There are two kinds of syllabic consonants: (Germanic) left-branchers and (Slavic) right-branchers

Emilie Caratini*, Olivier Rizzello, Tobias Scheer & Markéta Zízková
* Laboratoire BCL (UNS/CHRS), † Masaryk University
caratini@unice.fr, rizzello@unice.fr, scheer@unice.fr, zizkova@phil.muni.cz

6. Selected references

1. Left- vs. right-branching of SCs: diagnostics
Two kinds of tests/diagnostics
A. Relationship with a preceding (schwa-like) nucleus, cf. (A):

1. in synchrony
   e.g. : or NGH dunkel[ˈdʊŋkəl]∗ ∗OHG tungh Eng. button [ˈbʌtn] Fr. bouton
   and/or in synchrony (free variation)
   e.g. : free variation between or and NGH dunkel[ˈdʊŋkəl]∗ ∗dark Eng. bottle [ˈboʊtl] or [ˈboʊtl]

B. Behaviour of SCs with regards to a following consonant cluster (CC), cf. (B):

1. in synchrony
   e.g. : SCs may be followed by the same CCs as real vowels in Czech, Slovak and Serbian
   SCs may never be followed by complex code(-onset) clusters in English and German

2. Complementary distribution of diagnostics:
   Language exhibit evidence for A OR B - not for both at the same time
   English and German: SCs alternate with C
   Serbian, Czech etc.: C alternates with O
   SCs may be followed by CCs

   ➔ Two very different structures appear as SCs on the surface
   ➔ The difference between German-like and Czech-like SCs cannot be accounted for if we assume that SCs simply sit in the nucleus

3. Conclusion
   Two kinds of effects observed ➔ two situations
   - Relationship with preceding nucleus e.g. English and Standard German (cf. (A))
   - Relationship with following nucleus e.g. Czech, Slovak, Serbian and Čeština (cf. (B))

   Two kinds of SCs: left-branching/right-branching of SCs is a language-specific parameter

   Prediction: within a single language, the preceding and the following nucleus cannot be active at the same time... except in systems where SCs are contrastive for length, e.g. Slovak (Ibáni 2004)

4. Discussion
   Can left-branching and right-branching SCs coexist within a single language?
   ✔ Yes: left- vs. right-branching is lexical
   ✗ No: True, universal parameter

5. Key

There are two kinds of syllabic consonants: (Germanic) left-branchers and (Slavic) right-branchers

Emilie Caratini*, Olivier Rizzello, Tobias Scheer & Markéta Zízková
* Laboratoire BCL (UNS/CHRS), † Masaryk University
caratini@unice.fr, rizzello@unice.fr, scheer@unice.fr, zizkova@phil.muni.cz

6. Selected references

1. Left- vs. right-branching of SCs: diagnostics
Two kinds of tests/diagnostics
A. Relationship with a preceding (schwa-like) nucleus, cf. (A):

1. in synchrony
   e.g. : or NGH dunkel[ˈdʊŋkəl]∗ ∗OHG tungh Eng. button [ˈbʌtn] Fr. bouton
   and/or in synchrony (free variation)
   e.g. : free variation between or and NGH dunkel[ˈdʊŋkəl]∗ ∗dark Eng. bottle [ˈboʊtl] or [ˈboʊtl]

B. Behaviour of SCs with regards to a following consonant cluster (CC), cf. (B):

1. in synchrony
   e.g. : SCs may be followed by the same CCs as real vowels in Czech, Slovak and Serbian
   SCs may never be followed by complex code(-onset) clusters in English and German

2. Complementary distribution of diagnostics:
   Language exhibit evidence for A OR B - not for both at the same time
   English and German: SCs alternate with C
   Serbian, Czech etc.: C alternates with O
   SCs may be followed by CCs

   ➔ Two very different structures appear as SCs on the surface
   ➔ The difference between German-like and Czech-like SCs cannot be accounted for if we assume that SCs simply sit in the nucleus

3. Conclusion
   Two kinds of effects observed ➔ two situations
   - Relationship with preceding nucleus e.g. English and Standard German (cf. (A))
   - Relationship with following nucleus e.g. Czech, Slovak, Serbian and Čeština (cf. (B))

   Two kinds of SCs: left-branching/right-branching of SCs is a language-specific parameter

   Prediction: within a single language, the preceding and the following nucleus cannot be active at the same time... except in systems where SCs are contrastive for length, e.g. Slovak (Ibáni 2004)

4. Discussion
   Can left-branching and right-branching SCs coexist within a single language?
   ✔ Yes: left- vs. right-branching is lexical
   ✗ No: True, universal parameter

5. Key