Korean consonant cluster simplification: An Articulatory Study  
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Korean exhibits optional coda cluster reduction in lateral-stop (C1C2) sequences. However, it has not been tested on the basis of articulatory data. The present study examines articulator movement using EMMA. For two Seoul-Korean speakers (e.g. JL and SL), clusters such as /Vlk/ and /Vlp/ followed by /ta/ were elicited in normal rate along with control tokens (e.g. /Vkta/, /Vpta/, /Vlta/). The stimuli were presented as word in isolation. The result showed that both speakers did not show /p/ reduction, but there was inter-speaker variation in /k/ reduction. While no /k/ reduction occurred in C1C2 for JL, SL demonstrated categorical /k/ reduction in 19% of production, where a longer closure duration of tongue tip gesture was observed (e.g. a possible compensatory lengthening in [Vl{k}tV] where {} represents reduction) when it was compared with control /VltV/; this fails to be addressed in impressionistic transcription and OT analyses [Jun 1998; Cho 1999]. Lastly, the duration of formation in /k/ was longer than that in /p/, which can be articulatorily supporting evidence to explain more /l/ deletion before /k/ than /p/ [Cho 1999]. [Work supported by NIH]