

Aspects of connected speech

1-Rhythm

The notion of rhythm involves some noticeable event happening at regular intervals of time ; one can detect the rhythm of a heartbeat or of a flashing light or of a piece of music .

English has stress - timed rhythm . This means that stressed syllables tend to occur at relatively regular intervals whether they are separated by unstressed syllables or not . An example is given below

Both of them came early

/ lbauθ av ðam lKeim l3 =

said with the same amount time

It has often been claimed that while some languages (e.g. Russian , Arabic) have stress - timed rhythm similar to that of English . Others (e.g. French , Telugu, Yoruba) have a different rhythmical structure called syllable - timed rhythm ; in these languages , all syllables , whether stressed or unstressed tend to occur at regular time intervals and time between stressed syllables will be short or longer in proportion to the number of unstressed syllables .

2- Assimilation

- The term assimilation describes how sounds modify each other when they meet . Assimilation is something which varies in extent according to speaking rate and style : it is more likely to be found in rapid , casual , casual speech . Assimilation affects consonants .

- **Types of Assimilation**

- 1. Regressive Assimilation

- This type occurs when two words are combined the first of which ends with a single final consonant (Which we will call cf) and the second of which starts with a single initial consonant (which we will call ci) ; We can construct a diagram like this :

-

-

word

-

boundary

- Examples of Regressive Assimilation

- 1. That person / ðæt pɜ:sn /
- 2. That man / ðæt mæn /
- 3. meat pie / ðæt Pei /
- 4. White coat /waik kaut/
- 5. ten minutes /tem minits/
- 6. good game /gug geim/

There are three types of Assimilation

- 1. progressive Assimilation
- 2. regressive Assimilation
- 3. coalescent Assimilation

2-progressive Assimilation

- This type occurs when there are two consonants one being final affects post final consonants . examples
- 1. Friends /frendz /
- 2. reads /ri:dz /
- 3. glasses /gla:siz /
- 4. bags /bagz /
- Q1/ In what ways can a consonant change ?
- There are three main differences between .
- Consonants.
- 1. Differences in place of Articulation
- 2. Differences in Manner of Articulation
- 3. Differences in voicing
- 1. Assimilation of place is found in some cases where a final consonant with alveolar followed by an initial consonant .

- examples : that thing / ðæt θɪŋ/
- card game / kɑ:g geɪm /
- 2. Assimilation of manner is found in cases where a final plosive becomes a fricative or nasal . Examples
 - 1. that side /ðæs saɪd/
 - 2. good night /gʊd naɪt/
- 3. Assimilation of voice is found . only regressive assimilation occurs across word boundaries . Examples
 - 1. cheese cake / tʃi:s keɪk /
 - 2. I have to /aɪ hæv tu:/
 - 3. I like that black dog / aɪ laɪk ðæt blæk dɒg/
- 3. Elision (Omission or deletion)
 - The term elision describes the disappearance of a sound . One might express this by saying that in certain circumstances a phoneme may be realized as zero , or have zero realization or be deleted .

- Examples :
- 1. Loss of weak vowel after p , t , k
 - In words like ' potato' , 'tomato' , 'canary' , 'perhaps' , 'today' , the vowel in the first syllable may disappear .
 - Ph 1teitau
 - Th 1ma:tu
 - Kh 1neari
 - Ph 1haps
 - Th 1dei
- 2. Weak vowel + n , i , r) becomes syllabic consonant
 - tonight
 - correct
 - police
- 3. Avoidance of complex consonant clusters
 - lots of them
 - waste of money
- 4. Linking /r/
 - We link words together in a number of ways the most familiar case is the use of linking r ; the phoneme r does not occur in syllable – final position in the BBC accents a final r , and a word beginning with a vowel follows , the usual pronunciation is to pronounce with r for example
 - Here /hiə / but 'here are' / hiær ə/
 - Four /fo:/ but 'four eggs' /fo:r egz/
- 5. Intrusive /r/
 - Where two vowel sounds meet and there is no written letter r , speaker with non – rhotic accents will still introduce the /r/ phoneme in order to ease the transition . this happens when the first word ends in / ə / , / a:/ , or /o:/

- Examples
- Formula A /fo:mələr ei/
- Media event /mi:diər ivent/
- Linking /r/
- Some accents of English are described as rhotic which means that when the letter r appears in the written word after a vowel , the r phoneme is pronounced . example
- Her English is excellent /r/ is pronounced /hɜ:r/
- Linking /j/
- When a word ends in /i:/ or a diphthong which finishes with /i/ , speakers introduce a /j/ to ease the transition to a following vowel sound :
- I think , therefore I am /əij æm/
- They are , are not they ? /ðeija:/
- Linking /w/
- When a word ends in /u:/ , or a diphthong which finishes with /u/ , speakers introduces a /w/ to ease the transition to a following vowel sounds examples :
- Go on , Go in /gæu won/ / gæu in/
- Who is ? /hu:wiz/

1. progressive assimilation

- Occurs in plural and past tense endings , since the voiced or voiceless quality of the verb stem conditions the morphological ending :

- Bite + - s = /baits/

- Voiceless /t/ v. ending /s/

- Tag + - s = /tægz/

- Voiced /g/ v. ending /z/

- 2. Regressive Assimilation

- It helps explain the forms of the negative prefix in , im , ir , il

- 3. Coalescent assimilation occurs when the juxtaposition of two conditioning sounds (A+B) results in a third assimilated sound

- Sound A

- sound B

- Sound C

- /s/ /ʃ/ issue

- This year

- /z/ /ʒ/ pleasure

- /t/ /tʃ/ stature

- 6. Juncture

- Juncture is defined as the relationship between one sound and the sounds that immediately precede and follow it .

- Examples

- Ice cream

- I scream

- My train

- Might rain

- Keeps ticking

- Keep sticking