

Morphological and Phonological Lenition in Manx

Jochen Trommer

`jtrommer@uni-leipzig.de`

University of Leipzig
Department of Linguistics

mfm 17 2009

Morphological and Phonological Lenition in Manx

M-Lenition

b	g	k	d
v	ɣ	x	ɣ

P-Lenition

b	g	k	d
v	ɣ	ɣ	ð

⇒ Both produce fricatives (among other things)

Green's Dilemma

Morphological

b	g	d	s	t
v	ɣ	ɣ	h	h

Phonological

b	g	d	s	t
v	ɣ	ð	z	ð

⇒ Both produce **partially different** fricatives

(Green, 2006)

Green's Conclusion

- ▶ M-Lenition in Manx cannot be due to featural affixation + phonology
- ▶ It is purely morphological

(Green, 2006)

Claim of this Talk

Differences between M-Lenition and P-Lenition are due to:

- ▶ the affixation of a floating grid mark in M-Lenition
- ▶ the fact that M-Lenition is word-initial whereas P-Lenition is intervocalic

Background

Manx

- ▶ Celtic language of the Goidelic group
closely related to Irish

- ▶ Formerly spoken on the Isle of Man
The last native speaker dies 1974

The Consonant System of Manx

	Plain			Palatalized	
Voiceless stops	p	t	k	t'	k'
Voiced stops	b	d	g	d'	g'
Voiceless fricatives	f	s	x h	s'	x'
Voiced fricatives	v	ð z	ɣ	z'	
Glides	w				j
Nasals	m	n	ŋ	n'	ŋ'
Liquids		l r		l' r'	

The Framework

- ▶ Stratal Optimality Theory
(Bermudez-Otero, 2009)

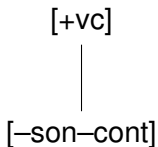
- ▶ Simplistic Colored Containment Theory
(Trommer, 2008 departing from van Oostendorp, 2004)

Simplistic Colored Containment Theory

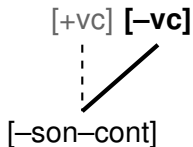
- ▶ Input structure cannot be literally deleted in outputs
It can just be rendered phonetically invisible
- ▶ Every morpheme has a unique morphological color
All phonological material belonging to the morpheme
bears this colour
- ▶ Gen cannot change morphological color

Simplistic Colored Containment Theory

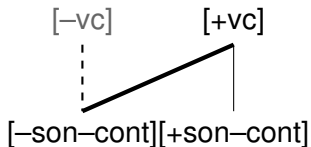
Underlying /t/
Surfacing [t]



Underlying /d/
Surfacing [t]



Underlying /tn/
Surfacing [dn]



REALIZE MORPHEME

For every morpheme in the input,
some phonological element
should be present in the output.

≈

Every morphological color C in an output form
should be detectable by at least
one phonetically visible phonological element of color C

(≈ van Oostendorp, 2005 ≈ Akinlabi, 1996)

M-Lenition as Aperture Affixation

Morphological Lenition in Manx

b edn woman	ən the	v edn woman	Stop	⇒	Fricative
t^h ai house	mə my	h ai house'	Stop	⇒	Laryngeal
m u:r big	bedn woman	v u:r big	Nasal	⇒	Fricative
s u:l eye	mə my	h u:l eye	Fricative	⇒	Laryngeal
f ai homefield	mosən in the	ai homefield	Fricative	⇒	∅

(Broderick, 1985)

Morphological Lenition in Manx

f	∅
s	h
t	x ~ h
k	x ~ h
p	f
d	ɣ
g	ɣ
b	v ~ w
m	v ~ w
n	no change
l	no change
r	no change
vowel	no change

Stops and m get [+continuant]

s, t & k debuccalize (optionally)

Coronal obstruents get velar

M-Lenition as a Chain Shift

Stops + Nasals	p	m		t	k
Fricatives + Glides	f	v	s		x
Laryngeals + Ø		Ø		h	

Sonority by Multi-valued Features (Trommer, 2009)

Inherent Voicing Scale

	Representation	Abbreviation
Voiceless Obstruents & Laryngeals:	son:oo	son:
Voiced Obstruents:	son:xo	son:x ¹
Sonorants:	son:xx	son:x ²

