
Stress variability in English *-ory* derivatives: a nonce word study

Sabine Arndt-Lappe
Universität Trier
arndtlappe@uni-trier.de

Javier Sanz
Universität Trier
sanz@uni-trier.de

In descriptions of English morphophonology, traditionally a distinction is made between stress-shifting and stress-preserving affixes, a distinction which has figured prominently in theoretical debates about the architecture of the phonology-morphology interface. At the same time, it is wellknown that some affixes are not easily accommodated within this dichotomy. One of them is *-ory* (e.g. Zamma 2012, Bauer et al. 2013).

- (1) a. stress shift with *-ory*: oscillatory, compensatory
 b. stress preservation with *-ory*: articulatory, anticipatory

In a recent reading study that tested existing *-ory* words (Arndt-Lappe & Sanz 2017), we found that the variation is systematic. Crucially, structural factors favouring stress shift ('stress rules') interacted with correlates of lexical storage, in a way that raises questions about to what extent traditional stress rules are actually computed online by speakers. In addition, there are robust differences between groups of speakers, suggesting that adult speakers do not share a common prosodic representation of the suffix.

In the present paper we report on a large-scale reading study that elicited non-existing *-ory* adjectives in context, investigating the interaction of factors favouring stress shift and stress preservation in a systematic way with words that are clearly not stored. Our statistical analyses corroborate the differences we observed between groups of speakers in the previous study. Furthermore, there are indications of a newly emerging default stress pattern. Traditional stress rules, by contrast, seem to be only marginally relevant. The theoretical implications will be discussed.

References: • Arndt-Lappe, S. & J. Sanz (2017): Stress Variation in English Complex Adjectives. Paper presented at the 25. mfm conference. Bauer, L. et al. (2013): The Oxford Reference Guide to English Morphology. OUP. Zamma, H. (2012): Patterns and Categories in English Suffixation and Stress Placement: A Theoretical and Quantitative Study. PhD Dissertation: University of Tsukuba.