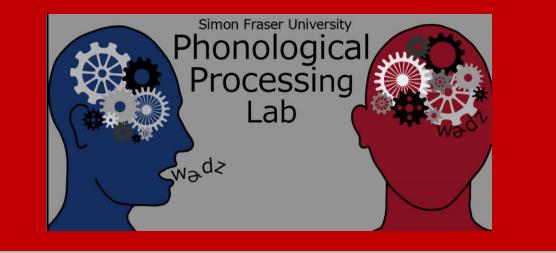
# Introducing the Cross-Linguistic S-Cluster Inventory Database



Marissa Woods, Ashley Farris-Trimble, Danica Reid

Simon Fraser University | afarrist@sfu.ca



## Background

S-clusters are often unique compared with non-s clusters:

- More likely to violate SSP (e.g. /s/+stop)
- More likely to violate minimal distance restriction (e.g., /s/+nasal in English, MD = 2)

How should we determine markedness relationships among sclusters? Initial typological research on relationships of s-clusters suggests sonority may not be constructive way to study s-clusters (Morelli, 1998)

Our goals:

To build a shareable database of cross-linguistic s-cluster inventories

- SSP & MD? What else matters?
- Need a typological study

# The Database

#### Built in Microsoft Access

- Valuable for ease of inputting, viewing, searching data
- Database will soon be available online
- 231 languages from UPSID database (Maddieson, 1984)
  - Original singleton info included in database
  - Word-initial clusters by type

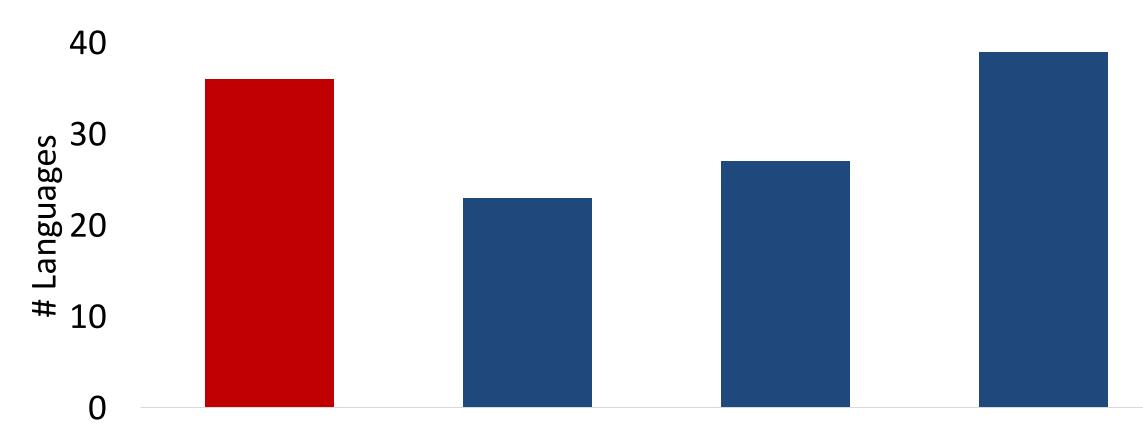
			Langua	ge l	nformation			
Language Name		Adzera			General Information on Clusters			
Language Number Reference Input Source		419 Holzknecht, K.G. 1973. Phonology Lab [ts] and [dz] in clusters is re; all clusters have either quid as second member			No Initial Clusters			
					S-clusters	✓ Pr mpr br mbr tr ntr tsr ntsr dr dzr kr ŋkr gr mr ŋr fr sr kw ŋkw gw ŋgw ŋw		
					Non S-clusters			
an affricat					Initial Clusters			
				_	Inputter Initials		Cross Checked by	
Singleto Stops	ons		Fricative/Affricates		Nasals		Approximants	
Labial Stop Dental/Alveolar Stop Palatal Stop Velar Stop Uvular Stop			Coronal Affricate Labial Fricative Coronal Nonsib Fric Coronal Sib Fric Velar Fricative Uvular Fricative Glottal Fricative		Labial Nasal Dent/Alveolar Nasal Palatal Nasal Velar Nasal Other Singletons	N	Lateral Rhotic Glide	
S+obstru S+nasal S+liquid S+glide Notes	Jent	□ ☑ □ □	S+labial S+coronal S+dorsal y s-cluster is [sr]		Non S-clusters Stop+Fricative Stop+Nasal Stop+Liquid Stop+Glide Fricative+Nasal Fricative+Liquid Fricative+Glide		Nasal+Liquid Nasal+Glide Liquid+Glide Nasal Initial Clusters Three Element Clusters SSP Violating Clusters	

• To investigate the cross-linguistic typology of s-clusters (and other clusters)

# Typology

62 languages in database have some s-cluster

- /s/+glide and /s/+obstruent clusters most common
- /s/+nasal clusters least common
- Every language with an /s/+nasal cluster also has an /s/+obstruent cluster



s+obstruent s+nasal s+liquid s+glide

30 languages have s-cluster inventories counter to SSP or MD

- Marked-leaning inventories (e.g., Tsou has /s/+obstruent and /s/+nasal clusters only)
- Gapped inventories (e.g., French lacks /s/+liquid clusters only)

Must also take singleton inventories into account

• E.g., languages that lack liquids lack /s/+liquid clusters

### **Conclusions & Future Directions**

- Some generalizations based on the Sonority Sequencing Principle and Minimal Sonority Distance seem to hold
- But markedness of s-clusters does not rely on SSP and MD exclusively
- Additional in-depth analysis of inventories required
- Database coming soon to an internet near you at www.sfu.ca/phono

#### **Selected References**

Barlow, J. 2001. The structure of /s/-sequences: Evidence from a disordered system. *JCL* 28: 291-324.
Boyd, J. 2006. On the representational status of s-clusters. *San Diego Linguistic Papers* 2: 39-84.
Clements, G.N. 1990. The role of the sonority cycle in core syllabification. In J. Kingston & M. Beckman, eds., *Papers in Laboratory Phonology* 1, 283-333. Cambridge, MA, CUP.
Davis, S. 1990. Italian onset structure and the distribution of *il* and *lo. Linguistics* 28: 43-55.
de Lacy, P. 2002. The formal expression of markedness, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Maddieson, I. 1984. *Patterns of Sounds*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
Morelli, F. 1998. Markedness relations and implicational universals in the typology of onset obstruent clusters. *Proceedings of NELS 28*, 107-20. UMass Amherst, GSLA.
Selkirk, E.O. 1982. The syllable. In H. van der Hulst & N. Smith, eds., *The Structure of Phonological Representations*, 337-83. Dordrecht, Netherlands, Foris.
Selkirk, E.O. 1984. On the major class features and syllable theory. In M. Aronoff & R. Oerhle, eds., *Language Sound Structure*, 107-136. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

