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On the Vowel Length in the Environment CiV

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It is predominantly characteristic of the environment CiV to lengthen the vowels except /i/. Some examples are as follows:

- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| (1) | <u>m</u> édial --- <u>m</u> édical | <u>r</u> ádial --- <u>r</u> ádical |
| | [iy] [e] | [ey] [æ] |
| | <u>m</u> édi <u>á</u> te -- <u>m</u> édi <u>c</u> áte | <u>r</u> ádi <u>á</u> te -- <u>r</u> ádi <u>c</u> áte |
| | [iy] [e] | [ey] [æ] |

Each of the minimal pairs above shows that the length of underlined vowels is closely related to the following environment, i.e. whether the vowel is followed by the sequence CiV or not. Kazumi (1991) stipulates the behavior of vowels in the environment CiV as in (2):

- (2) In the environment CiV,
- (i) *i* must be short, and
 - (ii) other vowels must be long.

In this joint research, we pay attention to the long vowels in the environment CiV and observe the relevant data and then attempt to explain why the vowels must be long.

Consider the following data:

- | | | |
|--------|--|------------------------------------|
| (3) a. | <u>I</u> ran/ <u>I</u> ranian | <u>C</u> anada/ <u>C</u> anadian |
| | col <u>e</u> ge/col <u>e</u> gian | M <u>o</u> ngol/M <u>o</u> ngolian |
| | <u>h</u> armony/ <u>h</u> armonious | col <u>o</u> ny/col <u>o</u> onial |
| | <u>s</u> tudy/ <u>s</u> tudious | rem <u>e</u> dy/rem <u>e</u> dial |
| | <u>l</u> uxury/ <u>l</u> uxuri <u>a</u> te | |

The data above suggest that CiV Lengthening is triggered irrespective of internal structure of CiV. In (3a) the environ-

ment *_CiV* is formed when an *iV*-initial suffix is added to a consonant-final stem, while in (3b) it is formed when *V*-initial suffix is added to an *Ci*-final stem. The data in (3c) shows that the *V* in the sequence *CiV* may be the first element of a diphthong.

From the observation above we assume as follows:

- (4) In the environment *_CiV*, a syllable must be heavy, i.e., a rhyme must be *VV* or *VC*.

If the sequence *VCiV* is given as an input, according to (4), the output can be as follows: (i) *VVCiV* or (ii) *VCCiV*. The output in Present-day English is only (i) as we have seen in (3). Then what about (ii)? We can find such a form in Old English or the West Germanic languages (cf. Lass and Anderson (1975)), and this might suggest that in Old English, as in Present-day English, the environment *_CiV* has the special status.

We next make another assumption from the data in (3). Borowsky (1989) argues a word-medial rhyme must be *VV* or *VC*. Given this, the sequence *VVCiV* as an output of *CiV* Lengthening should have a syllable boundary before *CiV*. Thus we assume as follows:

- (5) A syllable boundary must be immediately before *CiV* where the preceding vowel is long.

References

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