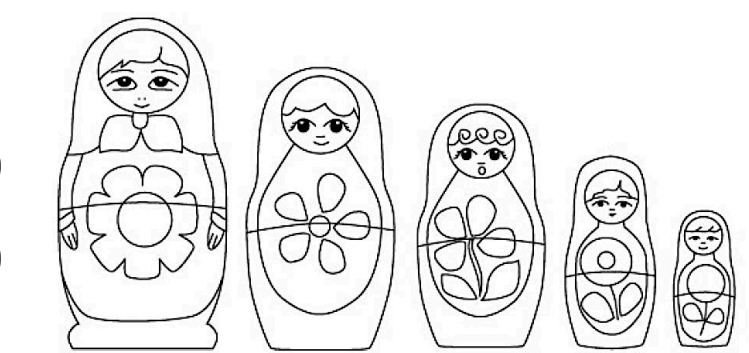


# The Matryoshka's Secret



## What the Online Adaptation of Russian Words by English Speakers Tells Us About Loanword Phonology

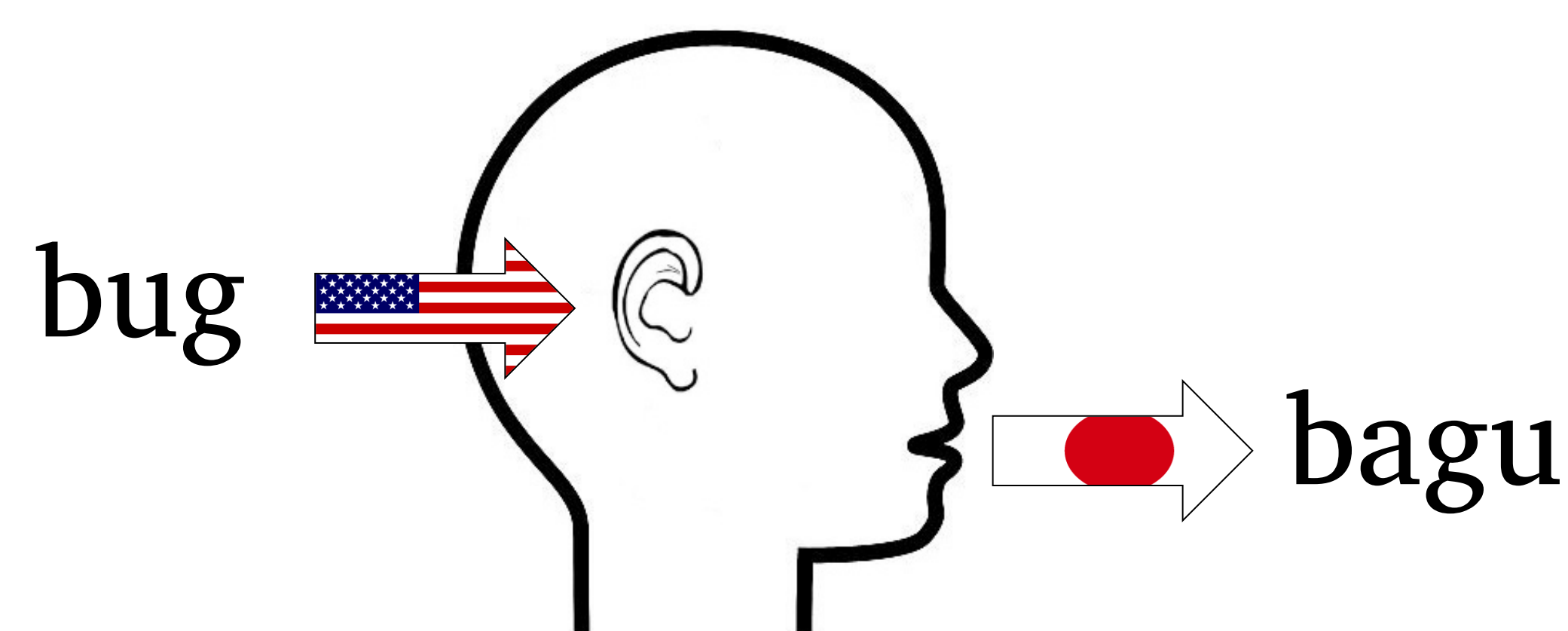
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### 1. PHONOLOGY

