Ling 105
Sounds of Language

Thursday, November 14, 2024

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Dissimilation

- Much less common than assimilation
- Latin *homine-* > Spanish *hombre*
  (also *nōmine-* > *nombre*, etc.)
- English *February*, (sometimes) *library*

Dissimilation

- English *-al* and *-ar*
- Which is underlying? What conditions the other allomorph?

vel<u>ar</u>	alveol<u>ar</u>	crani<u>al</u>
coron<u>al</u>	glott<u>al</u>	neur<u>al</u>
dent<u>al</u>	nucle<u>ar</u>	cochle<u>ar</u>
palat<u>al</u>	ocul<u>ar</u>	
uvul<u>ar</u>	nas<u>al</u>	

Epenthesis

- Insertion of a segment (a.k.a. prothesis if word-initial)
- Old Tamil prothetic [i]
  - e.g. rɑːmɑ- → irɑːmɑ-
- Spanish prothetic [e]
  - e.g. *estudiante* (< Latin *studēre* "apply oneself")
- Languages often epenthesize to break up clusters
  - e.g. Fijian kɑloko "clock"

Deletion

- Unstressed vowels often delete VC_CV in English
  e.g. *family, camera, chocolate, reference, opera*
- Not always: *family* vs. *Emily*?

Metathesis

- Only sporadic cases in English, e.g.
  - (dialectal) *ask* (e.g. both *ask* and *ax* in Chaucer)
  - *thirteen*, *bird*, *horse*, *wasp*, etc.
  - *Wednesday*
  - (dialectal) *sea anemone*

Neutralization

nominative singular	genitive singular	gloss
[glas]	[glaza]	"eye"
[les]	[lesa]	"forest"
[porok]	[poroga]	"threshold"
[vrak]	[vraga]	"enemy"
[urok]	[uroka]	"lesson"
[porok]	[poroka]	"vice"

- Gen. sg. is /-a/; no need to write a rule for a morpheme
- But we do need phonological rule(s) to account for any alternation(s)

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- Is the UR of "eye" /glas/ or /glaz/?
- If /glas/, we'd need a rule like obstruent → voiced / V_V
- If /glaz/, we'd need a rule like obstruent → voiceless / _#
- (We can't just say the URs are /glas/ and /glaz-a/, as that violates the one-UR-per-morpheme principle)

English

- English sibilant suffix (plural, etc.)
- Rule? Rule type?
- UR of suffix? (compare e.g. *peace*, *since*)

a.	cat[s]	cough[s]
	bloke[s]	cloth[s]
b.	dog[z]	pan[z]
	lab[z]	wave[z]
	pea[z]	clothe[z]

English (continued)

- Same suffix as previous slide
- Rule? Rule type?

c. glass[ɪz]   piec[ɪz]
    fizz[ɪz]   branch[ɪz]
    wish[ɪz]   garag[ɪz]

Rule ordering

- 2+ rules might be **crucially ordered**
- Is this true for the two English rules above?

Samoan

- UR of suffix? Rule to account for alternation?

simple	perfective	
olo	oloia	"rub"
lafo	lafoia	"cast"
usu	usuia	"face"
ulu	ulufia	"enter"
sau	sautia	"fall"
motu	motusia	"break"
oʔo	oʔotia	"arrive"
moʔo	moʔomia	"admire"
taŋo	taŋofia	"take hold"

Samoan (continued)

- Need an additional rule

paʔi	paʔia	"touch"
seŋi	seŋia	"be shy"

Ancient Greek

- Suffixes (posit URs, but no rules: they're added automatically)
- Phonological rules (should be purely phonological; do not say things like "in the genitive")

nominative sg.	genitive sg.	
hals	halos	"salt"
ois	oios	"sheep"
hus	huos	"sow"
kloːps	kloːpos	"thief"
p^{h}leːps	p^{h}leːbos	"vein"
p^{h}ulaks	p^{h}ulakos	"guard"
aiks	aigos	"goat"
t^{h}eːs	t^{h}eːtos	"serf"
elpis	elpidos	"hope"
r̥iːs	r̥iːnos	"nose"