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because this phenomenon can be so succinctly described that is unstressed vowels undergo neutralisation it is often assumed that vowel reduction is a unitary phenomenon with a single formal analysis in this chapter i take the contrary position that vowel reduction has two different mechanisms a well researched type of reduction is that of the neutralization of acoustic distinctions in unstressed vowels which occurs in many languages the most common reduced vowel is schwa whereas full vowels are distinguished by height backness and roundness according to bolinger 1986 reduced unstressed vowels are largely unconcerned with introduction in this chapter we discuss the processes of vowel neutralization vneu mid vowel harmony mvh and vowel nasalization vnas of these processes vneu and vnas are active in the vowel systems of both european ep and brazilian bp portuguese whereas mvh is only found in bp degrees of lexical stress descriptions with primary and secondary stress descriptions with primary secondary and tertiary stress descriptions with only one level of stress comparison distinctions between reduced and unreduced vowels alternation between full and reduced vowels alternation depending on lexical stress the reduced energy level of unstressed vowels compromises perceptibility of vowel distinctions leading to the neutralization of some of the distinctions the difference between the collapse of most vowels into in english and more restricted effects in other languages is shown to be managed by constraint ranking within ot a phonetically based model of phonological vowel reduction edward flemming flemming mit edu abstract this paper proposes an analysis of phonological vowel reduction according to which vowel contrasts are subject to neutralization in unstressed syllables because it is more difficult to keep vowels distinct where vowel duration is shorter vowel neutralization in american english intonation e w thal vowel neutralization or reduction is an important aspect of intonation in american english the most important words in a sentence are stressed that is they are generally spoken on a higher pitch citations 1 pdf tools share summary this chapter discusses the processes of vowel neutralization vneu mid vowel harmony mvh and vowel nasalization vnas of these processes vneu and vnas are active in the vowel systems of both european portuguese ep and brazilian portuguese bp whereas mvh is only found in bp the origin of vowel length neutralization in final position evidence from finnish speakers published 08 november 2006 volume 25 pages 157 193 2007 cite this article download pdf scott myers benjamin b hansen 429 accesses 33 citations explore all metrics abstract tense lax neutralization refers to a neutralization in a particular phonological context in a particular language of the normal distinction between tense and lax vowels abstract recent phonological approaches incorporate phonetic principles in the motivation of phonological regularities e g vowel reduction and neutralization in unstressed position by target undershoot so far evidence for this hypothesis is based on impressionistic and acoustic data but not on articulatory data abstract in english phonology neutralization can be considered a process which incorporates a phonemic distinction s elimination in a complete context of phonology the classic example of articulatory shift and the rise of neutralization of vowels alexander krasovitsky this paper considers the transition from consistent phonemic distinction to consistent neutralization of a and o in unstressed syllables following hard consonants as found in one arkhangelsk dialect many eastern and southern dialects distinguish carefully between spirit spmt and spear spia r spear it spiant mirror mira r mere mia r merer miara r but in the many ga dialects mentioned above neutralization is complete before r whether final or intervocalic the quality of the vowel may vary in contrast to these difficulties lack of reduction of certain unstressed vowels is correctly derivable from principles governing neutralization long vowels do not reduce because they are perceptually more salient than short ones regardless of stress and vowels do not reduce in certain closed syllables because the energy level within them is neutralization and homophony avoidance in phonological learning sora heng yin new york university james white university college london abstract previous research has suggested that homophony avoidance plays a role in constraining language change in particular phonological contrasts are less likely to be neutralized if the results and analyses reported in this section evidence a predictable pattern of unstressed vowel shortening and raising in west bulgarian all unstressed vowels are significantly shorter while the open vowels ε a ɔ

in addition have significantly lower f1 frequencies when unstressed the results demonstrate a consistent pattern of neutralization i e an intermediate vowel for both the high and mid vowels the latter a previously unattested environment for this pattern of raising before velar nasals topics phonetics vowel systems 2004 acoustical society of america view metrics

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