- the study of patterns of sound change in human language
- patterns are formalized as rules
- English Plurals
  - cat + s = cats
  - dog + s = dogz
- rules are universal → explains typological patterns

### 2. LOANWORD ADAPTATION



- the process by which words from one language are borrowed into another
- words are borrowed for a variety of reason:
  - new products from other countries
  - foreign names
- *source language* – donates the word
- *borrowing language* – receives the word

**GOAL:** Evaluate one popular theory of loanword adaptation using experimental methodologies.

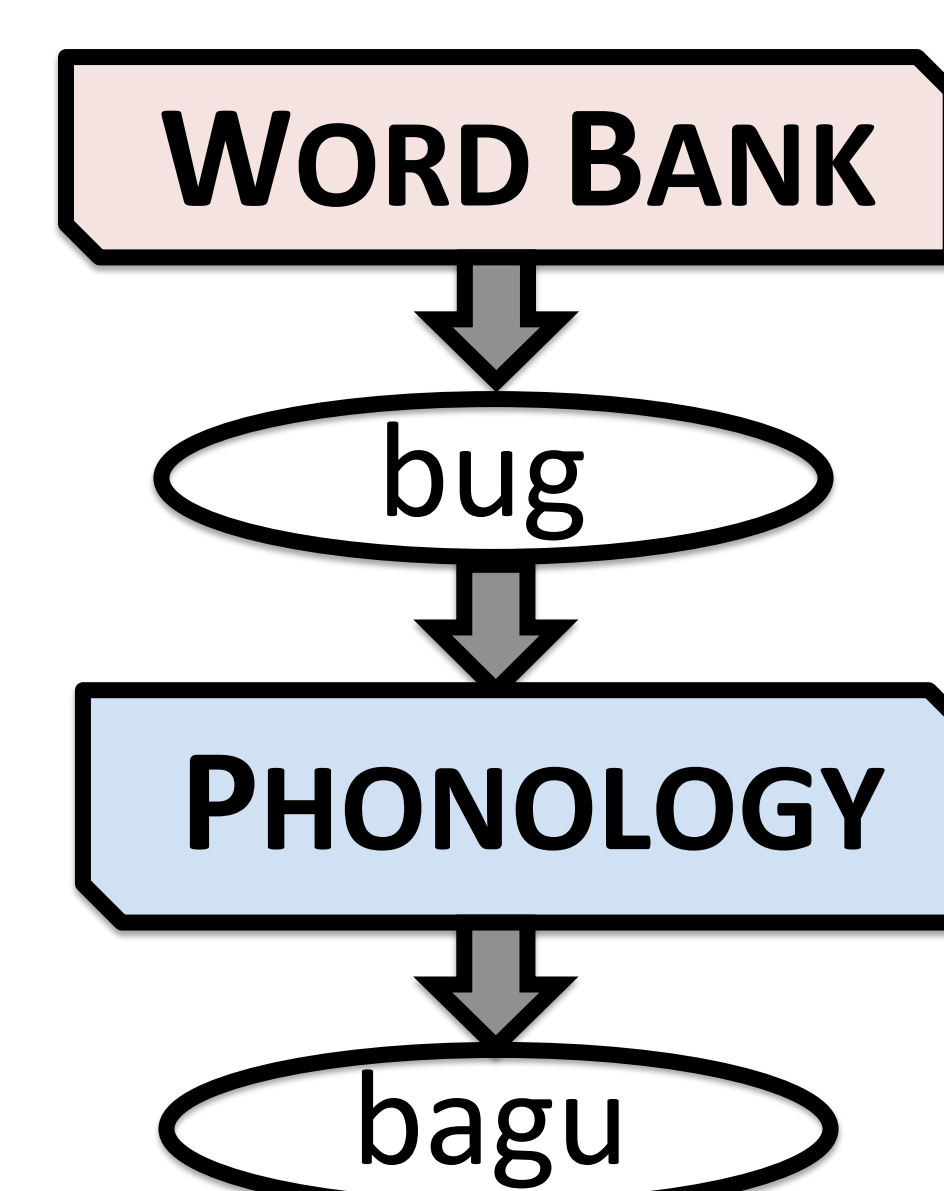
#### SELECT REFERENCES

[1] Paradis, C. & LaCharité, D. (2009). English Loanwords in Old Quebec French: Fewer Bilinguals does not mean a Great Increase in Naive Phonetic Approximation. *Langues et linguistique*, 32, 81-117. [2] Peperkamp, S., Vendelin, I. & Nakamura, K. (2008). On the perceptual origin of loanword adaptations: experimental evidence from Japanese. *Phonology*, 25, 129-164. [3] Paradis, C. & Tremblay, A. (2009). Nondistinctive features in loanword adaptation: The unimportance of English aspiration in Mandarin Chinese phoneme categorization. In Andrea Calabrese & W. Leo Wetzels (eds.), *Loanword phonology*, 211-224. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. [4] Peperkamp, S. (2005). A psycholinguistic theory of loanword adaptations. In: M. Ettlinger, N. Fleischer & M. Park-Doo (eds.) *Proceedings of the 30th Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society*. Berkeley, CA: The Society, 341-352. [5] Kochetov, A. (2002). *Production, perception, and emergent phonotactic patterns: A case of contrastive palatalization*. New York, London: Routledge.

