PROSODIC LENGTH IN WEST GERMANIC AND SCANDINAVIAN

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There are two main correlations of quantity in modern Germanic languages. One holds sway in West Germanic and to a certain extent in Danish and can be exemplified by such forms as Engl. pulling: pooling, Dan. bære: tælle. The other is represented by Swedish, Norwegian, Icelandic, and Faroese: cf. Swed. pila: pilla, Icel. vina: vinna. The West Germanic type is covered by the concept of Silbenschnittkorrelation (correlation of syllable cut). The prevailing Scandinavian type conforms to the law of syllable length: $\bar{V}C$ vs. $V\bar{C}$. In the forms pulling, tælle, contrary to the forms pooling, bære, the point of syllable division lies within the intervocalic consonants. The same is true of pilla, vinna as opposed to pila, vina. Since phonemes cannot be cut by any linguistic boundaries (by definition), two solutions are possible: either pulling, tælle, pilla have clusters of identical consonants between vowels (i.e. $|l+l|$) or they lack the point of syllable division altogether. For Swedish, Norwegian, Icelandic and Faroese, the first solution is correct, because in them the complex of the pilla type can conceal a point of word division -pil la-. For English, German, Dutch and Danish, the second solution is only possible, for pulling and the like cannot be taken for a sequence of words the first of which begins with and the second ends in $|l|$ (pulling and 'pul Ling are not homonyms). For all the Germanic languages, length is prosodic, because it is inevitably described in terms of syllables or whole words, but only the Swedish type has geminates. When setting up prosodic length for Germanic languages, one should avoid operating with such criteria as parallelism in the number of long/short phonemes, for the binary division of phonemes according to some feature can have a purely phonematic value (cf. palatalization in Russian or· voiced/voiceless obstruents in very many languages).