

 Fairies land only at midnight :
on laryngeal sonorant/vowel roots in Korean

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INTERACTION OF
GRAMMATICAL
BUILDING BLOCKS

Overview

 A class of **sonorant/vowel final verb roots**, “**Fairy Roots**”, shows seemingly disparate quirky patterns.

 These patterns can be captured in a unified way with assuming underlying **floating features** and stratal OT.

 The floating feature creates a laryngeal sonorant that is present only **at an intermediate level** of the derivation (Duke-of-York).

 Accounts with simpler representations face severe problems.

Data

Laryngeal contrasts

- Korean has a three-way distinction in terms of laryngeal contrast in obstruents.
- This contrast is neutralised in coda position.

- (1)
- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----------------------------|---|
| a. | /kal/ | [k al] | ‘Zacco platypus’
(which turns red when it is about to lay eggs)’ |
| b. | /k ^h al/ | [k^h al] | ‘knife’ |
| c. | /k’al/ | [k’ al] | ‘color’ |
- (2)
- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|------------------|-----------|
| a. | /pjək/ | [pjək] | ‘wall’ |
| b. | /puək ^h / | [pu.ə k] | ‘kitchen’ |
| c. | /pak’/ | [pa k] | ‘outside’ |

- Vowels and sonorants do not show such contrasts on the surface!

Vowel Fairy Roots

- Vowel final roots generally do not affect the plain obstruent initial suffixes (3-a) (4-a).
- Fairy roots  idiosyncratically induce laryngeal contrasts onto these suffixes (3-b,c) (4-b,c).

- (3)
- | | | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|--------------|--|
| a. | /na-ta/ | → | [na.ta] | ‘occur’ | |
| b. | /na ^ʔ -ta/ | → | [na.t ^ʰ a] | ‘get.better’ |  |
| c. | /na ^h -ta/ | → | [na.t ^h a] | ‘give.birth’ |  |
- (4)
- | | | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|--------------|--|
| a. | /na-ko/ | → | [na.ko] | ‘occur’ | |
| b. | /na ^ʔ -ko/ | → | [na.k ^ʰ o] | ‘get.better’ |  |
| c. | /na ^h -ko/ | → | [na.k ^h o] | ‘give.birth’ |  |

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Sonorant Fairy Roots

- Sonorant-final roots may be fairy roots , as well.
- However, they are more restricted (cf. Albright and Kang (2009)):

- (5) a. /al-ta/ → [al.t̪a] ‘know’
 b. /al^h-ta/ → [al.t̪^ha] ‘suffer’ 
- (6) a. /an^ʔ-ta/ → [an.t̪ʔa] ‘hug’ 
 b. /an^h-ta/ → [an.t̪^ha] ‘do.not’ 
- (7) /kam^ʔ-ta/ → [kam.t̪ʔa] ‘wind’ 

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 b. /an^h-ta/ → [an.t^ha] ‘do.not’ 
- (7) /kam^ʔ-ta/ → [kam.t’a] ‘wind’ 

Puzzles

Fusion

- The inflectional affix -ə/-a/-jə optionally fuses with a preceding vowel (cf. Jun and Albright (2017)).

- (8)
- | | | | | |
|----|----------------------|---|---------------------|----------------|
| a. | /o-a/ | → | [wa] | ‘come.INFL’ |
| b. | /p ^h i-ə/ | → | [p ^h jə] | ‘blossom.INFL’ |
| c. | /na-a/ | → | [na] | ‘occur.INFL’ |

Blocking of fusion

➤ If this affix attaches to a fairy root , fusion is blocked.

- (9)
- | | | | | | |
|----|----------------------|---|--------|--------|-------------------|
| a. | /co ^h -a/ | → | [co.a] | *[cwa] | ‘good.INFL’ |
| b. | /i [?] -ə/ | → | [i.ə] | *[jə] | ‘tie.INFL’ |
| c. | /na [?] -a/ | → | [na.a] | *[na] | ‘get.better.INFL’ |
| d. | /na ^h -a/ | → | [na.a] | *[na] | ‘give.birth.INFL’ |

Gemination

- Allomorph-less sonorant-initial affixes geminate, if attached to a fairy root. .

