

## Linguistics 220

### 3. The Structure of the Syllable

- A. The syllable In English contains up to three initial consonants plus a vowel a semivowel and three final consonants:

- (68) a. strapped /σ stræpt σ/  
 b. strict /σ strikt σ/  
 c. oust /σ awst σ/  
 d. asked /σ æskt σ/  
 e. strafed /σ streft σ/

- B. The syllable is made of an optional onset plus a rhyme:

- (69) Syllable → Onset + Rhyme

- C. And the rhyme is made of a nucleus plus an optional coda:

- (70) Rhyme → Nucleus + Coda

- D. The nucleus contains the syllabic peak plus an optional offset:

- (71) Nucleus + Offset

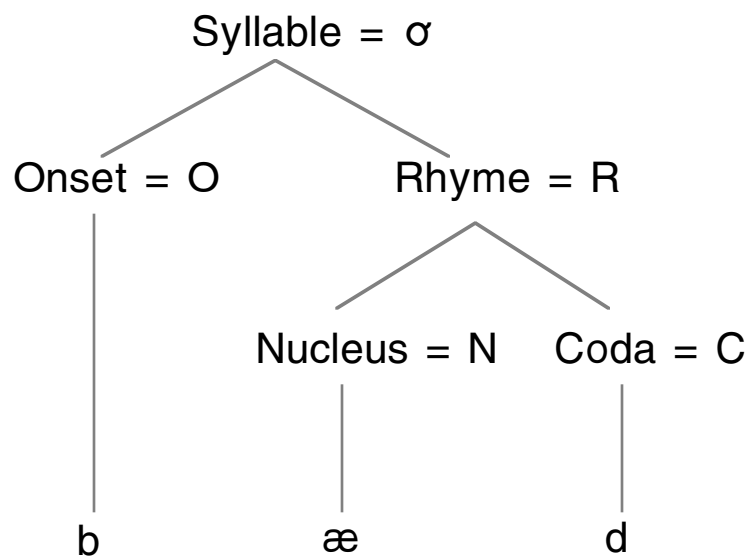
- E. The nucleus may be a simple vowel or a vowel plus a semi-vowel (diphthongs):

- (72) /red/, /red/: [rɛ:d], [re:jd] red, raid.

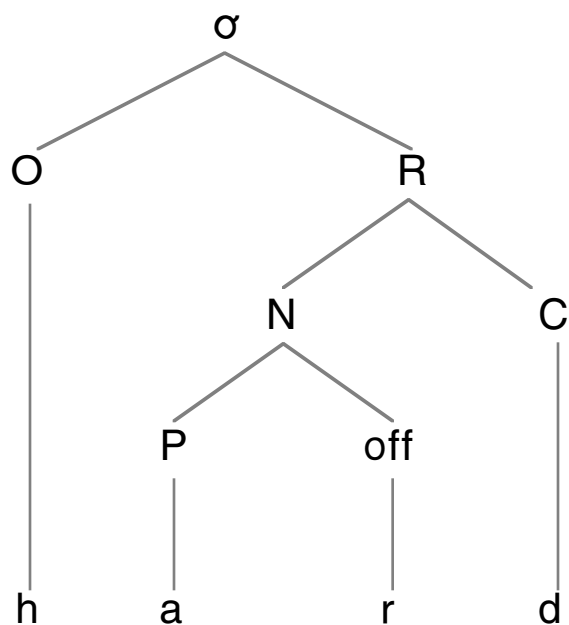
- F. Sonorants tend to behave like semi-vowels if they occur in the rhyme; i.e. when there is a coda:

- (73) /bɪrd/, /hɛld/, bænd/, /bʌmpt/; [bɪ:rd], [hɛ:ld], [bæ̃:nd], [bʌ̃mpt].  
 beard, held, band, bumped.

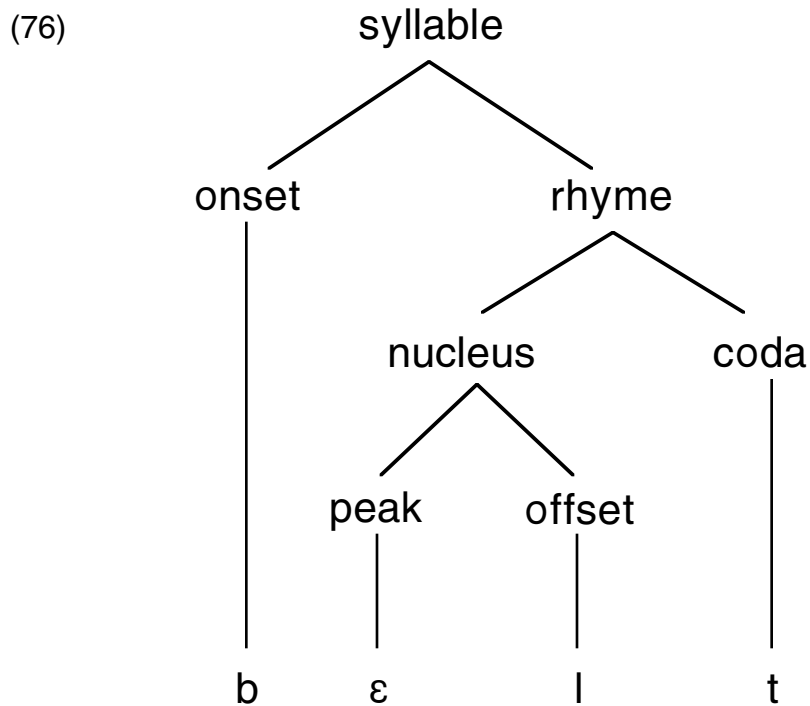
(74)



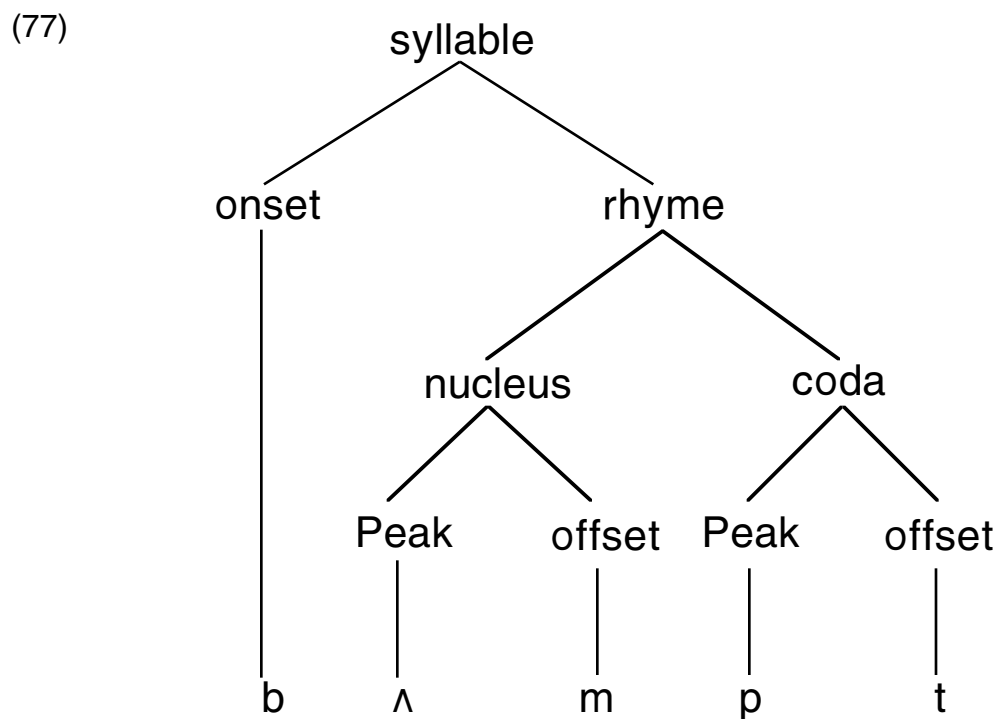
(75)



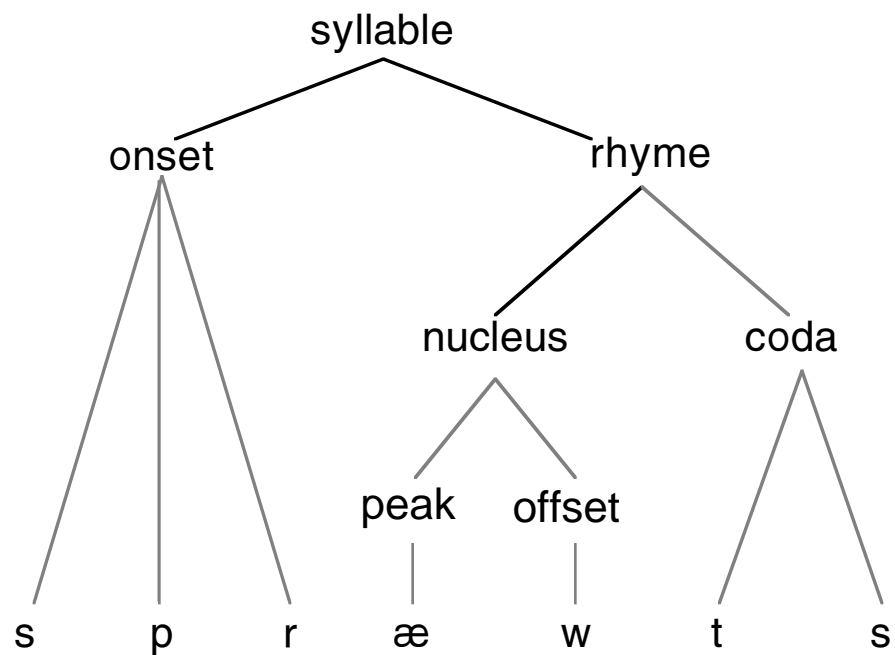
- G. The nucleus becomes long before voiced consonants. The longest part of the nucleus is the peak (/a/); e.g.: [a:], [ba:rd].