Aperture Scale

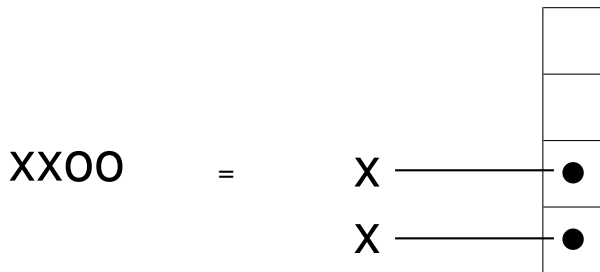
	Representation	Abbreviation
Nasal and Oral Stops:	ap:oo	ap:
Fricatives and Approximants:	ap:xo	ap:x ¹
Laryngeals (and Ø):	ap:xx	ap:x ²

(cf. Gnanadesikan, 1997 and de Lacy, 2002)

Multi-Value Representation of Consonantal Aperture

	Representation	Abbreviation
Nasal and Oral Stops:	ap:oo	ap:
Fricatives and Approximants:	ap:xo	ap:x ¹
Laryngeals (and Ø):	ap:xx	ap:x ²

The Internal Structure of Multiple Feature Values



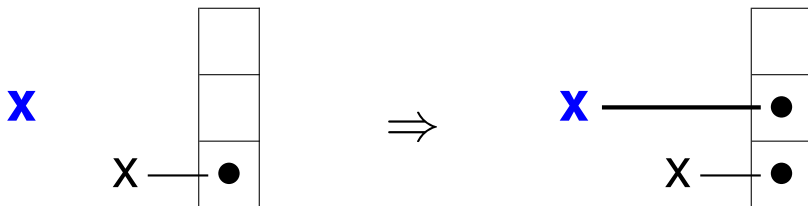
Ø-Aperture

- ▶ Ø-Aperture of consonants corresponds to segments with no overt oral articulator
- ▶ If such sounds have a laryngeal articulator, a glottal sound results, otherwise the sound is phonetically Ø

The Lenition Morpheme

$$L \leftrightarrow X_{ap}$$

Lenition as Affixation of a Grid Mark



Analysis

- ▶ Attachment of x_{ap} to a nasal/stop, shifts this by 1 in aperture to a fricative
- ▶ Attachment of x_{ap} to a fricative, shifts this by 1 to h/\emptyset
- ▶ Markedness/faithfulness constraints may lead to additional aperture augmentation

Constraints Triggering M-Lenition

REALIZE MORPHEME

ID [+son] A phonetically [+sonorant] sound should also be morphologically [+sonorant] (Obstruents should not get sonorants/laryngeals)


MAX LAR Maintain underlying LAR(YNGEAL) nodes (as aspiration or as laryngeal consonants)

MAX LAB Maintain underlying LAB(IAL) nodes

MAX COR Maintain underlying COR(onal) nodes


M-Lenition of [p] to [f] (extremely simplified)

Input: x_{ap} + [ap: -cont -vc LAB] (pa \Rightarrow fa)

	RM	ID [+son]
a. [ap: -cont -vc LAB] (p)	*!	
 b. [ap:x ¹ +cont -vc LAB] (f)		
c. [ap:x ² +cont -vc LAB] (\emptyset)		*!



M-Lenition of [f] to [Ø] (extremely simplified)

Input: x_{ap} + [ap:x¹ +cont -vc LAB] (fa ⇒ Øa)

	RM	ID [+son]
a. [ap:x ¹ +cont -vc LAB] (f)	*!	
 c. [ap:x ² +cont -vc LAB] (Ø)		*


M-Lenition of [k] to [x]/[h] (slightly simplified)

Input: x_{ap} + [ap: -cont -vc DOR] (ka \Rightarrow xa/ha)

	RM	ID [+son]	MAX LAR
a. [ap: -cont -vc DOR] (k)	*!		
 b. [ap:x ¹ +cont -vc DOR] (x)			*
 c. [ap:x ² +cont -vc DOR] (h)		*	


M-Lenition of [p] to [f] (full version)

Input: x_{ap} + [ap: -cont -vc LAB] (pa \Rightarrow fa)

	RM	MAX LAB	ID [+son]	MAX LAR	MAX COR
a. [ap: -cont -vc LAB] (p)	*!				
 b. [ap:x ¹ +cont -vc LAB] (f)			*	*	
c. [ap:x ² +cont -vc LAB] (\emptyset)		*!		*	

M-Lenition of [f] to [Ø] (full version)

Input: x_{ap} + [ap:x¹ +cont -vc LAB] (fa ⇒ Øa)

	RM	MAX LAB	ID [+son]	MAX LAR	MAX COR
a. [ap:x ¹ +cont -vc LAB] (f)	*!			*	
 c. [ap:x ² +cont -vc LAB] (Ø)		*	*	*	

