

KINDS OF SOUND CHANGE		
Regular The same sound change happened in all words with a given sound in a given phonetic context	Unconditioned The sound changed everywhere it occurred	Sp [k] > [j] in most of Latin America
	Conditioned The sound changed only in specific environments	Sp p > b/V_V
Sporadic A sound in a given context changed in only one or a few words (not predictable)		OE <spræc> > ModE <speech> but many other ModE words do start with <spr>

ALLOPHONIC vs. PHONEMIC	
Non-Phonemic (Allophonic)	Does not affect the phoneme inventory
Phonemic	Adds or subtracts phonemes from the language's inventory

KINDS OF PHONEMIC CHANGES		
Mergers	Two phonemes become one A, B > B, or A, B > C Mergers are irreversible PIE *o, *ə, *a > Proto-Ge *a	
Splits	Allophones become separate phonemes Splits follow mergers En /n/ > [ŋ]/_g, k and /n/ > [n] elsewhere becomes /ŋ/ > [ŋ] and /n/ > [n] after /g,k/ > Ø/ŋ # (merger with Ø)	
TWO TYPES OF SPLITS	Secondary splits (phonologization)	Total number of phonemes in the language increases
	Primary splits	Some allophone of a phoneme merges with another phoneme in certain specific environments (number of phonemes in the language stays the same) Rhotacism: L s > r/V_V, so /rusticus/ > [rusticus] (> En <rustic>) but /rus + al/ > [rural] L > Fr k > s/_i, e [kentum] > [sã] k > f/_a [cantare] > [fãte] k > k elsewhere [kor] > [kœ:R]

TYPES OF ASSIMILATION

TOTAL ASSIMILATION		
	Regressive	Progressive
Contact	L octo > It otto ‘eight’	PIE *lonis > L collis ‘hill’
Distant	PIE *penk ^w e > L k ^w ink ^w e	PIE *penk ^w e > pre-Ge *penpe

PARTIAL ASSIMILATION		
	Regressive	Progressive
Contact	PIE *swep- no > L somnus ‘sleep’	En [dag + s] > /dagz/
Distant	ME [mu:si] > [my:si]	

Homorganic nasal assimilation: in + possible > impossible, in + competent > inkompetent
Kitharaka (a Bantu language): /n + pandi/ > [mpandi] ‘grasshopper(s)’

DISSIMILATION

Sounds become less similar to each other
- much less common than assimilation and usually sporadic

+ al > + ar /r + _

alveolar, velar, uvular but labial, dental, palatal

(Strategies other than sound changes also occur to avoid repeating [r]: One-syllable words usually take –er to form the English superlative, but ?barer tends to be *more bare* and *eagerer, *soberer, *properer to not seem to occur.)

OF nivel > nival (> niveau) to avoid two [l]s (a example of a sporadic change)

GRASSMAN’S LAW

(A famous example of regular dissimilation)

In **Greek** and **Sanskrit**:

[aspirated stop] ... [aspirated stop] > [unaspirated stop] ... [aspirated stop]

Skt bhabhu:va > babhuva ‘became’

Gr *thrikh-os > trikhos (but *thrikh-s > thriks because kh > k/_s

DAHL’S LAW

(affects several Bantu languages such as Kikuyu)

[vs. consonant] ... [vs. consonant] > [vd. consonant] ... [vs. consonant]

Kikuyu: kikuyu > gikuyu ‘Kikuyu’ ; *kukua > gukua ‘die’, etc.

Kitharaka: ka + pandi > ɣapandi ‘small grasshopper’ but ka + βori > kaβori ‘small goat’