

## False nasals: [ $\pm$ pulmonic] and click distribution

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The distribution of clicks is very limited, cross-linguistically. A survey of previous work reveals robust typological generalizations about where clicks can occur, and which types of clicks are possible. These include the observations that: **a)** Languages that have clicks restrict them to syllable onsets (never codas) and **b)** All languages that have oral clicks also have nasalized clicks.

Based on a pattern of medial nasalization in Sandawe and other East African click languages (Elderkin 1992, Wright et al. 1995), I propose that nasalization is the phonetic realization of a phonological [+pulmonic] airstream specification. Under this hypothesis, click nasalization can be reanalyzed as assimilation to a [+pulmonic] feature carried by an adjacent segment.

Treating nasalized clicks as consonants with [+pulmonic] and [+lingual] airstream specifications highlights two dimensions of typological variation. First, languages can differ for which positions in a word allow clicks. Second, they can differ for which positions require clicks to agree with the [ $\pm$ pulmonic] specification of neighboring sounds. I formalize this range of variation using Optimality Theory (Prince & Smolensky 1993), by interaction of \*[+lingual], AGREE[pulmonic], and a family of IDENT constraints. This analysis can account for the occurrence of plain and nasal clicks in all languages considered here.

### References (abridged):

Elderkin, Edward D. 1992. Predictable nasality before East African clicks. *Afrikanistische Arbeitspapiere* 29. 111–129.

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