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## Examples of regressive assimilation in phonology

### Regressive assimilation in phonology. Regressive assimilation examples. Examples of assimilation in phonology.

#### ASSIMILATION

a consonant sound at the end of a word becomes similar to a consonant sound at the beginning of another word:

/s + ʃ/ → /ʃ:/ this shop /ðiʃʃ'ʃop/  
/t + k/ → /k:/ that cake /ðæk'keɪk/  
/t + g/ → /g:/ greet guests /gri:g'gəstz/



#### Examples of progressive and regressive assimilation in english.

It is called phonetic assimilation to a process that consists of the pronunciation of a part of a word adapting and giving rise to a new sound, easier to pronounce according to the context, whether by adjacent or nearby segments. For example, the terms judge and even, which do not pose a particular difficulty in pronouncing them, evolved from judge and hadta, respectively. Note that if such an adaptation had not occurred, its articulation in our language would be complicated. In this article we will describe the types of assimilation Phonetic assimilation can occur under different conditions (proximity or adjacency) and also occur because of the previous word (in this case it is called progressive) or with respect to the subsequent (regressive). Since the terms progressive and regressive generate some confusion, there are alternative names for such concepts, such as being anticipatory or from right to left and preservative or from left to right, respectively. Phonetic Assimilation and its types Below are types of assimilation 1-Regressive by adjacency it is also called anticipatory and takes place if a phoneme uses phonetic features of the one found immediately after; 2-Progressive by proximity similar to regressive assimilation by adjacency, but using a phoneme that is not found directly after the affected one; 3-Progressive by proximity similar to regressive assimilation by adjacency, but using a phoneme that does not directly precede the main one. Phonetic assimilation according to distance Regarding this type of phonetic change, Linguistics takes into consideration the distance in which the phonemes are found between which the Assimilation is established, distinguishing in this sense Contact Assimilation, as well as distance assimilation, situations that will be understood in turn as follows: Essay on Anatomy Witches do exist real case Essay on knowledge is the assimilation that arises between phonemes that can be considered contiguous, that is, that is next to each other in the speech chain. According to what Linguistics points out, this precise type of phenomenon tends to be more consistent in certain languages, one of them being Spanish. An example of phonetic assimilation by contact may be how consonant phonemes such as the /p/ tend to sound when they are in an intervocalic position, due to the influence exerted by vowel phonemes on them, in the opposite direction, distance assimilation will be the linguistic change that occurs when a phoneme modifies its articulation due to the influence of another phoneme that is not adjacent to it in the speech chain, that is, they are not in contact. An example of this type of phenomenon can be seen in lapsus linguae, linguistic gaps where pronunciation changes, resulting in incorrect forms, for example, the case where the speaker pronounces [tree] instead of [tree] due to the influence of the phoneme /l/ over the phoneme /r/. Similarly, Linguistics chooses to distinguish a type of phonetic assimilation whose main attribute is the sense in which it occurs, that is, if the phonemes that change are, within the speech chain, preceding or after phonemes that influence this change. In this sense, two types of Assimilation by meaning can also be conceived, such as those defined below: Regressive assimilation occurs when the sound that influences the phoneme that changes is found before the phoneme that influences it. An example of this type of Assimilation in Spanish occurs for example in the lapsus lingua that occurs when the shape/tree / is pronounced as /tree/ since the phoneme /l/ would influence the phoneme /r/ which is located in the previous form. Progressive Assimilation Types of assimilation in phonetics on the other hand, if the phoneme that changes is later in the speech chain than the phoneme that influences it, then it will be spoken of progressive assimilation since it is given in front of the word.

## Partial Assimilation

### ■ “stopped” :

/d/ → [t] / [p] \_\_

(i.e. /d/ becomes [t] in the environment after [p].)

### ■ “picked” :

/d/ → [t] / [k] \_\_

(i.e. /d/ becomes [t] in the environment after [k].)