- (10) a. /po-ni/ → [po.ni] ‘see.Q’
 b. /mæk-ni/ → [mæk.ni] ‘eat.Q’

- (11) a. /co^h-ni/ → [con.ni] ‘be.good.Q’ 
 b. /na^ʔ-ni/ → [nan.ni] ‘get.better.Q’ 
 c. /na^h-ni/ → [nan.ni] ‘give.birth.Q’ 

Allomorph selection 1

- Fairy roots  unexpectedly select the elsewhere allomorph ‘simnita’.

- (12) a. /po/- {mnita, simnita} → [pom.ni.ta] ‘see.FORM’
 b. /mæk/-{mnita, simnita} → [mæk.sim.ni.ta] ‘eat.FORM’
- (13) a. /co^h/-{mnita, simnita} → [co.sim.ni.ta] ‘be.good.FORM’ 
 b. /na[?]/-{mnita, simnita} → [na.sim.ni.ta] ‘get.better.FORM’ 

Allomorph selection 2

- More unexpected allomorph selection by fairy roots  can be observed with the elsewhere allomorph ‘in’.

- (14) a. /po/-{n, in} → [pon] ‘seen’
 b. /mæk/-{n, in} → [mə.kin] ‘eaten’

- (15) a. /co^h/-{n, in} → [co.in] ‘been.good’ 
 b. /na[?]/-{n, in} → [na.in] ‘got.better’ 

Interim Summary

(16)

Roots	-C	fusion	allomorphy	gemination
V	-C	✓	✓	✗
 V ^h	-C ^h	✗	✗	✓
 V [?]	-C'	✗	✗	✓
l	-C	—	✓	—
 l ^h	-C ^h	—	✗	—
 n [?]	-C'	—	✓	—
 n ^h	-C ^h	—	✓	—
 m [?]	-C'	—	✓	—
C	-C'	—	✓	—

Interim Summary

(17)

Roots	-C	fusion	allomorphy	gemination
V	-C	✓	✓	✗
 V ^h	-C ^h	✗	✗	✓
 V [?]	-C'	✗	✗	✓
l	-C	—	✓	—
 l ^h	-C ^h	—	✗	—
 n [?]	-C'	—	✓	—
 n ^h	-C ^h	—	✓	—
 m [?]	-C'	—	✓	—
C	-C'	—	✓	—

All the nasal-final roots are fairy roots! 

Proposal

Representation

- We propose that a floating laryngeal feature $(+F)$ is a part of the underlying representation of fairy roots .

(18) /na^{+sg}/
'give.birth'

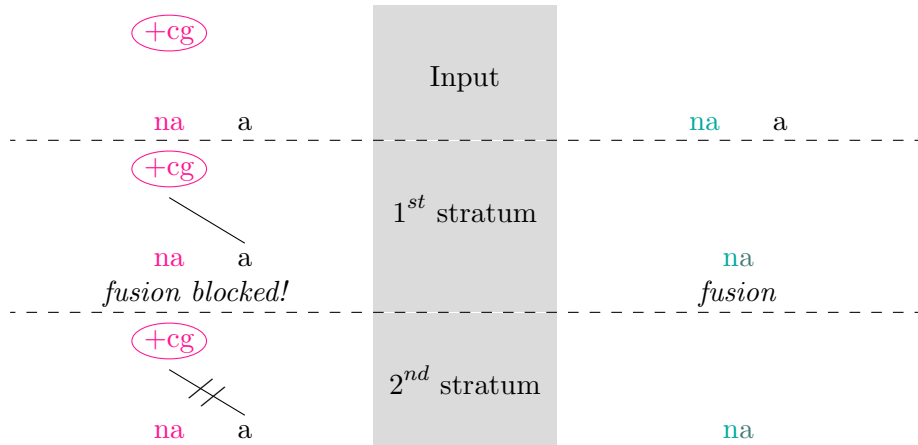
(19) /na^{+cg}/
'get.better'

(20) /na/
'occur'

Derivation

- We derive the three puzzles with a feeding/bleeding Duke-of-York gambit (Bermúdez-Otero, Ricardo 2001).
- in the first stratum the floating feature
 - ★ docks to any affix.
 - ★ influences allomorph selection.
 - ★ blocks fusion.
 - ★ induces gemination.
- in the next stratum
 - ★ the laryngeal specification is neutralised.

