LENETH IN RS CONSONANT PHONEMES

Both in RS and SCB there is opposition between short and long consonant phonemes:

[\text{`kania}\_\text{J} (to cry) : \text{`kana}\_\text{J} (blind)]

[\text{`sad\_i\_\text{J} (capability) : \text{`sadi}\_\text{J} (marriage)}]

[\text{`pat\_a\_\text{J} (trace) : \text{`pata}\_\text{J} (leaf)}]

This length is not phonemic. Unlike SCB however, RS consonant phonemes except /r/ and /n/, in the medial position are strongly emphasised so that they tend to be lengthened. Since they are not as long as [\text{`t}\_\text{J} in \text{`pat\_a\_\text{J} or `n}\_\text{J} in \text{`kania}\_\text{J} they can be marked half-long.

Example:- [\text{`ked\_e}\_\text{J} (sickle)]

[\text{`math\_a}\_\text{J} (head)]

[\text{`bes\_i}\_\text{J} (more)]

In polysyllabic words the first consonant in the second syllable is lengthened.

Example:- [\text{`puk\_ete}\_\text{J} (in the pool)]

[\text{`tak\_ete}\_\text{J} (to see)]

The lengthening is more prominent in disyllabic words.

This tendency to lengthen medial consonants, adds to the rhythmic tone of RS. This is one of the specialities of RS which makes it so musical.