

## Appendix 17

### Shortening vs lengthening of stressed vowels

#### /ɪ/

This vowel, like /ʌ/ and /ʊ/ is only encountered shortened, never lengthened in the data. It may be shortened before any consonant and cluster. Examples of shortening:

*pit* (many examples); *pig*; *Glyn*; *hill*; *'Twickenham*; *ri'diculous*; *ter'rific*; *in'sisting*; *off'icial*; *pro'visions*; *re'ligious*; *'swimming*; *'silly*; *'fifty*; *'hinting*; *'builders*; *'pimples*; *'Swindon*.

#### /ʌ/

This vowel, like /ɪ/ and /ʊ/ is only encountered shortened, never lengthened in the data. It may be shortened before any consonant and cluster. Examples of shortening:

*up*; *(the eleven) plus*; *touch*; *much*; *dust*; *once*; *thumped*; *clubs*; *'couple*; *'mucker* (= work colleague); *'butty* (= friend); *'busses*; *'nothing*; *'muscle*; *'Russian*; *'trouble*; *'coming*; *'summons*; *'Cymmer*; *Aber'cynon*; *'colour*; *'Dylan*; *'rugby*; *'struggling*; *cy'mysgiad* (= mix-up); *'Dyffryn*; *'hundred*; *'pumping*; *'company*; *'functions*; *re'dundant*; *re'dundancy*; *'hunger*; *'hundred*; *'youngsters*; *'wonderful*; *'Rhymney*

#### /ʊ/

This vowel, like /ɪ/ and /ɒ/ is only encountered shortened, never lengthened in the data. It may be shortened before any consonant and cluster. Examples of shortening:

*soot*; *push*; *tooth*; *'putting*; *'pudding*; *'wooden*; *'cooking*; *'bully*; *'football*; *cwtch*

#### /ɛ/

This vowel, like /a/ and /ɒ/, may be shortened or lengthened.

In monosyllables, shortening may occur with any succeeding type of consonant; examples from the data: *less*; *met*; *bed*; *head*; *leg*. Before clusters only shortening may occur; examples from the data: *Welsh*; *French*; *wedge*; *sledge*.

In polysyllables, speakers may

- lengthen /ɛ/ where the succeeding consonant, or cluster, is joined into the following syllable. Examples of lengthening from the data are: *'record* (n) (three instances of long); *'messing*; *'desecrated*; *'Gethin*; *'Essex*; *'lessons*; *'ready*; *'regular*; *'Evans*; *'weather* (4 occurrences); *alto'gether*; *'cemetery*; *'many* (4 occurrences); *'penalty*; *'terrace* (4 occurrences); *'ferry*; *'Heritage* (5 occurrences); *'buried*; *pros'perity*; *'telly*; *Llwyn'celyn*; *Rhyd'felin*; *ce'lebrities*; *'negligence*

- shorten /ε/ where the succeeding consonant closes the stressed syllable.  
Examples of shortening from the data are: *apath'etic*; *de'pended*; *per'centage*; *'pension*; *'vendering (machine)*; *'twenty*; *tre'mendous*; *'secretary*; *col'lections*; *'lecturers*; *e'lected*; *'excellent*; *'deathly*; *'helpful*; *'Welshman*;

Words are not always syllabified by speakers in the same way. For example the words *'second*; *'better* are found in the data either with vowel lengthening or shortening.

## /a/

This vowel, like /ε/ and /ɒ/, may be shortened or lengthened.

With monosyllables

- shortening is found in the data before clusters, examples are *tax*; *stacked*; *smashed*, with the exception of *France* (one occurrence of lengthening, three of shortening).
- Before voiceless consonants, shortening or lengthening may occur; examples from the data are *cap* (short); *back* (two occurrences of long, two of short); *pack* (long); *mat* (long)
- Before voiced consonants, only lengthening occurs in the data; examples are *have*; *sad*; *bad* (three examples); *man* (four examples); *Mam*; *damn*; *Aber'fan*.

Lengthening, when it occurs, can be striking, with some informants changing the vowel sound to a more backed quality [ä - ä̃].

In polysyllables:

- Before a cluster almost only shortening was found : e.g. *'accent*; *'factories*; *dis'aster*; *'plasterer*; *head'master* ( 5% long in questionnaire data ) ; *'after*; *'Africa*; *'satchel*; *ro'mantic*; *'ambulance*; *'auntie*; (*Dai*) *'Bando*; *Tony'pandy*
- Before single consonants:
  - if the consonant closes the syllable only shortening is found in the data e.g. *'apathy*; *'accurate*; *e'vacuated*; *ca'pacity*
  - if the consonant is joined into the succeeding syllable, only lengthening occurs, e.g. *'category*; *'Latin*; *'matter*; *'Mafia*; *'catholic*; *com'passion*; *'rabbit*; *'fabulous*; *'Braddock*; *'Dagenham*; *i'magine*; *'travel*; *Tre'hafod*; *Aber'avon*; *'family*; *'damage*; *'gramophone*; *'management*; *Tre'banog*; *ap'parently*; *'married*; *'garage*; *'carry*; *com'parison*; *'Barry*; *Llan'harry*; *'valleys* ; *'talent*; *Tre'alaw*

From the examples above, it can be seen that either shortening or lengthening may occur with voiceless consonants.