Sample Illustration



Assumptions

- Stratal OT (Kiparsky, Paul 2000; Bermúdez-Otero, Ricardo 2001).
- Floating Features (Zoll 1993, 1996) .

Analysis

Constraints

- *FLOAT
Assign * to every feature F that is not linked to a root node •
- ALTERNATION
Assign * to every epenthetic association line between elements having the same morphological affiliation
cf. Morphological Colour Revithiadou (2007); ?)
- DEP •
Assign * to every epenthetic root node •
- *V^{ɪ/h}
Assign * to every vowel root node linked to [+cg]/[+sg]

Stem-level Optimization

T_1 . Stem-level,

MAXF, *FLOAT $\gg$ *V^h

I: co (+sg) – a	MAXF	*FLOAT	DEP •	ALTER	*v([+sg][-sg])	*V.V	*V ^h
O ¹ : co (+sg) a		*!				*	
O ² : co.a ^h						*	*
O ³ : cwa	*!						*
O ⁴ : co.ha			*!				
O ⁵ : cw ^h a ^h				*!			**
O ⁶ : cwa ^h					*!		*

➤ *v([+sg][-sg])

Assign * to every nucleus linked to opposite values of [$\pm$ sg]

(cf. Kehrein, Wolfgang and Golston, Chris (2004))

➤ *V.V

Assign * to adjacent heterosyllabic vowels

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O ² : co.a ^h						*	*
O ³ : cwa	*!						*
O ⁴ : co.ha			*!				
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O ³ : cwa	*!						*
O ⁴ : co.ha			*!				
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O ⁴ : co.ha			*!				
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O ³ : cwa	*!						*
O ⁴ : co.ha			*!				
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O ⁶ : cwa ^h					*!		*

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O ³ : cwa	*!						*
O ⁴ : co.ha			*!				
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O ⁶ : cwa ^h					*!		*

At the stem level the laryngeal contrast can survive on any suffixes, even if they are Vowel/Sonorant.

Word-level Optimization

T_2 . Word-level

$*V^h \gg \text{MAXF}$

I: co.a ^h	$*V^h$	MAX(σ)	$*V.V$	MAXF
O ¹ : co.a ^h	*!			
☞ O ² : co.a			*	*
O ³ : cwa		*!		*

➤ MAX(σ): Assign * to every input syllable which is not present in the output

At the word level the laryngeal specification is neutralised.

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Duke-of-York Gambit

(21)

co(+sg)-a	UR	ABC
coa ^h	Feature Docking	ABD
<i>cannot apply</i>	Fusion	—
coa	Feature Deletion	ABC

Stem level: Gemination

T_3 . Stem-level,

I: co+sg-ni	$S^h \rightarrow \mu$	DEP μ	$*S^h$
O^1 : co.n ^h i	*!		*
O^2 : con ^h _{μ} i		*	**

- $S^h \rightarrow \mu$: Assign * to every laryngeally specified sonorant node which is not moraic
- Assumption: Geminates are moraic, whereas coda consonants are not moraic (There is no evidence for moraicity of codas).

Stem level: Gemination

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I: co+sg-ni	$S^h \rightarrow \mu$	DEP μ	$*S^h$
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Stem level: Gemination

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O ¹ : co.n ^h i	*!		*
☞ O ² : con _{μ} ^h i		*	*

At the stem level, a geminate with laryngeal specification is optimal.

Stem level: Allomorph selection {in, n}

T_4 . Stem-level, allomorph selection

I: co(+sg) {in, n}	$S^h \rightarrow \mu$	DEP μ	*V.V	*V ^h	*S ^h
☞ O ¹ : co.i ^h n			*	*	
O ² : con ^h	*!				*
O ³ : con _{μ} ^h		*!			**

Stem level: Allomorph selection {in, n}

T_4 . Stem-level, allomorph selection

I: co(+sg) {in, n}	$S^h \rightarrow \mu$	DEP μ	*V.V	*V ^h	*S ^h
☞ O ¹ : co.i ^h n			*	*	
O ² : con ^h	*!				*
O ³ : con _{μ} ^h		*!			**