Here, the nucleus does not become long.



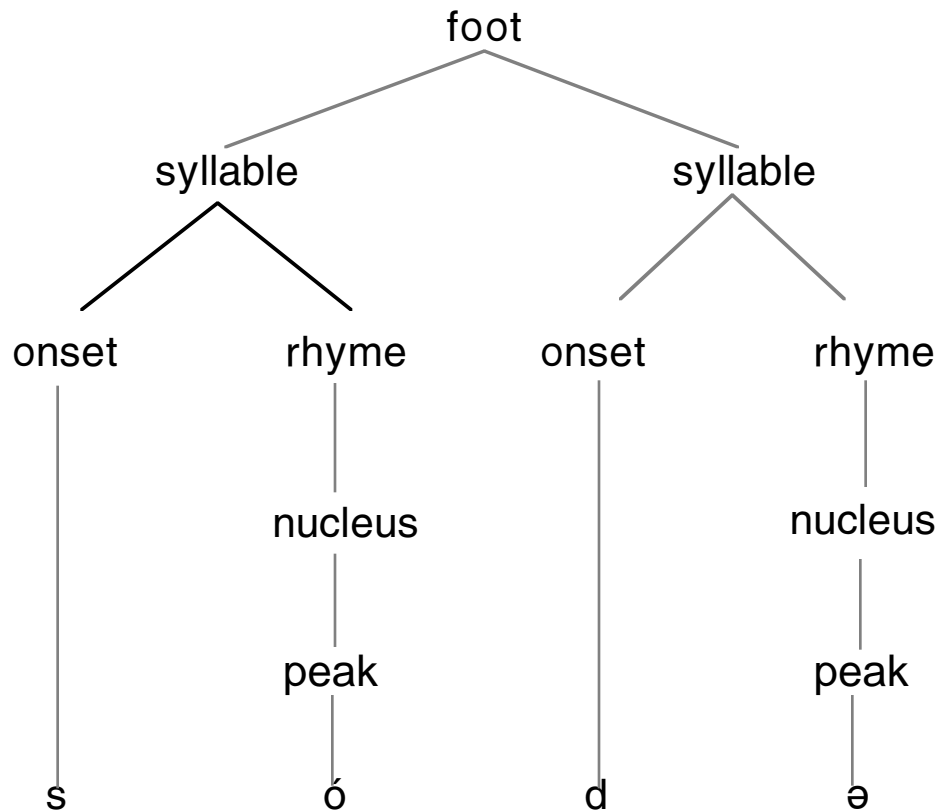
(78)



Two or three syllables combine to form a foot; a foot contains one stressed (primary or secondary) syllable:

- (79)
- a. soda = #Fσ so\$σ də σF#
  - b. Canada = #Fσ k<sup>h</sup>æ\$σ nə σ də σF#
  - c. Canadian = #Fσ k<sup>h</sup>ə σF né σ di σ ən σF#

