

**0. From Last Time.** Classification of sound changes as: *conditioned, unconditioned, allophonic (non-phonemic), phonemic, merger, split.*

**1. Sporadic vs. regular.** E.g., ME *speech* lost the *r* of OE *spræc*. Cf. *spring*, *spre*, where the *r* was not lost.

## 2. General Kinds of Sound Change

**2.1 Assimilation** = change in which one sound becomes more similar to another, usually adjacent, sound in its environment. Very common and usually regular.

- (1) *Total contact regressive*  
(a) Latin *octo* > Italian *otto* 'eight', *noctem* > *notte* 'night', *factum* > *fatto* 'done'.
- (2) *Total contact progressive*  
(a) Finnish *ln* assimilated to *ll*, as in \**jalna* > *halla* 'frost'
- (3) *Partial contact regressive*  
(a) Nasal Place Assimilation, e.g., *in-possible* > *impossible*.
- (4) *Partial contact progressive*  
(a) English suffixes spelled with *-s* assimilate in voicing.
- (5) Distant (non-adjacent) assimilation  
(a) Umlaut

**2.2 Dissimilation** = change in which sounds become less similar to one another. Much less common than assimilation, and often sporadic.

- (6) (a) Multiple occurrences of *r* within a word are often sporadically dissimilated in Romance languages; sequences of /r ... r/ for example often become /l ... r/, sometimes /r ... l/: Latin *peregrinus* 'foreigner, alien' > Italian *pellegrino* 'foreigner, pilgrim, traveller'; French *pèlerin* (English *pilgrim* is a loan from Old French *pelegrin*); Compare Spanish *peregrino*.  
(b) Dahl's Law in a number of East African Bantu languages: two voiceless consonants in a word dissimilate so that the first becomes voiced. E.g., in Kikuyu, *gikuyu* 'Kikuyu' < *kikuyu*.

## 2.3 Deletion

- (7) *Syncope* = the loss of a vowel from a medial syllable.  
(a) "Starting in Vulgar Latin... the unstressed vowels other than *a* were lost in the interior of words three syllables long or longer", e.g., *pópulu-* 'people'... reflected in French *peuple* and Spanish *pueblo*.
- (8) *Apocope* = the loss of a sound, usually a vowel, at the end of a word.  
(a) Old English → Modern English: *sticca* > *stick*; *sunu* > *son*.
- (9) Loss of the initial sound of a word (*Aphaeresis*).  
(a) Latin *apoteca* 'storehouse' > Spanish *bodega* 'wine cellar, storeroom, warehouse.'
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## 2.4 Epenthesis/Insertion

- (11) *Prothesis* = sound is inserted at the beginning of a word.  
(a) "Starting in the second century, Latin words beginning with ... *sp*, *st*, *sk* took on a prothetic short *i*... Latin *scola* [skóla] 'school' > *iskola* > *eskola* > Old French *escole* [eskole] > Modern French *école* [ekol]; for Spanish: *scola* [skóla] > *iskola* > *escuela* [eskuéla].
- (12) *Anaptyxis* = V is inserted between CC.  
(a) English *athlete* pronounced in some dialects with schwa between [θ].
- (13) Insertion of a final vowel (*Paragoge*)  
(a) Arandic languages (Pama-Nyungan, Australia) regularly add a final schwa to words ending in C.
- (14) *Excresence* = C inserted between CC.  
(a) Latin *hominem* > Spanish *hombre*  
*hominem* > (Syncope) *homne* > (dissimilation) *homre* > *hombre*  
Latin *fe:mina* > (Syncope) *femna* > (dissimilation) *femra* > *hembra*

-Do exercises 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.5