

DanPASS - Conventions for segmental transcription

Note that Danish /b d g/ prototypically are unvoiced, the only difference between /b d g/ and /p t k/ being one of aspiration. However, /b d g/ easily becomes voiced in spontaneous speech, especially in unstressed syllables. Aspiration in /p t k/ (affrication in /t/, actually) is implicit in the [p t k] notation. Likewise, the lack of voicing in /b d g/ is implicit in the [b d g] notation. Thus, we have no means to specifically transcribe the voicing in /b d g/ when it occurs.

Words like *højre*, *havre* etc. would be ['hʌjje/'hæjje 'hɑwwe] in distinct speech; but we often perceive only one semi-vowel. The decision, one or two semi-vowel symbols, is quite regularly hard to make and may appear ad-hoc in some instances.

Vowel duration in words like *lige*, *bue* is often hard to determine. In distinct speech they are ['li:i 'bu:u]. But in the corpus there are several forms, e.g. ['li:i 'li: 'lii] and the choice between them often appears arbitrary, and it is not always easy to decide whether there are one or two syllables in the word.

When two sonorant consonants appear in a vowel-less coda, it may be difficult to decide which one of them is syllabic, as in, e.g., *ulden* ['uln]. Syllabicity on the first consonant, ['ul|n] is the marked case and appears only when there is no doubt. Syllabicity on the last consonant, ['uln|], means either that that is where it is indeed perceived, or that we were in doubt about which consonant is syllabic, or that both consonants simultaneously appeared to carry the second syllable.

The duration of phonologically long vowels before a syllabic [ð], as in, e.g., *gade* ['gæ:ð] are not always long phonetically, and decision between ['gæ:ð] and ['gæðð] is often difficult and may appear arbitrary in a number of instances.