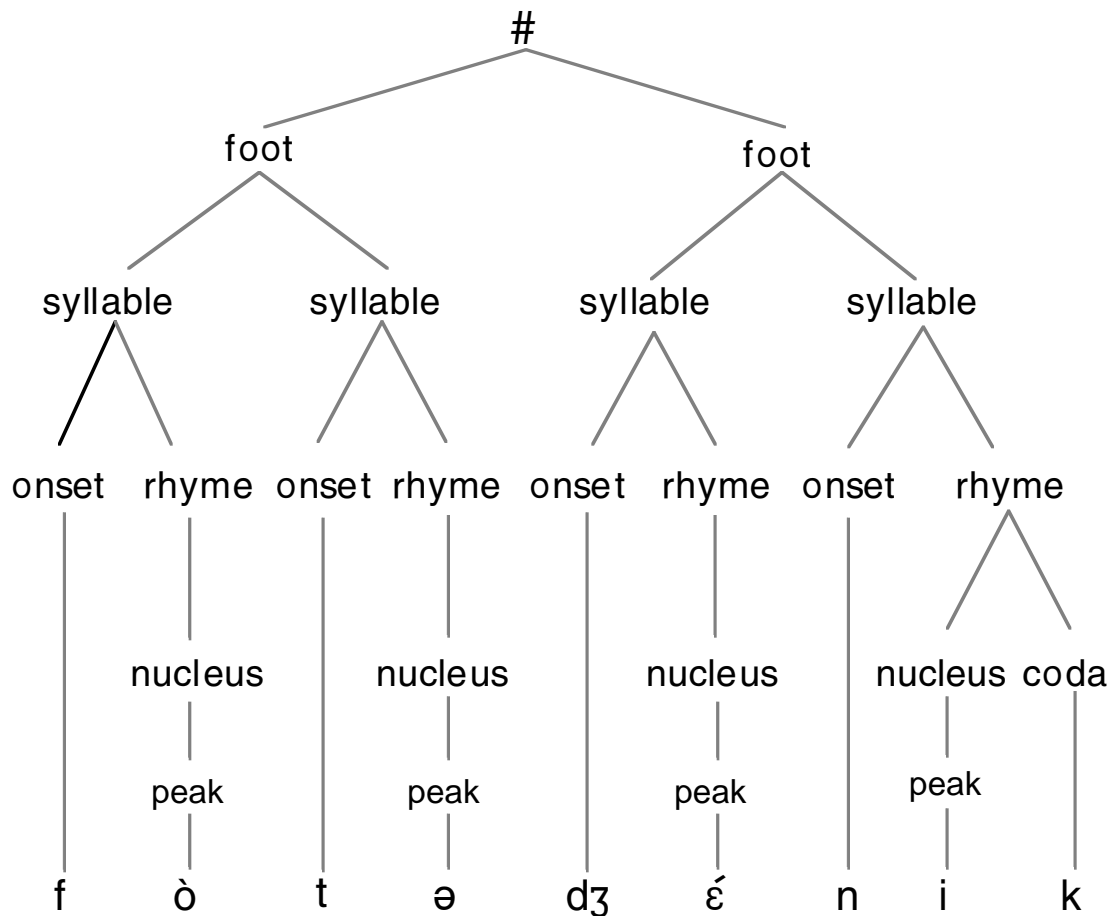
(80)



H. A phonological word may contain two or more feet:

- (81) a. photogenic = /#Fσ fò σ to Fσ dʒé σ nik σ F#/  
 b. teleportation = #Fσ tè \$ lɪ F σ por σ té σ ɔən σ F#

82)



## 8.1 Syllabification

- A. Phonological segments are grouped into syllables. The phonological rules that apply to a phonological segment (a phoneme) are conditioned in part by their position in the syllable.
- B. The beginning and the end of words are syllable boundaries.
  - i. ‘#’ marks a word boundary.
  - ii. ‘σ’ marks a syllable boundary
  - iii. {σ,#} marks a simultaneous word and syllable boundary
  - iv. Rule (83) inserts the syllable boundary marker at word boundaries:

(83) Rule: **Syllabification—Word Boundaries:**

#  $\rightarrow$  / $\sigma$ # $\sigma$ / (A syllable boundary is inserted at word boundaries)

(84) a. /# bɛt #/  $\rightarrow$  /# $\sigma$  bɛt  $\sigma$ #/ bet.

b. /# tæp #/  $\rightarrow$  /# $\sigma$  tæp  $\sigma$ #/ tap

C. In the sequence VCV́, where V = a vowel, C = a consonant. and V́ = a stressed vowel, a syllable boundary is inserted before C:

(85) Rule: **Syllabification—VCV́**

VCV́  $\rightarrow$  V  $\sigma$  CV́

(86) a. /# ɐpárt #/  $\rightarrow$  /# $\sigma$  ɐ  $\sigma$  párt  $\sigma$ #/ apart

b. /# ɐbávn #/  $\rightarrow$  /# $\sigma$  ɐ  $\sigma$  b ávn  $\sigma$ #/ above.

D. In the sequence VsCV́, a syllable boundary is inserted before /s/:

(87) Rule: **Syllabification—VsCV́**

VCV́  $\rightarrow$  V  $\sigma$  sCV́

(88) a. /# ɛstáwnd #/  $\rightarrow$  /# $\sigma$  ɐ  $\sigma$  stáwnd  $\sigma$ #/ astound

b. /# ɛskæéns #/  $\rightarrow$  /# $\sigma$  ɐ  $\sigma$  skæéns  $\sigma$ #/ askance.

E. Note that the two syllabifications rules may be collapsed into one rule:

(89) Rule: **Syllabification—V(s)CV́**

V(s)CV́  $\rightarrow$  V  $\sigma$  (s)CV́

i. The parentheses around (s) indicate that the /s/ is optional.

F. The next rule is an 'elsewhere' rule. The syllable boundary is inserted between two obstruents elsewhere, that is where Rule (89) has not applied.

(90) Rule: **Syllabification—CC**

VCCV  $\rightarrow$  VC  $\sigma$  CV.

i. Elsewhere rules are ordered. The elsewhere rule must follow the specific or more restricted rule.





*PostScript error (undefinedfilename, fontrun)*