The BAD-LAD split: Secondary /æ/-lengthening in Southern Standard British English

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• What conditions variation in the duration of /æ/ in Southern Standard British English (SSBE)?
• Vowel measurements in Praat of 21 native SSBE-speaking students (Cambridge) recorded reading sentences containing 101 monosyllabic and 53 disyllabic words with stressed /æ/. Here: analysis of monosyllabic words
• Research questions:
  • Is this a phonemic split?
  • Which postvocalic segments encourage lengthening?
  • TRAP-BATH splits dubbed primary /æ/-lengthening, as opposed to this study’s focus on secondary /æ/-lengthening

Secondary /æ/-lengthening: previous reports

• Jones (1918)
  • ‘short’ /æ/ in sad, pad, cat, lamp
  • ‘long’ bad, sad
  • variable glad, bag, man, jam, back, that
• Wells (1982): “marginally contrastive long /æ/”
  • ‘short’ /æ/ in sad, pad, cad, lad, pad
  • ‘long’ bad, glad, ched, mad, sad, jam, jazz
  • ‘tare to find contrastive length in environments other than that of a following /d/”
• Fudge (1977) recorded own (very complex) lexical split
  • Minimal pairs included ‘short’ verb pairs: jog, dad, wag vs. ‘long’ noun equivalents: (modal)
  • Two consultations carried out with native SSBE speakers about their intuitions in preparation for this study:

References