Stem level: Allomorph selection {mnita, simnita}

T_5 . Stem-level, allomorph selection

I: co (+sg) {mnita, simnita}	$S^h \rightarrow \mu$	DEP μ	*V.V	*V ^h	*S ^h
☞ O ¹ : co.s ^h im.ni.ta					
O ² : com ^h .ni.ta	*!				*
O ³ : com _{μ} ^h ni.ta		*!			**

Stem level: Allomorph selection {mnita, simnita}

T_5 . Stem-level, allomorph selection

I: co (+sg) {mnita, simnita}	$S^h \rightarrow \mu$	DEP μ	*V.V	*V ^h	*S ^h
☞ O ¹ : co.s ^h im.ni.ta					
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I: co (+sg) {mnita, simnita}	$S^h \rightarrow \mu$	DEP μ	*V.V	*V ^h	*S ^h
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Could our analysis get simpler?

Argument for floating features

➤ Our representation:

(22) /na^{+sg}/
'give.birth'

(23) /na^{+cg}/
'get.better'

(24) /na/
'occur'

Argument for floating features

➤ Our representation:

(22) /na^{+sg}/
'give.birth'

(23) /na^{+cg}/
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(24) /na/
'occur'

➤ Alternative representation:

(25) /nah/
'give.birth'

(26) /na?/
'get.better'

(27) /na/
'occur'

Argument against indexed constraints

➤ In this approach, morpheme specific phonology is derived by lexically indexed constraints (e.g. Benua (1997b,a))

➤ Alternative Representation:

(29) /**na**_A/ 'give.birth'

(30) /**na**_B/ 'get.better'

(31) /**na**_C/ 'occur'

Argument against indexed constraints

➤ Alternative Representation:

(32) /na_A/
'give.birth'

(33) /na_B/
'get.better'

(34) /na_C/
'occur'

➤ Necessary Constraints:

Argument against indexed constraints

➤ Alternative Representation:

(32) /**na**_A/

‘give.birth’

(33) /**na**_B/

‘get.better’

(34) /**na**_C/

‘occur’

➤ Necessary Constraints:

★ *VC_{A,B}: No plain obstruent in this context

Argument against indexed constraints

➤ Alternative Representation:

(32) /**na**_A/

‘give.birth’

(33) /**na**_B/

‘get.better’

(34) /**na**_C/

‘occur’

➤ Necessary Constraints:

- ★ *VC_{A,B}: No plain obstruent in this context
- ★ *VC’_A: No glottalised obstruent in this context

Argument against indexed constraints

➤ Alternative Representation:

(32) /**na**_A/

‘give.birth’

(33) /**na**_B/

‘get.better’

(34) /**na**_C/

‘occur’

➤ Necessary Constraints:

- ★ *VC_{A,B}: No plain obstruent in this context
- ★ *VC’_A: No glottalised obstruent in this context
- ★ *VC^h_B: No aspirated obstruent in this context

Argument against indexed constraints

➤ Alternative Representation:

(32) /**na**_A/

‘give.birth’

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(34) /**na**_C/

‘occur’

➤ Necessary Constraints:

- ★ *VC_{A,B}: No plain obstruent in this context
- ★ *VC’_A: No glottalised obstruent in this context
- ★ *VC^h_B: No aspirated obstruent in this context
- ★ UNIFORMITY_{A,B}: No fusion in this context

Argument against indexed constraints

➤ Alternative Representation:

(32) /**na**_A/

‘give.birth’

(33) /**na**_B/

‘get.better’

(34) /**na**_C/

‘occur’

➤ Necessary Constraints:

- ★ *VC_{A,B}: No plain obstruent in this context
- ★ *VC’_A: No glottalised obstruent in this context
- ★ *VC^h_B: No aspirated obstruent in this context
- ★ UNIFORMITY_{A,B}: No fusion in this context
- ★ S → μ_{A,B}: Gemination of sonorants in this context

Argument against indexed constraints

➤ Alternative Representation:

(32) /**na**_A/
'give.birth'

(33) /**na**_B/
'get.better'

(34) /**na**_C/
'occur'

➤ Necessary Constraints:

- ★ *VC_{A,B}: No plain obstruent in this context
- ★ *VC'_A: No glottalised obstruent in this context
- ★ *VC^h_B: No aspirated obstruent in this context
- ★ UNIFORMITY_{A,B}: No fusion in this context
- ★ S → μ_{A,B}: Gemination of sonorants in this context
- ★ ...