An example of this type of Assimilation can be given in the Iberian Spanish, around the word / become/taking into account the characteristics of each phoneme, it can be seen how /z/ is performed in this variety of Spanish as an interdental phoneme, while that /t/ is a dental phoneme, however, when they are contiguous in this way, for physiological reasons, both /z/ and /t/ are pronounced interdentally, that is to say, /t/ is internalized, due to the influence from /z/. Being next to each other would firstly be contact assimilation. Assimilation by scope Types of assimilation in phonetics Finally, Linguistics will also take in the case of Assimilation the magnitude or scope of the change in the phoneme, that is, if it comes to fully assume the characteristics of the phoneme that influences it, or if on the contrary it hardly assimilates some features. Therefore, the Assimilation by scope may be classified in turn into the following subtypes: Total assimilation it takes place when the changing phoneme completely abandons its features to assume the features of the phoneme that exerts influence on it. An example of this may be the form of greeting / see you later / in which some colloquial communicative registers tends to be carried out in a form/atta then / in which case the /s/ would abandon its phonetic characteristics to assume those of the /t/. In this sense, it would be faced with a total Assimilation, which also occurs by contact and regressively. Partial assimilation Types of assimilation in phonetics on the other hand, it can also happen that the influence of one phoneme on another hardly modifies some features of the phoneme that changes, such as moving its point of articulation, but without totally modifying the sound related to this phoneme. An example of this may be the partial modification undergone by the phoneme /n/ in the form in Spanish / width / since it displaces its alveolar joint point, to be performed as a palatal phoneme, due to the influence that the phoneme exerts on it / ch /. Due to the proximity and the sense in which the partial Assimilation is carried out in this case, it would be said that it is also by contact and equally regressive.

#### Assimilation

- Assimilation is a common phonological process by which one sound becomes more like a nearby sound. This can occur either within a word or between words.
- Assimilation can be synchronic—that is, an active process in a language at a given point in time—or diachronic. That is, a historical sound change.
- If a sound changes with reference to a following segment, it is traditionally called right-to-left, leading, or anticipatory assimilation; if it changes with reference to a preceding segment, it is traditionally called progressive.
- Regressive assimilation is also known as right-to-left, leading, or anticipatory assimilation. It is also called left-to-right, trailing, or preservative or preservative lagging or lag assimilation.
- Occasionally two sounds (inevitably adjacent) may influence one another in reciprocal ways. If the two sounds change in such a way that they end up with some of the features of both components, it is known as coalescence or fusion.

When we speak, we often change the ways we pronounce words. This tends to happen a lot if we speak fast. But do you know why this happens? This relates to the topic we are focusing on today - phonetic assimilation. We will explore the definition of phonetic assimilation, the different types, and some examples of each. We will also consider the differences between assimilation, elision, and epenthesis - as it is easy to get these three processes mixed up! Fig. 1 - Assimilation occurs in our speech when we slightly change the way we pronounce words. Assimilation in phonetics Assimilation in phonetics is the process in which a sound is influenced by and becomes similar to a surrounding sound. This means that the pronunciation can vary depending on the order of certain letters in different words.

## Progressive (or left-to-right) Assimilation

### ■ “dogs” :

/s/ → [z] / [g] \_\_

(the ending [s] is assimilated to [z] by the influence of the preceding voiced [g].)

### ■ “pubs” :

/s/ → [z] / [b] \_\_

(the ending [s] is assimilated to [z] by the influence of the preceding voiced [b].)

This is usually done to ease pronunciation, especially when words are said quickly. An example would be the word ‘handbag’. Native speakers rarely pronounce each letter clearly as this does not flow well and is more difficult to pronounce in fast speech. Instead, they would probably pronounce it as /həmbæg/ (hamburg). Why is this? This happens because both the /d/ and /b/ sounds have different places of articulation, meaning they are pronounced using different parts of the mouth: /d/ is pronounced by tapping the tongue against the alveolar ridge (the part right behind your upper teeth), /b/ is bilabial, meaning it is pronounced by placing both of your lips together. This makes it difficult to pronounce both of these letters sequentially, so the /d/ gets dropped. The /n/ sound is also pronounced by tapping the tongue against the alveolar ridge, but, because it comes before the bilabial consonant /b/, it is bilabial instead. This means that the /n/ sound turns into an /m/ sound. This makes it easier to pronounce the /m/ and /b/ sequentially, as they are both pronounced using the same parts of the mouth (the lips). Other examples of words where this process occurs are sandbox, standby, windbreaker, sandwich etc. The simplifying of consonants for ease of pronunciation can be called cluster reduction. What are the assimilation phonetics rules? Assimilation in phonetics can be described as having a certain set of rules. These rules determine how sounds assimilate to others depending on what's surrounding them. For example a sound being changed because of what precedes it such as the 's' in 'bags' being changed to a voiced 'z' sound. These assimilation 'rules' determine the different types of assimilation in phonetics. We'll have a look at these now. Types of assimilation in phonetics There are different types of assimilation depending on which sounds are altered. A sound can either be influenced by the sound that comes before it or after it. The types are as follows: Progressive (before) Regressive (after) Let's look at these in more detail. Progressive assimilation This refers to when a sound is influenced by the sound that comes before it. The /s/ sound is influenced by the previous sound and changes to a /z/ sound, e.g. /baegs/ (bags) → /baegz/ (bagz) Regressive assimilation This refers to when a sound is influenced by the sound that comes after it. The /n/ sound is influenced by the following sound and changes to an /m/ sound, e.g. /infə'meʃən/ (information) → /imfə'meʃən/ (information). The types of phonetic assimilation mentioned above can further be split into two degrees of assimilation: total and partial. Total assimilation This refers to when the sound affected by the assimilation becomes the same as the sound that causes the assimilation. You can notice this within words or across sentences. For example, let's take the phrase 'this shoe'. In fast speech, the /s/ sound at the end of 'this' is affected by the /ʃ/ (sh sound) at the beginning of 'shoe' and changes to the /ʃ/ sound.

