

Understanding the adjacency of nasal oralization and stress in Karitiana

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In Karitiâna, word-medial nasals occurring between oral vowels may surface as circum-oralized, post-oralized, or completely oralized phones. Significantly, the relevant variation in K is due to the highly variable duration of velic aperture, rather than to asynchrony between velic gesture and oral occlusion. Despite this variability, there is one overriding constraint on velic movement: the velum must be raised before stressed oral vowels, which generally exhibit more positive spectral tilt. K appears to constrain the highly variable velic movement by requiring the adjacency of nasal oralization and stressed oral vowels, so that the spectral tilt of such vowels is maintained.