

***PHONOLOGICAL PROCESSES***

**Part 1.**

- 1.**
    - a. Assimilation**
    - b. Dissimilation**
  - 2. Syllable Structure Processes (these affect the distribution of segments in words)**
  - 3. Weakening and Strengthening Processes**
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- 1.**
  - a. ASSIMILATION**

The influence of one segment upon another so that the sounds become more alike or identical.

- (i) Consonant assimilates vowel features**  
e.g. Russian:

<p><b>PALATALIZATION OF CONSONANTS BEFORE FRONT VOWELS.</b></p>
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Nupe (a West African language):

PALATALIZATION OF CONSONANTS BEFORE FRONT VOWELS; LABIALIZATION BEFORE ROUNDED VOWELS.

English:

HISTORICAL PALATALIZATION (FOLLOWED BY A SHIFT IN PLACE OF ARTICULATION)

(ii) **Vowel assimilates consonant features**

e.g. English:

VOWELS ARE NASALIZED WHEN ADJACENT TO A NASAL CONSONANT IN THE SAME SYLLABLE.

Chatino (spoken in Mexico):

UNSTRESSED VOWELS ARE VOICELESS BETWEEN VOICELESS CONSONANTS.

(iii) **Consonant assimilates consonant features**

e.g. English:

THE ENDINGS FOR THE PLURAL, THIRD PERSON SINGULAR, AND THE PAST TENSE AGREE IN VOICING WITH A PRECEDING CONSONANT.

Yoruba (spoken in West Africa); English:

THE NASAL CONSONANT BECOMES HOMORGANIC WITH A FOLLOWING CONSONANT.

(iv) **Vowel assimilates vowel features**

e.g. Turkish:

VOWEL HARMONY: VOWELS AGREE IN CERTAIN  
FEATURES (Turkish: backness and roundness)

German:

UMLAUT: BACK VOWELS ARE FRONTED BEFORE  
CERTAIN SUFFIXES CONTAINING A FRONT VOWEL

Umlaut was a productive rule in Old English:

*foot/feet*

*goose/geese*

*mouse/mice*

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Assimilation may be

(i) **progressive** (left-to-right)

e.g.    plot [l]          cry [ɹ]

(ii) **regressive** (right-to-left)

e.g.    bean [i]

## b. DISSIMILATION

A process in which two segments become less similar to each other.

e.g. English:

Latin → English

## 2. SYLLABLE STRUCTURE PROCESSES

Result in the preferred syllable structure: CV

### a. Deletion

#### Consonant deletion

e.g. French

A WORD-FINAL CONSONANT IS DROPPED IF THE FOLLOWING  
WORD BEGINS WITH A CONSONANT.

#### Vowel deletion

e.g. French

THE VOWEL OF THE DEFINITE ARTICLE IS DELETED IF THE  
FOLLOWING WORD STARTS WITH A VOWEL.

### b. epenthesis (segment insertion)

#### Consonant insertion:

e.g. Hanunoo (spoken in the Philippines):

THE CONSONANT h IS INSERTED TO BREAK UP A VOWEL  
CLUSTER.

In some dialects of English:

The *idea* came

But: the *idea-r-is* good.

r-INSERTION

## **Vowel insertion**

e.g. Latin:

THE VOWEL e IS INSERTED TO BREAK UP CONSONANT  
CLUSTERS WORD-FINALLY.

English:

A SCHWA IS INSERTED TO BREAK UP FINAL CONSONANT  
CLUSTERS.