The glide's big fat Greek wedding... to the palatals
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1. Introduction – Rims

What has traditionally been named 'glide' is difficult to understand in Greek, because: (i) it has variable phonetic realization (ii) its phonological distribution is complex and ambiguous in nature.

We aim to answer the following three questions (of which, only the first has been addressed in previous research):
• Is the Glide underlying?
• Are palatals underlying?
• Does morphology influence patterns in Glide distribution?

NB: Since glide is inaccurate, we use Glide or /J/ as a placeholder for all possible realizations.

2. The Data

We briefly mention the phonetics of the Glide, but our focus is on (morpho)phonology.

**Phonetics of Glide**

- If syllable-tonic: V J I [madaina] "parsley"
- If syllable-adjacent: J V I then
  - If [voiced obstruent] + J + V \( \Rightarrow \) [klu.kla] "dolts" [pa.ya] "clothes"
  - If [voiceless obstruent] + J + V \( \Rightarrow \) [pud.ou] "tegs"
  - If [im] + J + V \( \Rightarrow \) [mua] "one"

**Phonological distribution of Glide**

- Evidence for Glide as a phoneme
  - Minimal pairs with or without semantic affinity
    - ιάδα permission ιάδα empty
    - κριστίκε was raped κριστίκε was in a hurry
    - δοξί δoxi δox clear soul
    - οπιό opium όπις whichever

- Contrast between glide and nuclear I in same environment
  - Ogifide glide Surface [I]
    - [madaina] kore/jála [è:dadanos]
    - [madaina] kore/jála [è:dadanos]

3. Our Proposal for the Glide

Wrap up so far: evidence that Glide is both a phoneme and an allophone of /I/ Possible conflict? No, if we assume the following representation:

(4) Status of /I/ and the Glide

\[
\begin{array}{c|c}
/I/ & J/ \\
\hline
Lack of alternation & Alternation \\
Nom.Sg. & Nom.Sg. \\
pe.d.o & pe.\(J\)a \\
field & child \\
pe.\(J\)a & pe.d.o \\
room & de.m.a.t.o \\
de.m.a.t.o & de.m.a.t.o
\end{array}
\]

Similar situation arises in Karuk, Sundanese and Pulaar (Levi 2008)
We also argue that the presence vs. absence of alternations can be – at least partly – predicted by morphological considerations. In particular:
• Consider (3) again. Neuter nouns predictably present alternations vs. lack thereof depending on the noun's morphological class. V-stem final + /I/ suffix \( \Rightarrow \) no alternation V-stem final + V-initial suffix \( \Rightarrow \) alternation
• But why? Paradigm uniformity asks that same number of syllables is preserved across the paradigm (cf. Bat-El 2008: Faith-Syllable Number). Thus:
  - pe.\(J\)a (Nom.Sg.) - pe.\(J\)a (Gen.Sg.) - pe.\(J\)a (Nom.Pl.) IS OK
  - pe.\(J\)a (Nom.Sg.) - pe.\(J\)a (Gen.Sg.) - pe.\(J\)a (Nom.Pl.) IS NOT

Thus solved: 1 \( \Rightarrow \) I and consequently tautosyllabic syllabification of I+V. Hence:
  - pe.\(J\)a (Nom.Sg.) - pe.\(J\)a (Gen.Sg.) - pe.\(J\)a (Nom.Pl.)

4. Glide and the Palatals

As seen in (3), the /I- Glide/ alternations between Nom.Sg. and Pl. are realized by means of I \( \Rightarrow \) palatal for the handout of this poster

(5) [I] \( \Rightarrow \) [J] alternation with palatal?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nom.Sg.</th>
<th>Nom.Pl.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>luci</td>
<td>luca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>luca</td>
<td>*luca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gutt</td>
<td>reticule</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although superficially no Glide emerges here in the Nom.Pl. it should have as these data are completely analogous to those of (3) in terms of the identical morphophonological environment.

5. Discussion

Answers to questions initially posed
• Is the Glide underlying? **IT CAN BE**
• Are palatals underlying? **NO, THEY ARE DERIVED FROM VELARS OR VELARIS + J**
• Does morphology influence patterns in Glide distribution? **YES**

• provide a link between the Glide and the palatals that had previously gone unnoticed
• offer evidence that the distribution of the Glide vs. /I/ is to some extent regulated by grammatical considerations, i.e. morphology, instead of sociolinguistic factors. Note that the latter have been proposed in the literature as the main regulating factor in the distribution of Glide, cf. Numann (1981)

What next?
• investigate phonotactics and morpheme combinatorics to have a more accurate picture of the distribution of /I/ and /J/ in a wider area of the lexicon
• beyond the cases mentioned here, there are other forms for which inter- and even intra-speaker variation exists, e.g. /a.per.\(\alpha\)a.ko\(\varepsilon\) vs. /a.pur.\(\alpha\)a.ko\(\varepsilon\) "strike (adj.)". It'd be interesting to see how much of this variation can be explained by grammatical factors

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Selected References: