

Re: This week on Dancing with the Stars Re: The Business Memoir – the ``whom" question

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- *From:* Ruud Harmsen <realemailonsite@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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Historically, /a/ and /ɜ/ are probably one phoneme, [a] being the stressed realisation and [ɜ] the unstressed one. But in modern (European *) Portuguese, they have become phonemic, due to /ɜ/ becoming a single [a] (<à>) and /a/ occurring also in unstressed position, like in padaria, Tavares, Camões and some other words, and /ɜ/ occurring also in stressed position, in <cantamos> and the like (vs. <cantámos>).

Sat, 28 Oct 2006 23:02:37 +0100: António Marques <m.ap@xxxxxxx>: in sci.lang:

Words like padaria are from paadaria with two distinct /a/ (usually after a lost –l– or –n–;

Yes, that must explain it.

Could Tàvares and Càmões have similar earlier forms to explain the presence of the open stressed vowel there?

For the present vs. imperfect I have no explanation, there's something more here than just having taken advantage of a newly found phonetic distinction – as I mentioned countless times by now, my father's village has /E/ for the imperfect, [p@'sEmuS] 'we passed'.

(I'd probably have difficulty hearing the difference between (in my transcription) [p3'sEmuS] and [p3's3muS], but that's just me.)

Right. So maybe there's an historic merger of dialects at play here, around the time when in an emerging common standard language, stresses /a/ before /m/ became [ɜ] ?

In some other words, unstressed [a] may be meaningless (recent development, analogy, etc).

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Yes. But it's always there before m. Possibly parallel to the closing of ó and é to ô and ê before m and n in Brazilian Portuguese. (pt-BR Antônio vs. pt-PT António).

<http://rudhar.com/foneport/en/noteport.htm#Note14>

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Ruud Harmsen – <http://rudhar.com>

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