➤ In addition, allomorph selection should be able to have an access to the indices.

Argument against cophology

- In this approach, morpheme specific phonology is derived by morpheme specific rankings (e.g. Orgun (1996, 1998); Inkelas (1998)).
- Alternative Representation:

(35) /**nah**/

‘give.birth’

(36) /**naʔ**/

‘get.better’

(37) /**na**/

‘occur’

Problem for cophonology

- Default Constraints ranking: MAX $\gg$ *VhV
- Constraints ranking for A: *VhV $\gg$ MAX

(38)

Input		Output	Ranking
coh-A	→	co.A	*VhV $\gg$ MAX
co.a-ha	→	co.a.ha	MAX $\gg$ *VhV
co.a.ha-A	→	*co.a.a.æ	*VhV $\gg$ MAX

Problem for cophonology

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(38)

Input		Output	Ranking
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co.a.ha-A	→	*co.a.a.æ	*VhV $\gg$ MAX

- Still, bleeding of coalescence remains mysterious.

Conclusion

Summary

- We found a new generalisation on how laryngeal contrast of Korean S/V verbal roots affects the paradigm.

Summary

- We found a new generalisation on how laryngeal contrast of Korean S/V verbal roots affects the paradigm.
- We provided the evidence for a floating feature that in combination with strata accounts for the observed opacity.
 - ★ The floating feature docks to the affixes, which changes the laryngeal specification.
 - ★ The laryngealised S/V behaves differently for some processes and allomorph selection.
 - ★ At the next level, this contrast is neutralised, unlike on the obstruents, rendering the previous processes opaque.

Implications

- Our work contributes to the discussion of whether Duke-of-York derivations are parts of human language capacity (Bermúdez-Otero, Ricardo 2001; Rubach 2003; Gleim 2018; Rasin 2019).
- Our analysis is also compatible with Yun (2008)'s proposal of strata in Korean and extends the noun-verb asymmetries observed by her.

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l-deletion

- Korean does not tolerate lateral-nasal clusters (i.e., *NL, *LN).
- ★ $NL \rightarrow NN \sim LL$
 - ★ $LN \rightarrow \emptyset N$ (only at the stem level)

l-deletion

➤ Korean does not tolerate lateral-nasal clusters (i.e., *NL, *LN).

★ NL → NN ~ LL

★ LN → ØN (only at the stem level)

- (39) a. /inlju/ → [il.lju] ‘mankind’
 b. /konljon/ → [kon.njon] ‘dinosaur(s)’

- (40) a. /al-ni/ → [a.ni] *[al.ni] ‘know.Q’
 b. /kal-næ/ → [ka.næ] *[kal.næ] ‘grind.CGR’

l-deletion

➤ Lateral fairy roots resist /l/-deletion .

- (41)
- | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---------|----------|------------|
| a. | / al -ni/ | → | [a.ni] | *[al.ni] | ‘know.Q’ |
| b. | / al ^{+sg} -ni/ | → | [al.ni] | *[a.ni] | ‘suffer.Q’ |

Stem level: l-deletion

$$\text{AGREE}_{\left[\begin{smallmatrix} \pm nas \\ +vc \end{smallmatrix}\right]}, \text{MAX-F} \gg *S^h$$

T_6 . Stem-level /*al*/

I: <i>al</i> -ni	AGREE _{$\left[\begin{smallmatrix} \pm nas \\ +vc \end{smallmatrix}\right]$}	MAX	MAX-F	*S ^h
O ¹ : <i>al</i> .ni	*!			
☞ O ² : <i>a</i> .ni		*		

T_7 . Stem-level /*al*^{+sg}/

I: / <i>al</i> ^{+sg} -ni/	AGREE _{$\left[\begin{smallmatrix} \pm nas \\ +vc \end{smallmatrix}\right]$}	MAX	MAX-F	*S ^h
☞ O ¹ : <i>al</i> .n ^h i			*	
O ² : <i>al</i> .ni	*!		*	
O ³ : <i>a</i> .ni		*	*!	