### 3. PERSPECTIVES

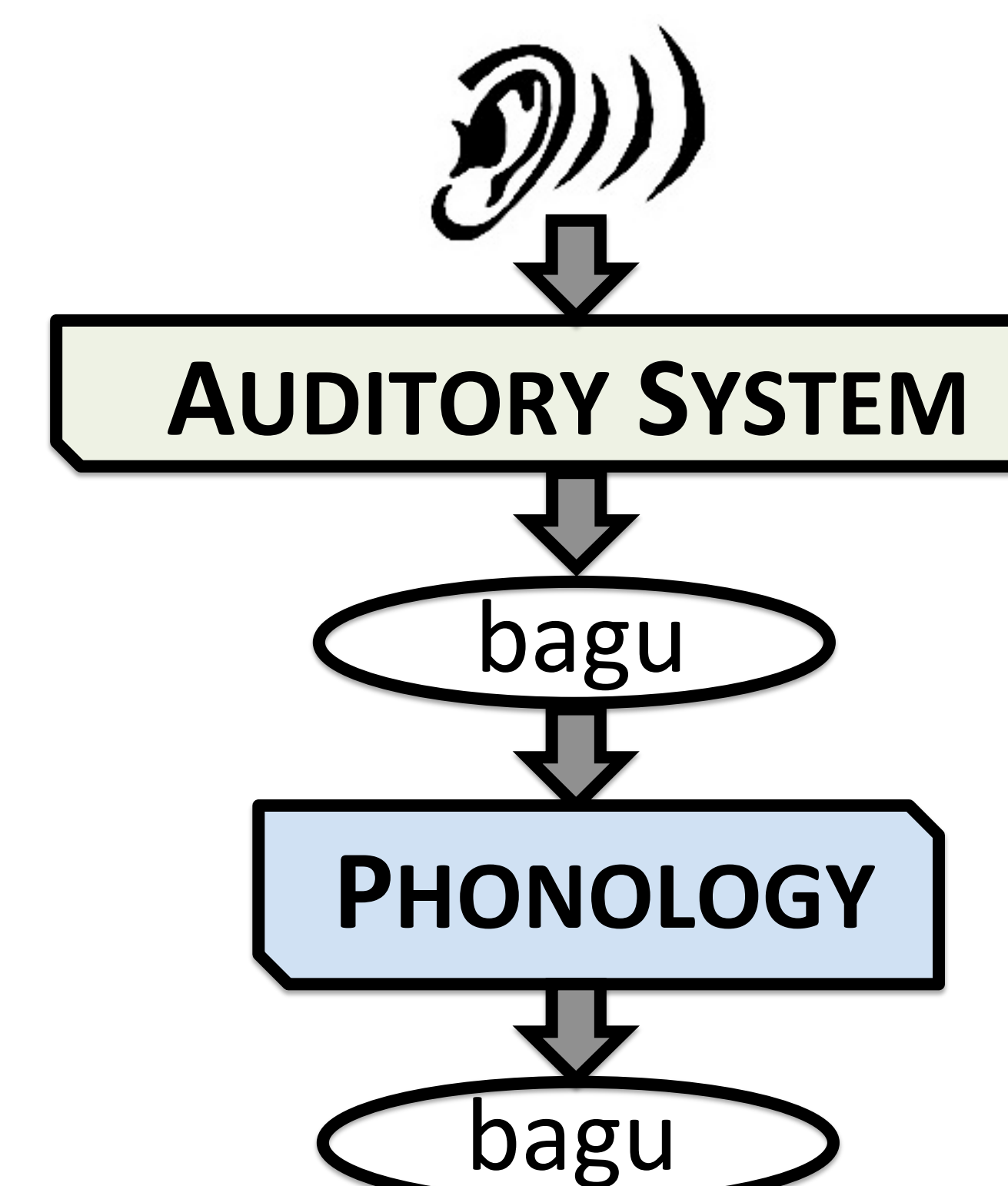
#### PHONOLOGY-BASED

- changes attributed to universal phonological rules [1]
- *experienced borrower* – knows the source language