Diagram illustrating the direction of phonetic assimilation:  
A horizontal line with arrows pointing from left to right, labeled "direction of process".  
Below the line:  
- "affected segment" is on the left, with an arrow pointing to the right.  
- "causing assimilation" is in the middle, with an arrow pointing to the right.  
- "segment" is on the right, with an arrow pointing to the left.  
- "ʃ" is on the far left, with an arrow pointing to the right.  
- "ʃd" is in the middle, with an arrow pointing to the right.  
- "ʃm" is on the far right, with an arrow pointing to the left.  
The text below the diagram states:  
"/is fu:/ (this shoe) → /ʃɪʃu:/ (this shoe) Partial assimilation This refers to when the sound affected by the assimilation becomes similar to the sound that causes the assimilation but does not change completely. For example, let's take the phrase 'sit back'. In fast speech, the /t/ sound is influenced by the following /b/ sound and changes to become a /p/ sound: /st̪ bæk/ (sit back) → /spbæk/ (spit-back)/p/ is similar to a /b/ as they share the same place of articulation - both sounds are made by placing your lips together and pushing air out. But, they are not entirely the same, so this is only partial assimilation. Partial assimilation is more common than total! Phonetic assimilation examples Below are some examples of phonetic assimilation: Change Examples Type of assimilation/n/ changes to an /m/ in peers/ (in Paris) → /m pəərɪs/ (im Paris)/sanbed/ (sunbed) → /səmbed/ (sum-bed) Regressive/d/ changes to a /t/ /mæd/ (mashed) → /mæʃt/ (mashed)/wɒʃd/ (washed) → /wɒʃt/ (washed)/ɒʃt/ (washed) Progressive/n/ changes to an /h/ /bæk/ (bank) → /bæk/ (bangk)/məkrek/ (incorrect) → /məkrek/ (incorrect) Regressive/s/ changes to a /z/ /dɒgz/ (dogs) → /dɒgz/ (dogz)/rægs/ (rugs) → /rægz/ (rugz) Progressive/v/ changes to an /f/ /hæv tu:/ (have to) → /hæf tu:/ (haf to)/fərvpəns/ (five pence) → /fəf pəns/ (faif pence) Regressive Assimilation and elision in phonetics It is easy to mix up elision and assimilation as they often occur simultaneously, and both are processes that change the pronunciation of words. Elision refers to when consonants are omitted from a word/phrase. This is usually done to make words or phrases easier to pronounce in fast speech. It helps the utterance flow more naturally. In the phrase 'you and me', instead of pronouncing all the letters, the /d/ sound can be dropped, and the /ə/ can be replaced with a schwa /ə/ sound. The schwa sound is not as strong of a sound and makes the words flow more efficiently. So, /ju: ənd mi:/ (you and me) turns into /ju: mi:/ (you 'n me). This refers to when extra sounds are added to a word. This does not change the spelling of the word, only the pronunciation. The word 'hamster' may be pronounced as /hæmpstə/ (hamster), as it is easier to transition from a /p/ to an /s/ than to follow an /m/ with an /s/ due to the places of articulation. The use of the rhotic /r/ sound in words that do not contain it in the spelling. This is known as the intrusive /r/. This is commonly found in most varieties of British English, where /r/ is added to words that usually would not contain one. E.g. The word drawing is pronounced like /drɔ:n/ (draw-ring). The terms assimilation and accommodation are both often used in phonetics when we talk about sound change. These are not interchangeable terms though; they relate to different types of sound change. Assimilation is when a sound change is influenced by and becomes similar to its surrounding speech sounds. Accommodation is when people's speech sounds change depending on who they're talking to. For example, if you're trying to make someone feel more comfortable or gain social approval, you'll slightly alter how you speak to accommodate the speech of your interlocutor. You can also create distance from the other person by emphasising linguistic differences and speaking differently to them. Both assimilation and accommodation are most often subconscious sound changes. Phonetic Assimilation - Key Takeaways Phonetic assimilation is the process in which a sound is influenced by and becomes similar to a surrounding sound. There are two types of phonetic assimilation: progressive and regressive. The two degrees of phonetic assimilation are: total and partial. Elision refers to when consonants are omitted from a word/phrase. Epenthesis refers to when extra sounds are added to a word.