- AGREE _{$\left[\begin{smallmatrix} \pm nas \\ +vc \end{smallmatrix}\right]$} : Count one violation for each pair of adjacent voiced consonant that has a different value for the feature $[\pm nas]$

Word level: l-deletion

$$*S^h \gg \text{AGREE}_{\left[\begin{smallmatrix} \pm nas \\ +vc \end{smallmatrix}\right]}, \text{MAX-F}$$

T₈. Word-level /al/

I: a.ni	*S ^h	MAX	AGREE _{$\left[\begin{smallmatrix} \pm nas \\ +vc \end{smallmatrix}\right]$}	MAX-F
☞ O ¹ : a.ni				
O ² : a.i		*!		

T₉. Word-level /al^{+sg}/

I: al.n ^h i	*S ^h	MAX	AGREE _{$\left[\begin{smallmatrix} \pm nas \\ +vc \end{smallmatrix}\right]$}	MAX-F
O ¹ : al.n ^h i	*!			
☞ O ² : al.ni			*	*
O ³ : a.ni		*!		*

Allomorphy of *v*

- All existing nasal-final roots are fairy roots.

(42)

Roots	-C
 n ^ʔ	-C'
 n ^h	-C ^h
 m ^ʔ	-C'

- Post-nasal Laryngealisation is not general rule in Korean nor in verbal domain.

- (43)
- | | | | | |
|----|--------------|---|--------------|------------------|
| a. | /kam-nin-ta/ | → | [kam.nin.ta] | ‘wind-PROG-DECL’ |
| b. | /kam-ta/ | → | [kam.t’a] | ‘wind-DECL’ |

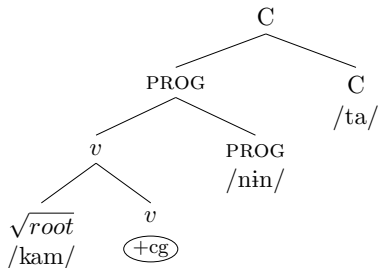
Hypothesis

➤ Hypothesis:

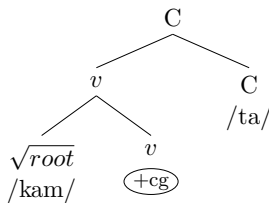
Little *v* has two allomorphs: $\langle +cg \rangle$ and $\emptyset$.

➤ *v* - $\langle +cg \rangle$ selects nasal-final roots.

(44)



(45)



Evidence from a pilot wug test

- 3 native speakers of Korean were participated in this pilot test.
- The test consisted of two parts:
 - ★ the participants learn three nasal-final wug stems with corresponding videos.
i.e., /hɪm/, /pin/, /uŋ/
 - ★ the participants are asked to answer different inflected forms (i.e., /-taka/, /-ko is'ə/) of wug verbs.

Evidence from a pilot wug test

- The participants learn three nasal-final wug stems with corresponding videos.

Q: 고양이 가 뭐 해? 

‘What does the cat do?’



Evidence from a pilot wug test

- The participants learn three nasal-final wug stems with corresponding videos.

A: 고양이가 **흠어**. 

‘The cat /**hɪm**/s.’



Evidence from a pilot wug test

- The participants are asked to answer different inflected forms (i.e., /-taka/, /-ko is'ə/) of wug verbs.

Q: 고양이가 뭐 하고 있어? 

‘What is the cat doing?’



A: 고양이가

Prediction: [hɪm.k'o i.s'ə]

Results the pilot wug test

	Speaker A		
wug stems	/hɪm/	/pin/	/uŋ/
/-taka/	[hɪm.t'a.ka]	[pin.t'a.ka]	[uŋ.t'a.ka]
/-ko is'ə/	[hɪm.k'o]	[pin.k'o]	[uŋ.k'o]

	Speaker B		
wug stems	/hɪm/	/pin/	/uŋ/
/-taka/	[hɪm.t'a.ka]	[pin.t'a.ka]	[uŋ.t'a.ka]
/-ko is'ə/	[hɪm.k'o]	[pin.k'o]	[uŋ.k'o]

	Speaker C		
wug stems	/hɪm/	/pin/	/uŋ/
/-taka/	[hɪm.t'a.ka]	[pin.t'a.ka]	[uŋ.t'a.ka]
/-ko is'ə/	[hɪm.k'o]	[pin.ko]	[uŋ.k'o]

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