Phonological (Intervocalic) Lenition in Manx

a.	tapi	~	tabi	~	tavi	‘quick’
b.	bratag	~	bradag	~	braðag	‘flag’
c.	fi:kəl	~	fi:gəl	~	fi:yəl	‘tooth’
d.			tʰibərt	~	tʰivərt	‘a well’
e.			edən	~	eðən	‘face’
f.			rugət	~	ruyt	‘born’
g.	pre:sən	~			pre:zən/pre:ðən	‘potatoes’

Phonological (Intervocalic) Lenition in Manx

f	–
s	z ~ ð
t	d ~ ð
k	g ~ ɣ
p	b ~ v
d	ð
g	ɣ
b	v
m	no change
n	no change
l	no change
r	no change

([f] doesn't occur in word-medial position)

Voiceless stops get voiced stops or fricatives

Voiced stops get voiced fricatives

General Constraints on P-Lenition



V_V \Rightarrow B Intervocalic consonants should be voiced

V_V \Rightarrow F Intervocalic obstruents should be fricatives


ID [+cont] A phonetically [+continuant] sound
should also be morphologically [+continuant]

Intervocalic Voicing and Spirantization

Input: aka (with Variation)

	V_V \Rightarrow B	V_V \Rightarrow F	ID [+cont]
a. aka	*!	*	
 b. aga		*	
c. axa	*!		*
 d. aya			*

Input: aka (without Variation)

	V_V \Rightarrow B	V_V \Rightarrow F	ID [+cont]
a. aka	*!	*	
b. aga		*!	
c. axa	*!		*
 d. aya			*



Constraints on Coronal Fricatives

Z \Rightarrow V_ Voiced coronal fricatives should be post-sonorant
(form a voicing span with a preceding sonorant)



ID [+strid] A phonetically [+strident] sound
should also be morphologically [+strident]

P-Lenition of Coronals

Input: ata

	Z \Rightarrow V ₋	ID [+strid]	V ₋ V \Rightarrow B	V ₋ V \Rightarrow F	ID [+cont]
a. ata			*!	*	
 b. ada				*	
c. asa		*!	*		*
d. aza		*!			*
 e. aḏa					*

Input: asa

	Z \Rightarrow V ₋	ID [+strid]	V ₋ V \Rightarrow B	V ₋ V \Rightarrow F	ID [+cont]
a. asa			*!		
 c. aza					
 d. aḏa					

Differences of Phonological & Morphological Lenition

Differences of Phonological & Morphological Lenition

- ▶ M-Lenition debuccalizes fricatives
P-Lenition does not

- ▶ M-Lenition debuccalizes stops
P-Lenition does not

- ▶ M-Lenition changes coronals to dorsals
P-Lenition does not

M-Lenition Debuccalizes Fricatives

P-Lenition does not

M-Lenition

b	g	d	s	t
v	ɣ	ɣ	h	h

P-Lenition

b	g	d	s	t
v	ɣ	ð	z	ð


Why M-Lenition Debuccalizes Fricatives and P-Lenition does not

- ▶ M-Lenition involves augmentation of aperture
The only way to augment aperture of a fricative
is debuccalization
- ▶ P-Lenition is triggered by constraints
requiring voiced consonants
Debuccalization produces unvoiced consonants


(and induces violations of ID [+son])

Why M-Lenition Debuccalizes Fricatives and P-Lenition does not

Input: asa

	RM	V_V \Rightarrow B	ID [+son]
a. asa		*!	
 b. aza			
c. aha			*!

Input: x_{ap} + [ap:x¹ +cont -vc COR] (sa \Rightarrow ha)

	RM	V_V \Rightarrow B	ID [+son]
a. [ap:x +cont -vc COR] (s)	*!		
b. [ap:x +cont +vc COR] (z)	*!		
 c. [ap:x ² +cont -vc COR LAR] (h)		*	*

M-Lenition Debuccalizes Aspirated Stops

P-Lenition does not

M-Lenition

b	g	d	k	t
v	ɣ	ɣ	h/x	h/x

P-Lenition

b	g	d	k	t
v	ɣ	ð	x	ð

Why M-Lenition Debuccalizes Aspirated Stops and P-Lenition does not

- ▶ In M-Lenition, debuccalization is the only way to augment aperture and to maintain the laryngeal gesture of the aspirated stop as the friction of [h]
- ▶ P-Lenition voices aspirated stops across the board which cannot be achieved by debuccalization

