

THE EFFECTS OF FREQUENCY AND COMPOSITION ON PRODUCTION DURATION IN MORPHOLOGICAL PROCESSING*

by

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ABSTRACT

An experimental study was performed to determine whether lengthening is a phonetic correlate for a morpheme boundary, when a boundary is posited in the comparison of surface frequencies of both subpart and surface strings. A lengthening effect was observed where decomposition took place (i.e., postulation of a morpheme boundary). The amount of lengthening is based on the relative frequency of subpart and surface strings. A production model is suggested that derives the relative effect of subpart and surface string frequencies by assuming that both rule-based and whole-form representations are accessed when phonological codes are retrieved. The first representation to become available is phonetically implemented at once. As an additional representation becomes available, the articulation forms an approximation of both representations. The degree of approximation is predicted to be a function of the relative access time for each string.

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