

Problem Set #2: Korean loanwords and syllable structure

Due by Monday, Feb 18

Goal: Apply Itô's (1989) syllable theory to account for the Korean data given here by answering the questions below.

Note: [ɯ] is a high back unrounded vowel.

Data set I: Loanwords from English

(Assume that any syllable-structure related changes made to English words when they are borrowed into Korean are made so that they will conform to Korean syllable structure.)

A.	ho.t ^h ɛl	'hotel'
	tʃa.k ^h ɛt	'jacket' ¹
	a.no.rak	'anorak'
	nɛk.t ^h a.i	'necktie'
	a.i.p ^h ɛn.sɯl	'eye pencil'
	pɛl.bɛt	'velvet' ^{1, 2}
	ɛ.na.mɛl	'enamel'
	tʃ ^h ip	'chip'
	p ^h il.t ^h ɔ	'filter' ³
	p ^h ɛ.dal	'pedal'
B.	k ^h ɯ.rɛ.dit	'credit'
	rip.sɯ.t ^h ik	'lipstick'
	sɯ.wɛ.t ^h ɔ	'sweater' ³
	k ^h ɯ.rim	'cream'
	sɯ.p ^h un	'spoon'
	pal.bɯ	'valve' ^{1, 2}
	hæn.dɯ.bæk	'handbag'

Note: The superscript numbers in the data set refer to the following changes made to English words when they are borrowed into Korean. Your analysis does not need to account for these.

1. Korean has no voiced obstruents in word-initial position. English voiced obstruents in this position are converted to voiceless unaspirated obstruents.
2. Korean has no labial fricatives. English labial fricatives are converted to labial stops.
3. English coda [r] is systematically deleted in Korean. (This is true in many dialects of English as well, including London, (older?) Charleston, Boston, and Australian.)

Also, as in the Itô article, you are not responsible for explaining **what kind** of vowels are epenthesized.

- Use data set I (above) to answer the following three questions.

Question 1: According to the theory of syllable structure developed in Itô (1989), how would the following syllable-structure parameters be set for Korean? Justify your answer for each by referring to relevant items in data set I.

- ▶ What is the syllable template? (You may state it using either CV/X or moras.)
- ▶ Is the Strict Onset Principle enforced?
- ▶ Is there a Coda Filter for PLACE?
- ▶ Does Korean allow degenerate syllables to be created?

Question 2: Based on data set I, is there any evidence for directionality of syllabification in Korean? Again, support your answer by referring to relevant items in the data set.

Question 3: Choose two words from A and two from B and show how they would be syllabified according to your analysis. (Be sure to choose words that are interestingly different from each other.)

- Now, consider the items in data set II.

Data set II: (More) loanwords from English

tʷ.rɛ.sʷ	'dress' ¹
a.sʷ.p ^h i.rin	'aspirin'
t ^h o.sʷ.t ^h o	'toaster' ³
pi.sʷ.k ^h ɛt	'biscuit' ¹
kʷ.ri.sʷ	'grease' ¹
pʷ.rɔ.ʃi	'brush' ¹
sæn.dʷ.wi.tʃ ^h i	'sandwich'
pʷ.ro.tʃ ^h i	'brooch' ¹ (<i>pronounced [broutʃ] in English</i>)

Question 4: There are epenthetic vowels in data set II that are unexpected on the basis of the analysis you developed in Questions 1-2.

- ▶ List the words that contain unexpected epenthetic vowels.
- ▶ Explain why the epenthetic vowels are unexpected. As part of your explanation, choose two words from your list and show how the analysis you have developed thus far fails to predict the correct pattern of epenthesis.

Question 5: Specify a Coda Filter for something other than place features that will take care of the problematic examples in data set II. Then, choose the same two words you discussed in Question 4 and show why the analysis now works for them.