

***You say identifiable, I say identifiable. We are not the same. – Individual Differences and the Production of Stress In English Complex Adjectives***

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Variable base stress preservation in complex English adjectives as in *célébrate* > *célébratory* ~ *celebrátory*, for instance, is empirically underexplored. Previous accounts can be grouped into formal phonological and processing-based morpho-phonological approaches. The formal phonological accounts, such as Stratal OT or Lexical Conservatism, however, have neither been able to predict the full variation that is observed empirically (Kiparsky 2005, Steriade 1999) nor to offer a plausible explanation for why the variation occurs in the first place (Kiparsky 2005). They are often quite restrictive in their focus on possible explanatory factors (Bauer et al. 2013, Kiparsky 2005, Trevian 2007). Processing-based approaches, such as the refined dual-route model (Bermúdez-Otero 2012) or the frequency-based account presented by Collie (2008), have been able to remedy some of the issues shared by the formal accounts by including more aspects of morphology and psycholinguistics they abstract away from individual speaker differences which have, however, been observed empirically (Arndt-Lappe & Sanz 2017, Breiss 2021, Steriade 1999, Steriade & Stanton 2020).

The present study comprises around 3000 productions of complex English adjectives ending in *-able*, *-ant*, *-ive*, and *-ory* elicited from a diverse group of over 100 L1 speakers of British English during a reading task. It is one of the first studies (including Arndt-Lappe & Sanz 2017, Breiss 2021) that seeks to explore stress variation in authentic speech data empirically on a larger scale. The study takes a processing-based approach and investigates the link between morphological processing and stress preservation in complex words. It has identified individual differences in vocabulary size as a factor that considerably influences a speaker's choice to preserve or not preserve primary stress in English complex adjectives. The analysis shows that speakers with larger vocabularies tend to preserve primary stress from the embedded base word more often than speakers with smaller vocabularies.

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