

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?