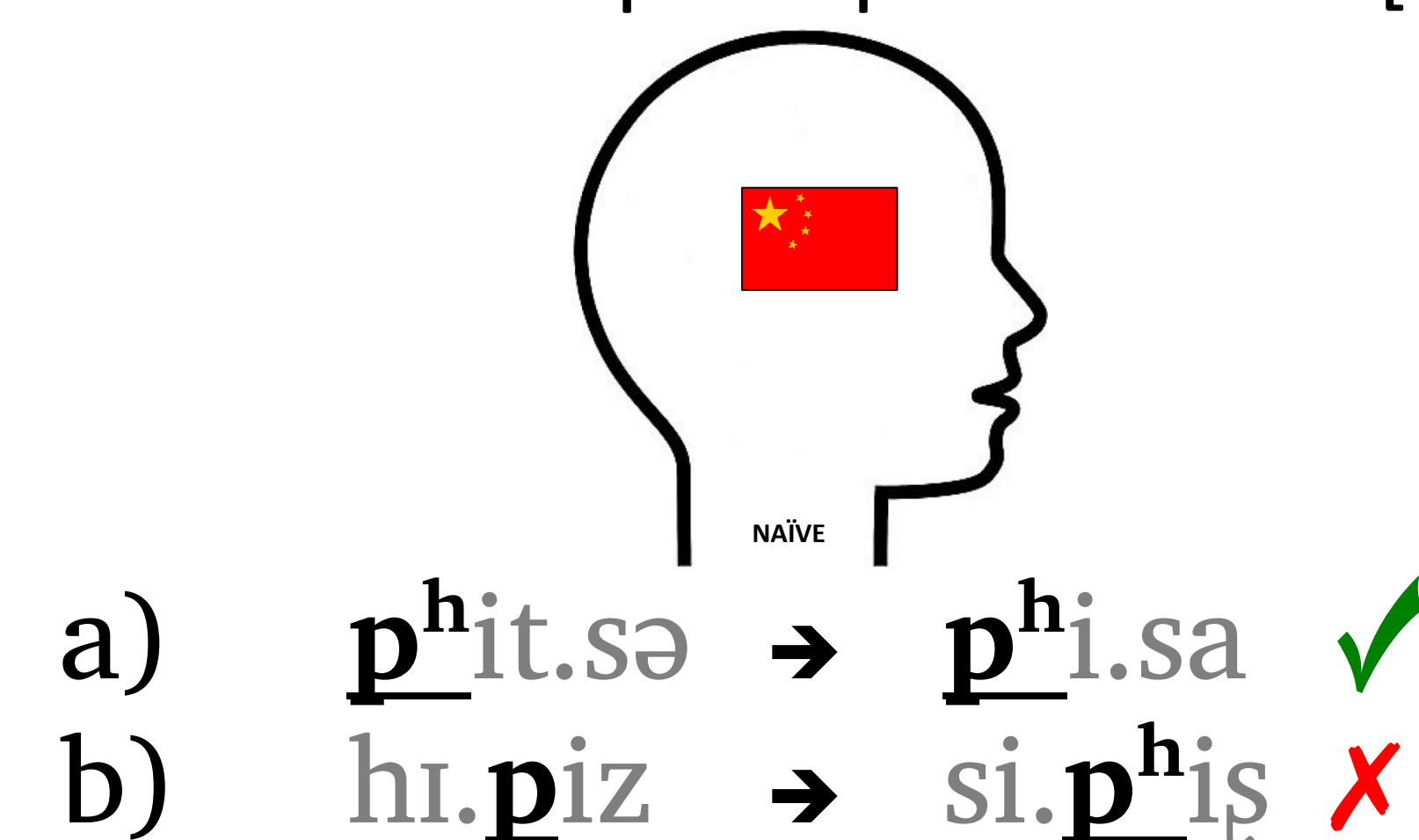
#### PERCEPTION-BASED

- changes attributed to psycho-acoustic properties of sounds [2]
- *naïve borrower* – does not know the source language

