

[ATR] feature in the description of consonants.

Małgorzata Ćavar

Indiana University

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Feature [Advanced Tongue Root] has been traditionally used to describe vowels but in my talk I want to argue that the position of the tongue root is intrinsically interconnected with effects such as secondary palatalization and retroflexion in consonants, and thus [ATR] is applicable to the phonological description of consonants.

In Polish one can observe certain phonotactic constraints regarding the sequences of consonants followed by two phonemically distinct high vowels. The constraints involving high vowels are listed in (1):

- (1)
✓çi, ✓ʂi
*çi, *ʂi

Prepalatals may be followed by a palatalizing vowel [i] but not by a non-palatalizing vowel [ɨ]. Post-alveolars, described sometimes as kind of retroflexes, may not be followed by [i] but they can be followed by [ɨ]. These constraints might be seen as a requirement for an agreement in terms of palatalization feature: the distinction between [i] and [ɨ] has been seen usually as the frontness distinction (in terms of [+/-back] or Coronal/Dorsal).

Disturbing might be the fact that the same kind of phonotactic constraints can be found for two allophones of the front mid vowel (Polish has one front vowel phoneme), as listed in (2).

- (2)
✓çe, ✓ʂe
*çɛ, *ʂɛ

Whereas the constraints in (2) seem to be completely parallel to the ones in (1), it is clear that we cannot argue that the constraints in (2) might be analyzed in terms of frontness agreement, since both allophones are front. Instead of two independent analyses for high and for mid vowels, I want to propose that both constraint sets may be viewed as a result of ATR agreement. I will demonstrate that articulatory facts support my thesis. I will also refer to data from other languages where (a) apparent secondary palatalization effects can only be phonologically accounted for as assimilation in terms of the tongue root position, and (b) we will see the relationship between retroflexion and the retraction of the tongue root. The proposal will raise a number of questions both regarding particularities of the analysis of Polish

palatalization, as well as a broader issue of the relationship between phonetics and phonology.