

Phonological Alternations (=phonological processes)**Part 1.****1. ASSIMILATION**

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

(i) Consonant assimilates vowel features

Russian:

stol	<i>table</i>	stol'e	(Loc.Sg.)
vkus	<i>taste (N)</i>	vkus'ien	<i>tasty</i>
dar	<i>gift</i>	dar'it	<i>to give</i>
dom	<i>house</i>	dom'isko	<i>cottage</i>
bomba	<i>bomb</i>	bomb'it	<i>to bomb</i>

PALATALIZATION OF CONSONANTS BEFORE FRONT VOWELS.

Nupe (a West African language):

eg <i>i</i>	<i>child</i>	eg ^w <i>u</i>	<i>mud</i>
eg <i>ie</i>	<i>beer</i>	eg ^w <i>o</i>	<i>grass</i>

PALATALIZATION OF CONSONANTS BEFORE FRONT VOWELS;
LABIALIZATION BEFORE ROUNDED VOWELS.**(ii) Vowel assimilates consonant features**

English:

<u>s</u> ee	[i]	<u>s</u> een	[ĩ]
ca <u>t</u>	[æ]	ca <u>n</u> 't	[æ̃]

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

Chatino (spoken in Mexico):

tijéʔ	<i>lime</i>	t̥ihí	<i>hard</i>
kinó	<i>sandal</i>	k̥sú	<i>avocado</i>
suwí	<i>clean</i>	s̥uʔwá	<i>you send</i>
laʔá	<i>side</i>	t̥aʔá	<i>fiesta</i>
ngutá	<i>seed</i>	k̥utá	<i>you will give</i>
kít	<i>fire</i>	k̥itá	<i>you will wait</i>

UNSTRESSED VOWELS ARE VOICELESS BETWEEN VOICELESS CONSONANTS.

(iii) *Consonant assimilates consonant features*

Yoruba:

ba	<i>hide</i>	mba	<i>is hiding</i>
fɔ	<i>break</i>	mɸɔ	<i>is breaking</i>
tɛ	<i>spread</i>	ntɛ	<i>is spreading</i>
sun	<i>sleep</i>	nsun	<i>is sleeping</i>
kɔ	<i>write</i>	ŋkɔ	<i>is writing</i>
wa	<i>come</i>	ŋwa	<i>is coming</i>

THE NASAL CONSONANT BECOMES HOMORGANIC WITH A FOLLOWING CONSONANT.
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English:

cup <u>s</u>	[s]	cub <u>s</u>	[z]
rac <u>e</u> d	[t]	rais <u>e</u> d	[z]
back <u>s</u>	[s]	bag <u>s</u>	[z]
back <u>e</u> d	[t]	bagg <u>e</u> d	[d]

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

(iv). *Vowel assimilates vowel features*

Turkish:

diş	<i>tooth</i>	dişim	<i>my tooth</i>
ev	<i>house</i>	evim	<i>my house</i>
gönül	<i>heart</i>	gönülüm	<i>my heart</i>
göz	<i>eye</i>	gözüm	<i>my eye</i>
baş	<i>head</i>	başım	<i>my head</i>
kol	<i>arm</i>	kolum	<i>my arm</i>

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

German:

Gast	<i>guest</i>	Gäste	<i>guests</i>
Rat	<i>advice</i>	Räte	<i>advices</i>
Jahr	<i>year</i>	jährlich	<i>annual</i>
gut	<i>good</i>	gütig	<i>kind</i>
Not	<i>need</i>	nötig	<i>necessary</i>

UMLAUT: BACK VOWELS ARE FRONTED BEFORE CERTAIN SUFFIXES CONTAINING A FRONT VOWEL.
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Umlaut was a productive rule in Old English:

foot/feet
goose/geese
mouse/mice

Assimilation may be
(i) progressive (left-to-right)

e.g., plot [p]lɒt] cry [kɹɪ]

(ii) regressive (right-to-left)

e.g., bean [i]n]

2. DISSIMILATION

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

Latin	→	English
peregrinus		pilgrim
purpur		purple

English:

fifth [fθs] → [fts]

3. NEUTRALIZATION

Phonological distinctions are reduced in a particular environment. Segments that contrast in one environment, have the same representation in the environment of neutralization.

English:

bet	bet <u>ti</u> ng	[ɾ]
bed	bed <u>di</u> ng	[ɾ]

THE CONTRAST BETWEEN /t/ AND /d/ IS NEUTRALIZED
INTERVOCALICALLY FOLLOWING A STRESSED SYLLABLE.

German:

Rat <u>u</u>	[t]	<i>advice</i>	Räte	[t]	(Plural)
Rad <u>u</u>	[t]	<i>wheel</i>	Rä <u>d</u> er	[d]	(Plural)
bunt <u>u</u>	[t]	<i>colourful</i>	Bunt <u>e</u>	[t]	(Plural)
Bund <u>u</u>	[t]	<i>bundle</i>	Bund <u>e</u>	[d]	(Plural)

THE OPPOSITION BETWEEN /t/ AND /d/ IS NEUTRALIZED WORD-FINALLY.

English:

<u>a</u> ble	<u>a</u> bility	[ə]
super	superior	[ə]
phot <u>o</u> graph	phot <u>o</u> graphy	[ə]

VOWEL NEUTRALIZATION IN UNSTRESSED POSITIONS.

Study the *Stop nasalization in Korean* example (a neutralization process): pp. 128-130.

