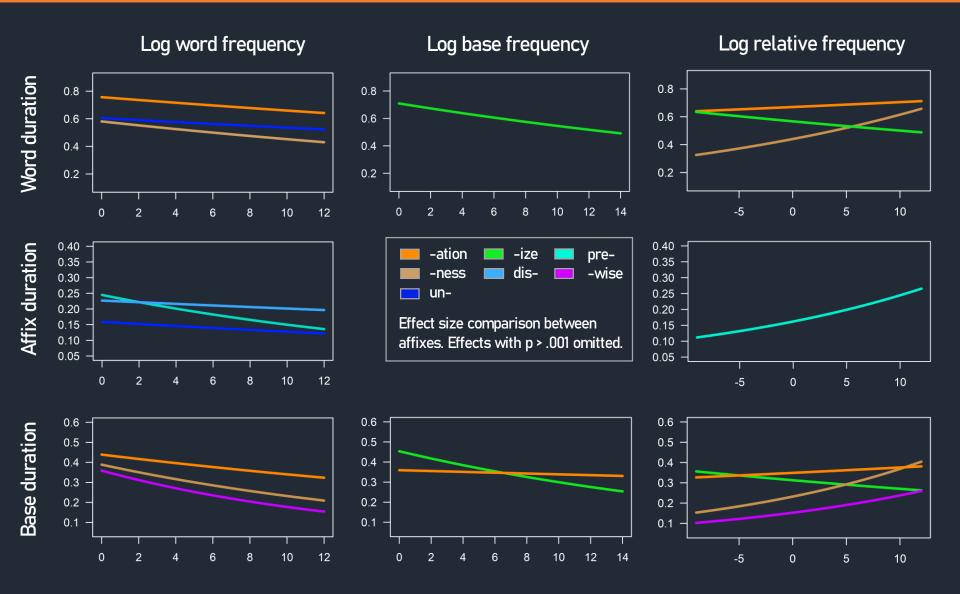






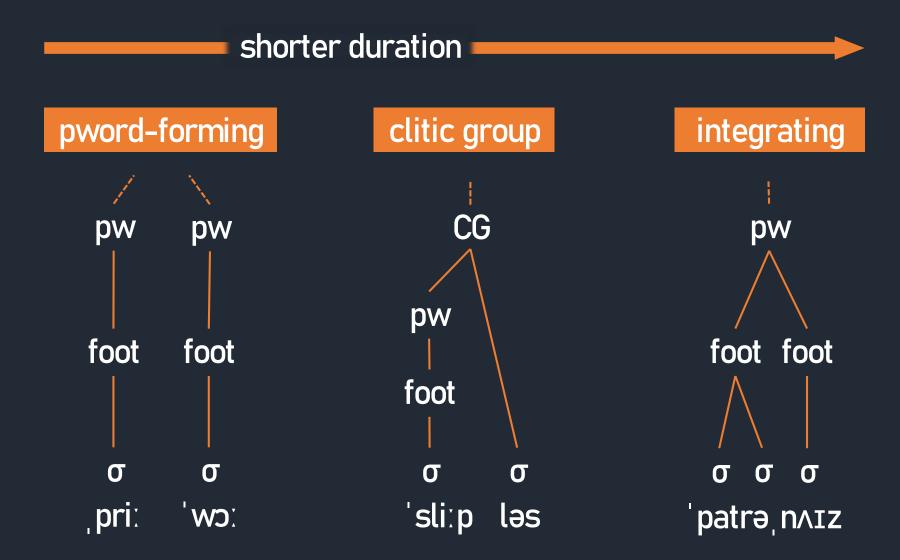








Prosodic word predictions





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