

Probing the limits of Bashkir loanword vowel harmony



Jack Goldberg
jackg@usc.edu

1- Overview

- Bashkir (Kipchak, Turkic) has 3 harmony systems [1]
- Harmony is consistent root-internally and actively in suffixes
- Harmonies act differently at periphery of lexicon with nonce and loan words
- Loans typically take back harmony suffixes no matter the identity of the root
- Tests which words engage in harmony
- Phonotactic dissimilarity to Bashkir raises chance of inactive front/back V harmony

2- Harmony Systems

- Front-Back V harmony
 - Roots must have only front - /i, y, e, ø, æ, ɪ/ or back /u, u, o, a/ vowels
 - Suffixes must match root
- Rounding V harmony
 - /y/ or /o/ roots only have that vowel
 - High V suffixes retain rounding
- Dorsal CV harmony
 - Front vowel words have [k, g]
 - Back vowel words have [q, ɣ]

3- Experiment

- Carried out with 1 native Bashkir speaker
- Words read by non-native speaker to speaker
- Decline city names in Bashkir sentences
- Words crossed for: CC violations, root-internal front/back harmony, real/nonce, purported distance from Bashkortostan
- Elicited roots in four cases: Nominative (no suffix), GEN (coronal C, high V), ABL (coronal C, low V), DAT (dorsal C, low V)