(Non-)Debuccalization of Aspirated Stops

Input: $x_{ap} + [ap:x^1 -vc \text{ --son DOR LAR}] (k^h a \Rightarrow xa/ha)$

	RM	ID [+cont]	ID [+son]	MAX LAR
a. $[ap:x^1 -vc -son \text{ DOR LAR}] (k^h)$	*!			
☞ b. $[ap:x^1 -vc \text{ --son DOR }] (x)$		*	*	
☞ c. $[ap:x^2 -vc +son \text{ DOR LAR}] (h)$		*		*

Input: aka

	RM	V_V \Rightarrow B	V_V \Rightarrow F	ID [+cont]	ID [+son]	MAX LAR
a. aka		*!	*			
☞ a. aga			*			*
☞ d. aya				*		*
b. aha		*!		*	*	

M-Lenition Changes Coronals to Dorsals

P-Lenition does not

M-Lenition

b	g	d	k	t
v	ɣ	ɣ	h/x	h/x

P-Lenition


b	g	d	k	t
v	ɣ	ð	x	ð

Why M-Lenition Changes Coronal [d] to Dorsal [ɣ] and P-Lenition does not


- ▶ M-Lenition cannot change d into voiced coronal fricatives which are excluded at the beginning of the word by Z \Rightarrow V_
PoA change serves as an evasive maneuver
- ▶ P-Lenition can change to ǰ/z since these are licensed in intervocalic position

(Non-)Change of PoA: [d] \Rightarrow [ɣ]

Input: x_{ap} + [ap:x¹ -cont COR] (da \Rightarrow ɣa)

	RM	Z \Rightarrow V ₋	V ₋ V \Rightarrow F	MAX COR
a. [ap:x ¹ -cont COR] (d)	*!			
b. [ap:x ² +cont COR] (ð)		*!		
 c. [ap:x ² +cont DOR] (ɣ)				*

Input: ada


	RM	Z \Rightarrow V ₋	V ₋ V \Rightarrow F	MAX COR
a. ada			*!	
 b. aða				
c. aɣa				*!

Why M-Lenition Changes Coronal [t] to Dorsal [x] and P-Lenition Changes [t] to [ð]


- ▶ M-Lenition cannot change [t] into [s] due to IDENT [+strid] (and [ð]/[z] are excluded at the left word edge)
PoA change serves as an evasive maneuver
- ▶ P-Lenition can change to ð since this is licensed in intervocalic position

(Non-)Change of PoA: [t] ⇒ [x]

Input: x_{ap} + [ap:x¹ -cont COR] (ta ⇒ xa)

	RM	ID [+strid]	Z⇒V ₋	V ₋ V⇒F	MAX COR
a. [ap:x ¹ -cont COR] (t)	*!				
b. [ap:x ² +cont COR] (ð)			*!		
b. [ap:x ² +cont COR] (s)		*!			
 c. [ap:x ² +cont DOR] (x)					*

Input: ata

	RM	ID [+strid]	Z⇒V ₋	V ₋ V⇒F	MAX COR
a. ata				*!	
b. aza		*!			
 b. aða					
c. axa					*!

Summary

- ▶ Special features of M-lenition follow either from the phonological representation of the mutation morpheme. . .
- ▶ or the word-initial locus of M-mutation
- ▶ No special assumptions about lexical representation are necessary

References

- Bermudez-Otero, R. (2009)** Stratal Optimality Theory, Ms. University of Manchester.
- Broderick, G. (1985)** A handbook of late spoken Manx. Vol. 3 Phonology. Tübingen: Niemeyer.
- de Lacy, P. (2002)** The Formal Expression of Markedness. PhD thesis, UMass Amherst.
- Gnanadesikan, A. (1997)** Phonology with Ternary Scales. PhD thesis, UMass Amherst.
- Green, Antony D. (1997)** The Prosodic Structure of Irish, Scots Gaelic, and Manx. Ph.D. dissertation, Cornell University.
- Green Antony D. (2006)** The independence of phonology and morphology: The Celtic mutations, *Lingua* 116 (11), 1946-1985.
- Stonham, J. (1994)** Combinatorial Morphology. Amsterdam: Benjamins.
- Trommer, J. (2008)** Voicing and Polarity in Luo. Ms., University of Leipzig.
- Trommer, J. (2009)** Chain-shifting Mutation in Irish and Multi-valued Features, Talk at OCP 6, Edinburgh, January 2009. Slides under <http://www.uni-leipzig.de/~jtrommer/papers/talks.html>
- van Oostendorp, M. (2004).** Phonological recoverability in dialects of Dutch. Ms., Meertens Institute, Amsterdam.