Karim Bensoukas, Professeur de l'Enseignement Supérieur, is currently teaching English and Linguistics in the Department of English at the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences, Mohammed V University in Rabat, Morocco.

He holds a Doctorat d'Etat in linguistics and was a former Fulbrighter (1999-2000 and 2005, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA). His research is centered on phonology, morphology and the phonology-morphology/ morphology-syntax interfaces. His authored and co-authored publications in these areas focus mainly on Moroccan Amazigh with extensions to other Amazigh varieties as well as Moroccan Arabic. He has also edited and co-edited collections of papers and translated a book on Amazigh sociolinguistics.

His research interests extend to the Sociology of Language and university pedagogy, particularly the integration of ICT in teaching. He has also participated at various conferences, national and international; and served as jury member (in Doctorat defences, Habilitations Universitaires, PH-PES advancements and recruitments), reviewer for national and international journals, as well as project manager on different occasions.

Karim Bensoukas is the winner of the 2014 IRCAM Award for Research and Scientific Thinking.

Abstract

The intricacy of intensive aorist (IA) verb morphology is a time-honored problem in Tashlhit morphology studies (see Bensoukas, 2006)- an intricacy that is characteristic of other Amazigh varieties as well. The traditional approach to the disparate array of IA facts consists in a pure taxonomy of verb classes and the alternations each exhibits (e.g. Basset, 1929, 1952). Verbs are typically divided into three to five major classes depending on the process(es) they exhibit: (i) prefixal or infixal gemination in bisegmental and trisegmental verbs (krz/**kk**rz 'plow'- mgr/m**gg**r 'harvest'), (ii) tt-prefixation (ffi/**tt**ffi 'pour'), and (iii) vowel insertion (skr/sk**a**r 'do'). This allomorphy is further complicated by the fact that vowel insertion may occur in tandem with the other two processes (gn/**gg**an 'sleep'; knkr/**tt**knkar 'pick a bone')

and be coupled with vowel copying (azzl/**tt**azzal 'run'- bikks/**tt**bikkis 'wear a belt'- ggunzr/**tt**gunzur 'have a nosebleed').

More serious attempts at explaining IA morphology have been made, which fall in two divergent trends. The first trend focuses just on the geminating verbs and strives with the predictability of which segment geminates (e.g. Dell and Elmedlaoui, 1985; Jebbour, 1996). The analyses in this trend have one thing in common: they show the predictability of the process involved on the basis of a neat classification of verbs, and accordingly do not differ in essence from traditional ones. The second trend tries to elucidate the allomorphy characterizing the IA morpheme (Bensoukas, 2001; Dell and Elmedlaoui, 1991; Lahrouchi, 2008, 2010; MacBride, 2004), but they do so in different ways. For example, Dell and Elmedlaoui (1991) adopt a lexical approach to the allomorphy, assigning geminating verbs and tt-prefixing verbs to special classes in the lexicon. A quite different approach is that in Bensoukas (2001), which proposes a unifying analysis in which the underlying morpheme is an abstract consonantal mora (Lombardi and McCarthy, 1991; Samek-Lodovici, 1993; and more recently Zimmerman, 2017) realized as a tt- prefix, a geminate or simply a "zero" allomorph. In all approaches, however, the "zero" allomorphy, if recognized as such in the first place, has not received proper explanation.

The aim of this talk is to put the pieces of IA morphology puzzle together in a unifying analysis that extends to the "zero" allomorphy. My analysis is couched in Optimality Theory (Prince and Smolensky, 1993/2004; McCarthy and Prince, 1993, 1995, 1999). I take as a point of departure the analysis in Bensoukas (2001) and conceive of IA morphology as consisting of a simple prefixation operation. The vowel insertion that IA forms exhibit is not considered a purely morphological operation but rather an augmentation process driven by prosodic factors. The affix itself is an abstract consonantal mora that is realized as external/internal gemination or tt-prefixation. Cases where tt-prefixation is expected but does not apply consist mainly of verbs with the causative prefix *(s)s-* and some simple verbs that align with these (Bensoukas, 2012, 2014). The picture that emerges is then one in which the alternants of the IA morpheme are: (i) prefixal or infixal gemination, (ii) tt-prefixation, and (iii) haplology (or morphological dissimilation).

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المعهد الملكي للثقافة الأمازيغية

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Centre de l'Aménagement Linguistique (CAL)

Professeur Karim Bensoukas
Université Mohammed V de Rabat- FLSH

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une conférence sur

Intensive Aorist Gemination in Moroccan Amazigh : Putting the Pieces of the Puzzle together

Le 07 mars 2018 à 15H00

Salle des conférences du 2ème étage des Centres IRCAM - Rabat

Recent publications

Bensoukas, K. (2012a), "The Morphophonology of Tashlhit Agentive Nouns", in *Langues et Littératures* n°22, pp.103-136.

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