Laurentian French Affrication (LFA) in external sandhi: the facts, and a CVCV analysis

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SCAN ME

What is Laurentian French Affrication?

/t,d/ → [tˢ, dᶻ] / __ [i, y, j, ɥ]

(1) /tip/ → [tˢip] « type, type »

(2) /dymã/ → [dᶻymã] « dûment, duly »

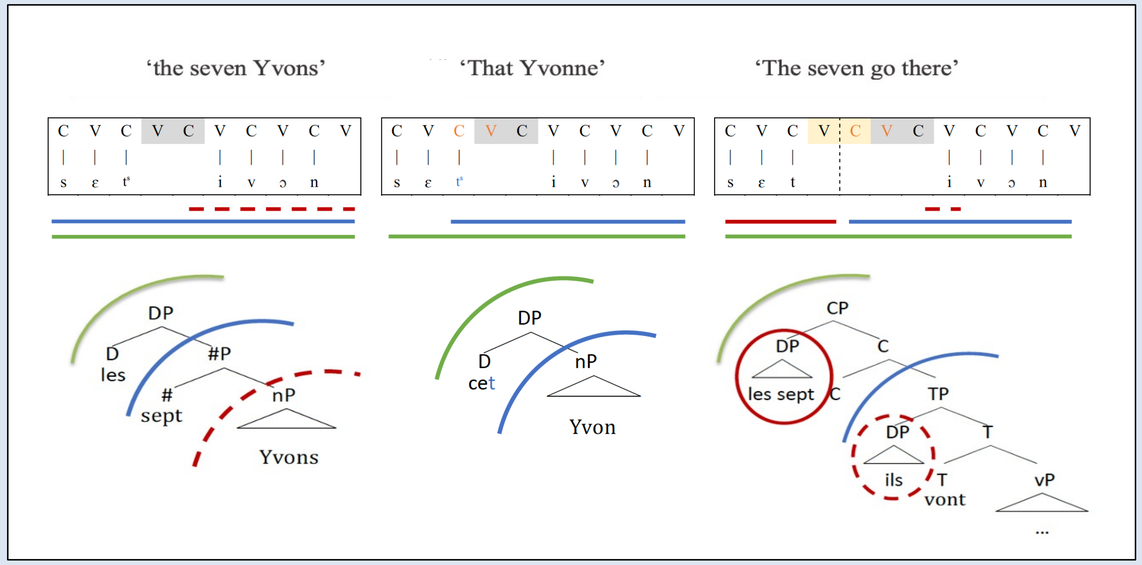
Claimed to apply 100% word-internally (ex. Walker 1980) but its behaviour at prefix boundaries needs to be verified.

Example sentences

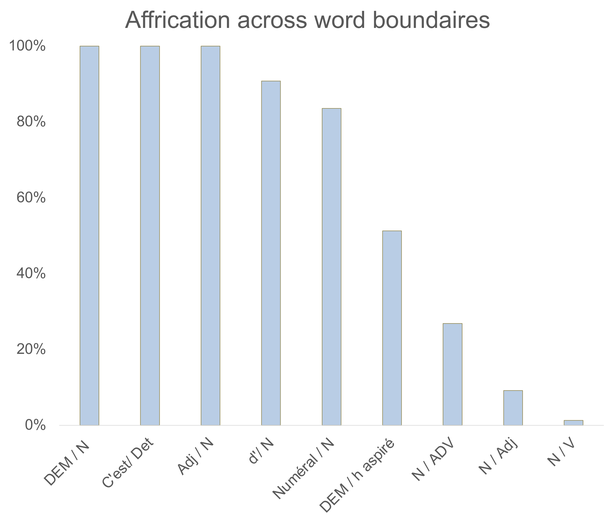
Dem/N :	Il est évident que **cette image** vaut mille mots.
C'est/Det:	**C'est une** grande illusion…
Adj/N:	…pas gentil de traiter quelqu'un de **petit ivrogne**.
d'/N:	…pas **d'huile**, pas d'beurre!
Numeral/N:	… il y avait **huit images**, pas **sept images**.
Dem/H:	Je l'aime beaucoup, **cette hippie** révolutionnaire.
N/Adv:	La lettre, je l'ai envoyé à la **poste hier**.
N/Adj:	J'te jure, elle avait une **tête immense**.
N/V:	Mario a dit que la **petite ignore** ce qui l'attend.

To listen to some recordings : see QR code

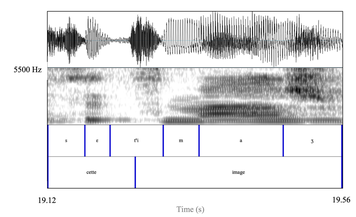
Analysis



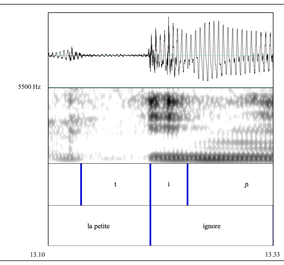
What are the facts about LFA in external sandhi?



Affrication : 'cet image'



Non-affrication : 'La petite ignore…'



Decoding the analysis

Solid lines	= phasal domains	Dotted lines	= uncertain phases
Orange CV	= Phase edge CV*	Yellowed CV	= empty VC across a non-nested phonological domain (not deleted)
Greyed VC	= deleted empty syllable structure	Blue tˢ	= liaison consonant (no lexicalized syllabic space)

*If there are phase-edge CVs at the uncertain phases this is not problematic for the proposal

The experiment : Methodology

- 35 participants (20W, 15M; 26-75 y.o.)
- Native speakers of Laurentian French
- Various sociocultural and professional backgrounds
- Recruited via social media
- Covid! Home recording via smartphone
- Design : Round 1: 24 sentences
  Round 2: 31 sentences

Some interesting results

Glide [ɥ] : inconsistencies before and after the glide.
huit images, de huile

Interference of contrastive focus : Lack of affrication in the environment of focus, often combined with a shift of the French fixed (final) accent.
sept images pas huit images, tête immense

Numerals : variabilities
huit images vs. *sept images*

To do for Round 3

- More examples of each environment
- More participants
- Recordings in the lab/controlled
- Look into the 'interesting' results
  - Glides/syllabification
  - H-aspire effects
  - Syntax of numerals and temporal adjuncts in French
- Look at complex vs simple adjuncts
- Look into the socio-phonological distinctions between aspiration and liaison.

Please Leave us suggestions online! : see QR code

The Syntax-Phonology interface: CVCV Phonology vs Prosodic Phonology

Advantages of CVCV (Scheer 2004) as a domain delimiter, in comparison to the Prosodic Hierarchy (ex. Selkirk 2011):

- It is a 'regular' phonological object, therefore makes regular phonological predictions. A CV is a phonological object that makes identical phonological predictions to word-internal empty syllabic space.
- It is modular.
- It distinguishes between left and right edges. Left edges are marked (variably) with empty syllabic space (a CV). Therefore, nested phase-hood predicts no CV boundary between suffixes and bases (at the right edge of domains).
- **N.B. while both the PH and CVCV *can* offer analyses of various phonological processes, we must look for arguments that distinguish them.**

Conclusions

- LFA is variable in external sandhi
- But it seems to be predictable to a certain extent.
- There is a clear link with the well-known variability seen with liaison, although there is less affrication in formal contexts.
- Therefore, further study of LFA may allow a clearer view of phonological domains in French than that offered by liaison, as LFA is not complicated by the theories of how liaison consonants are lexicalized / whether liaison has been fossilized in certain cases.

References : see QR code