Intrusive liquids in English

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The phenomenon of linking/intrusive *r*, which is common to many dialects of English, is one of those processes which are well-documented and have been thoroughly discussed but are still poorly understood. Despite the availability of detailed descriptions (Jones 1989, Wells 1982), there is still lack of agreement concerning the explanation of the alternations in question. The majority of the by now classic accounts both in linear and no-linear models are based on deletion or epenthesis (e.g. Kahn 1976, Gussmann 1980, Lodge 1984, Mohanan 1986). More recent accounts include McCarthy 1991, Broadbent 1991, Harris 1994, McMahon *et al*. 1994, McMahon & Foulkes 1995, Kijak 2009 among others. In the present paper I look at a similar phenomenon which has been only recently documented and introduced into the discussion of intrusive/linking *r*. The phenomenon in question is known as intrusive *l* and has been discussed in Miller 1993, Gick 1999, 2002, Bermúdez-Otero 2005. The intrusive *l* is a widespread phenomenon in dialects spoken in the Northeast of the United States. It exhibits similar patterns to the aforementioned intrusive/linking *r*. Thus, just like in the case of linking *r*, linking *l* occurs before any vowel, e.g. *cruel* [kruːwə] – *cruel act* [kruːwəl ækt]. The context of the intrusive *l*, in opposition to intrusive *r* which appears after non-high vowels, is reserved to a post-vocalic [ɔː], e.g. *law is* [lɔːl ɪz], however, it has also been reported to follow [ɑː] and [ə] (Gick 1999). Finally, again similarly to the intrusive *r* pattern, we can observe related processes associated with *l*-intrusion, which is fixed in the familiar order of vocalization, linking and intrusion. As with *r*, the historical vocalization affected pre-consonantal coda *l* leading to many later vocalic developments both qualitative and quantitative. This is evident on the example of 15th century *l*-less spellings, e.g. *behalf – behaf* and contemporary pronunciations of words like: *stalk*, *walk* and *calve*, etc. Moreover, the process of vocalization has been reported to be active synchronically in the London area (Estuary English). In the latter variety the pre-consonantal coda *l* is vocalized which results in forms like [miok] – *milk*. This process resembles another historical development which occurred in 15th century and has been described as the diphthongization before pre-consonantal *l* (lC), i.e. /a, o, u/ + *l*C > au, ou, as in *balk > baulke* 'baulk, balk', *bolster >boulster* 'bolster', and *shuldre > shoulder*.

In this paper I argue that the solution applied to the linking/intrusive *r* phenomenon together with the *r*-vocalization and historical developments of vowels in the pre-*r* position (Kijak 2009) can be extended to account for the intrusive *l* patterns as well as other related phenomena both in the present-day English and at earlier stages of its development. More specifically, in this paper I address the questions concerning the distribution, representation and interaction of the lateral with the preceding vowel. I try to explain the mechanics behind the *l*-zero alternations. Additionally, I explore the problem of lexical representation of etymologically *l*-less and *l*-full forms participating in the process of linking and intrusive *l*. The analysis of both diachronic and synchronic facts is couched in the recent development of Government Phonology known as the Strict CV model (Lowenstamm 1996, Rowicka 1999, Cyran 2003, Scheer 2004) and the Element Theory which deals with the elemental make-up of phonological segments (Harris 1994, Harris and Lindsey 1995, Cyran 2003).

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