Root	GEN	ABL	DAT
mijeke	nɪŋ	nen	ge
plumɪnθ	twɪŋ	tan	qa

5- Discussion

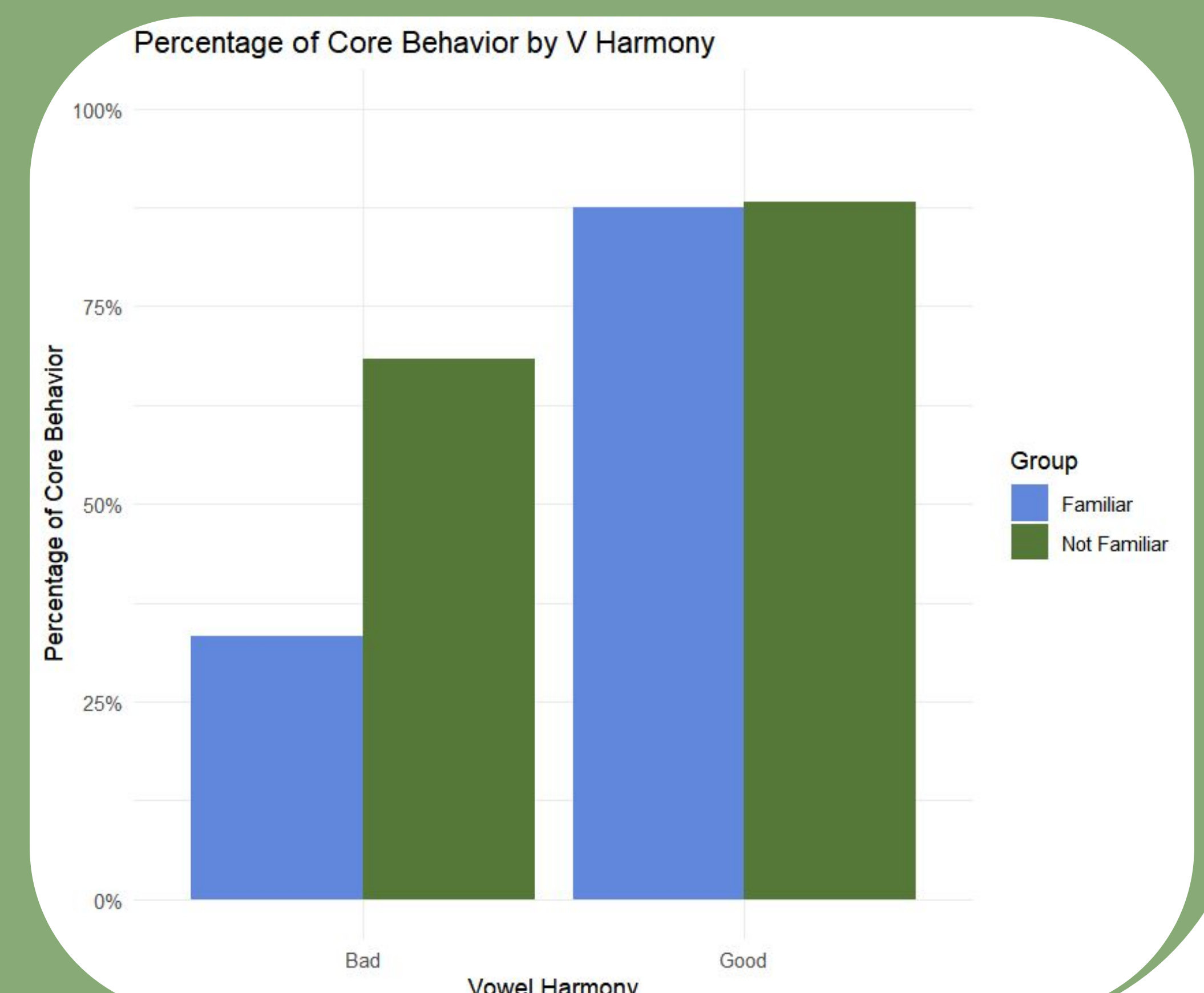
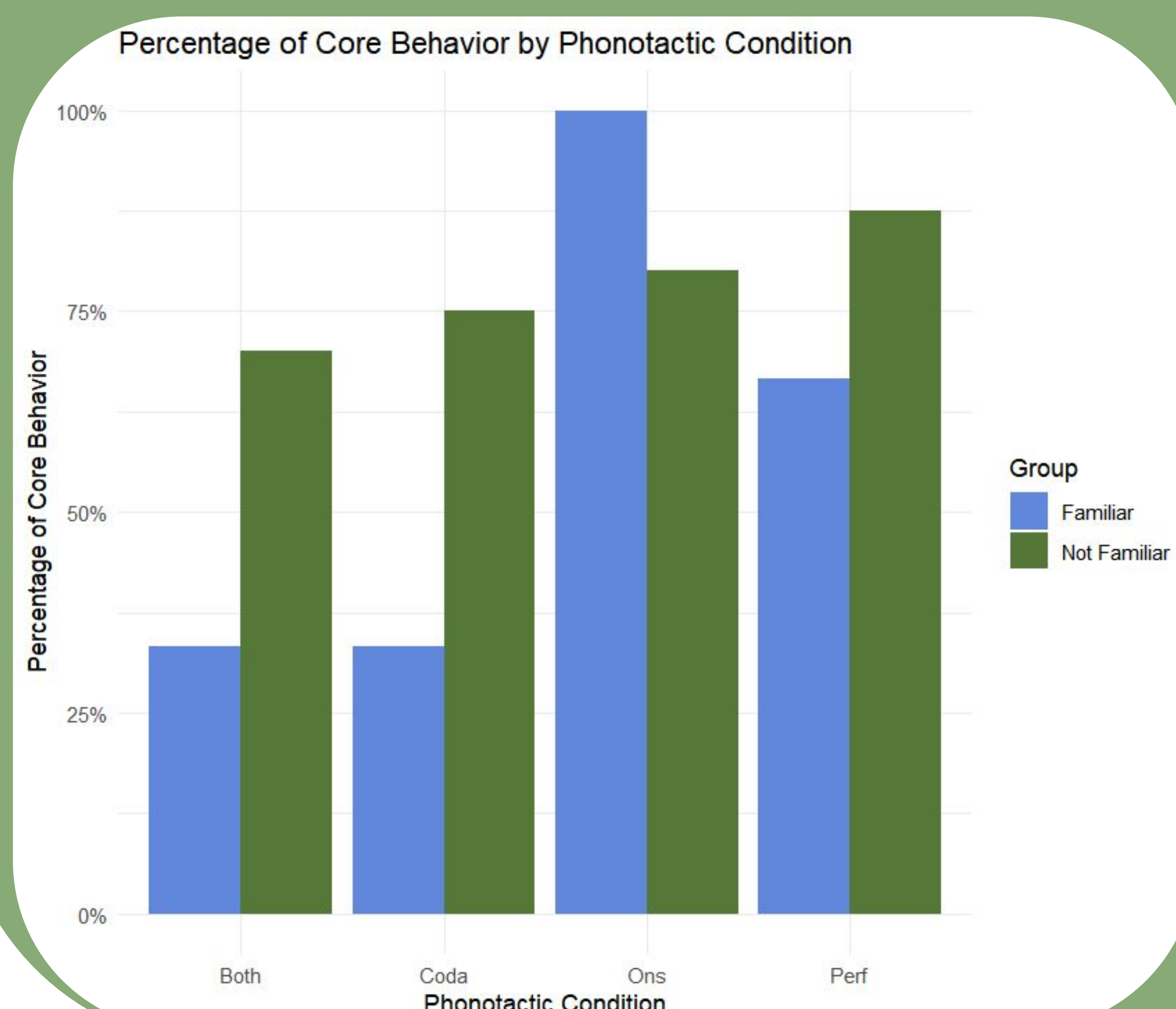
- Is the mechanism underpinning surface realization based off sorting into strata or the word itself?
- How much does speaker opinion on specific phonemes lead to feelings of nativization?
 - /y/ is 'our' vowel, /o/ is not
- How do the factors interact?

6- Future Work

- Trials with more native speakers
- Varying purported city location by speaker
- Address confound of multilingualism
- Formal derivation using lexical strata [2, 3]

4- Preliminary Results

- More CC clusters → less suffix V harmony
- Violates root-internal rounding harmony → less suffix V harmony
- Further distance from Bashkortostan → less suffix V harmony
- Less familiar word → more suffix V harmony



References. [1] Poppe, N. (1963) Tatar Manual. Descriptive Grammar and Texts with a Tatar-English Glossary, Indiana University Publications, Uralic and Altaic Series 25, Bloomington: Indiana University; The Hague: Mouton. [2] Itô, J. & Mester, A. (1999). The phonological lexicon. In N. Tsujimura (Ed.), A handbook of Japanese linguistics (pp. 62-100). Oxford: Blackwell Publishers. [3] Pinta, Justin, and Jennifer L. Smith. (2017) "Spanish loans and evidence for stratification in the Guarani lexicon." Guarani linguistics in the 21st century. Brill., 285-314.

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