

Scottish English Vowel Length Rule

In this variety of English, the vowel phonemes shown below each have a long allophone and a short allophone, conditioned by the following consonant. (Not all vowel allophones are exemplified in this data set.)

<i>Allophone pair</i>	<i>Vowel is long</i>	<i>Vowel is short</i>
[i:], [i]	[ti:z] 'tease'	[pis] 'peace' [liθ] 'Leith'
[u:], [u]		[fud] 'food'
[e:], [e]	[be:ʒ] 'beige'	
[ʌ:], [ʌ]	[lʌ:v] 'love'	
[o:], [o]		[rod] 'road' [hom] 'home'
[a:], [a]		[raf] 'rash'
[æ:], [ʌi]	[rae:ð] 'writhe'	[lʌif] 'life' [nʌin] 'nine'

(1) What is the class of consonants that cause the preceding vowel to be long? List the consonants in this class, and then express this class using features.

(2) Consider these four words: [bo:r] 'boar' [mʌil] 'mile'
[ka:r] 'car' [mel] 'mail'

These words tell us something important about the feature specification for the liquids [l] (lateral) and [r] (trill) in Scottish English. What is it?