## /ɒ/

This vowel, like /ε/ and /a/, may be shortened or lengthened.

In stressed monosyllables:

- when closed by a voiceless consonant or cluster only shortening is found in the data: e.g. *top*; *spot*; *boss*; *docks*; *Scots*; *chopped*; *robbed*
- when closed by any other consonant only lengthening is found in the data: e.g. *job*; *God*; *dog*; *Tom* ; *gone* ; *wrong* ; *Gnoll (Football Ground)*

In polysyllables:

- before a cluster only shortening is found in the data: e.g. 'Wattstown; 'hospital; 'Sospan; res'ponsible; 'context; 'Rhondda; 'Ponty; 'always; 'Colville; 'longer
- before a voiceless consonant, whether shortening or lengthening may occur depends on how the word is syllabified; examples in the data are 'proper (short); 'soccer (short); 'bosses (short); 'offers (long); 'office (long)
- before any other consonant mainly lengthening is found in the data; e.g. 'probably; 'Sodom and Go'morrah; 'lobbyist; 'modern; 'products; 'bother; 'Coventry; 'communist; 'honest; 'comical; 'Donald; 'Thomas; 'forestry; 'quarry; 'sorry; 'Morris; 'solid (three examples); tech'nology; 'Hollybush. Exceptions are 'collier (short); 'colliery (two short, four long);

Whether /ɛ/, /a/ and /ɒ/ may be shortened or lengthened depends on the way the word is syllabified.

1. If a succeeding consonant closes the syllable (VC#V) [where underlining denotes the stressed vowel and # the syllable division] only shortening was found

e.g. *apa'thetic* [apə'θɛt̪ · | t̪k]  
'*accurate* [ˈʌk̪ · | t̪urɛt̪]  
'*soccer* [ˈsɒk̪ · | ʌ]  
*Aber'cynon* [abʌ'kɪn̪ · ʌn]

2. If the succeeding consonant was syllabified with the following syllable (V#CV) only lengthening was found

e.g. '*record* [ˈrɛ · | kɒd]  
'*catholic* [kə · θʌl̪ t̪k]  
'*office* [ˈɒ · fɪs]

Although there was a strong tendency for voiceless consonants to be syllabified by the speaker with the stressed vowel, this was by no means universal, as can be seen from '*record*, '*catholic* and '*office* in the data immediately above.

Speakers seem to have a certain amount of choice as to how to syllabify, with the result that not only words of similar phonetic composition, but even the same word may be syllabified differently by different speakers, for example:

*second* [sɛk̪ · | ʌnd] or [sɛ · | kʌnd]  
*chapel* [tʃæp̪ · | l̪] or more commonly [tʃə · | pl̪]

/iː, uː/

These long vowels may be markedly shortened. In the data the following examples of shortening occurred:

/iː/: *keep*; '*sleeping*; *meat*; '*Pete*; '*heating*; '*beating*; *cheek*; *week*; *teeth*;

*Keith*; po'*lice*; po'*licemen*; '*recent*; *east*;

uː/: *roof*; *proof*; (Glyn and Donald) '*Houston* (five examples); *boost*; *boots*

All shortenings observed are in the environment of a following voiceless consonant, or consonant cluster.

With diphthongs, many cases of shortening occurred in the data: e.g.

/ʌɪ/

*life; right; lies; time; pints; fight; twice; finest; 'miner(s)*(five examples); *'private;*  
*'lying; re'tired; 'lighting* (three examples); *'driver; 'higher; 'ninety; 'Blaina (Terrace);*  
*(Barry) 'Island*

/ɒɪ/

*(un)em'ployment; 'royal ; 'noisy ; en'joyed; 'toilets ; boys; oil; 'toilets; 'loiter; 'boyo;*  
*'Noisel*

/ʌʊ/

*house* (six examples); *down; 'houses; 'shouting; 'hours & our* (both disyllabic);  
*'thousand; 'mountain; 'trousers ; 'Tower*

/ɪʊ/

*mute; Bute; dis'pute; 'duo; 'beautiful; 'Brewery*

/eɪ/ *tails; days; plays; failed; train; saying; 'station* (when diphthongal);

*'eighty; 'training*