GEMINATION IN HUNGARIAN Loanword ADAPTATION

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INTRODUCTION

Gemination in Hungarian loanwords [1]:
- consonants following short stressed vowels are geminated in words borrowed from English and German (and French)
- gemination is most productive word-finally in monosyllables (e.g. fit [fit:] ‘fit’ (E))
- in intervocalic position, gemination is not productive unless there is double letter in the spelling (e.g. hobbi [hobbi:] ‘hobby’ (E))
- gradient phenomenon with much inter- and intraspeaker variation
- gemination varies by consonant class (some consonants are more likely to be geminated)

POST-TONIC LENGTHENING

Experiment:
- participants were asked to read out sentences containing quasi minimal pairs with the same consonant following the same stressed or unstressed vowel (e.g. rab [rob:] ‘inmate’ - arab [arab:] ‘Arab’)
- post-tonic lengthening does not exactly line up with loan gemination and universal markedness
- the class of voiced fricatives is the odd one out

Conclusions
- gemination in loanwords is a strategy to preserve source vowel shortness
- the propensity of each consonant class to undergo loan gemination is determined by its place in a geminated markedness hierarchy
- gemination markedness hierarchy is present even in a language which allows all kinds of geminates

REFERENCES

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