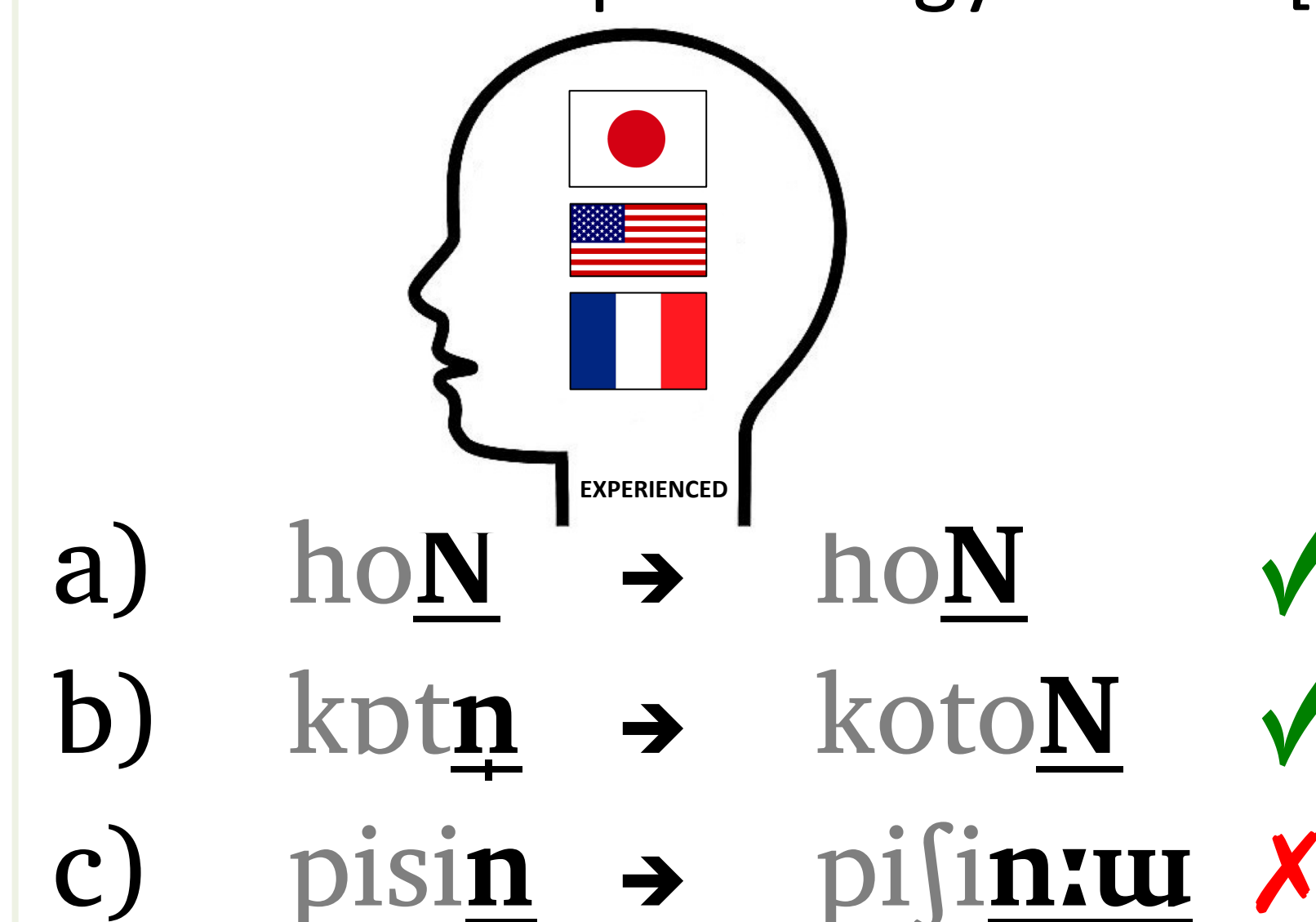


### 4. THE "CONFLICT"

- cannot be perception-based [3]



- cannot be phonology-based [4]



### 5. TWO TYPES OF LOANS?

- modern day Japan; high degree of bilingualism  
ミネラルウォーター  
mineraruwaataa

- Edo Japan; little to no bilingualism  
-  
wara

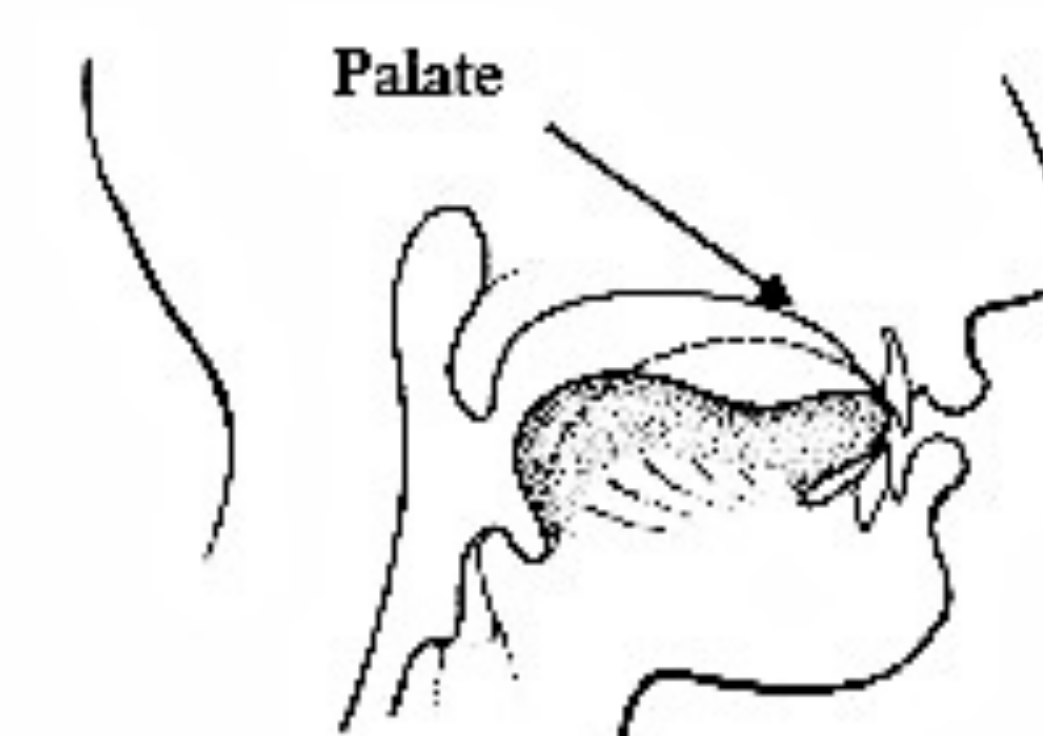
### 6. ISSUES

- no way of knowing who adapted a word once it's been established in a language
- simply speculating who the adapter was is not a sufficient way to motivate either theory  
**SOLUTION:** collect online adaptations from both experienced and naïve speakers to see if each theory makes the right predictions

### 7. PALATALIZED CONSONANTS

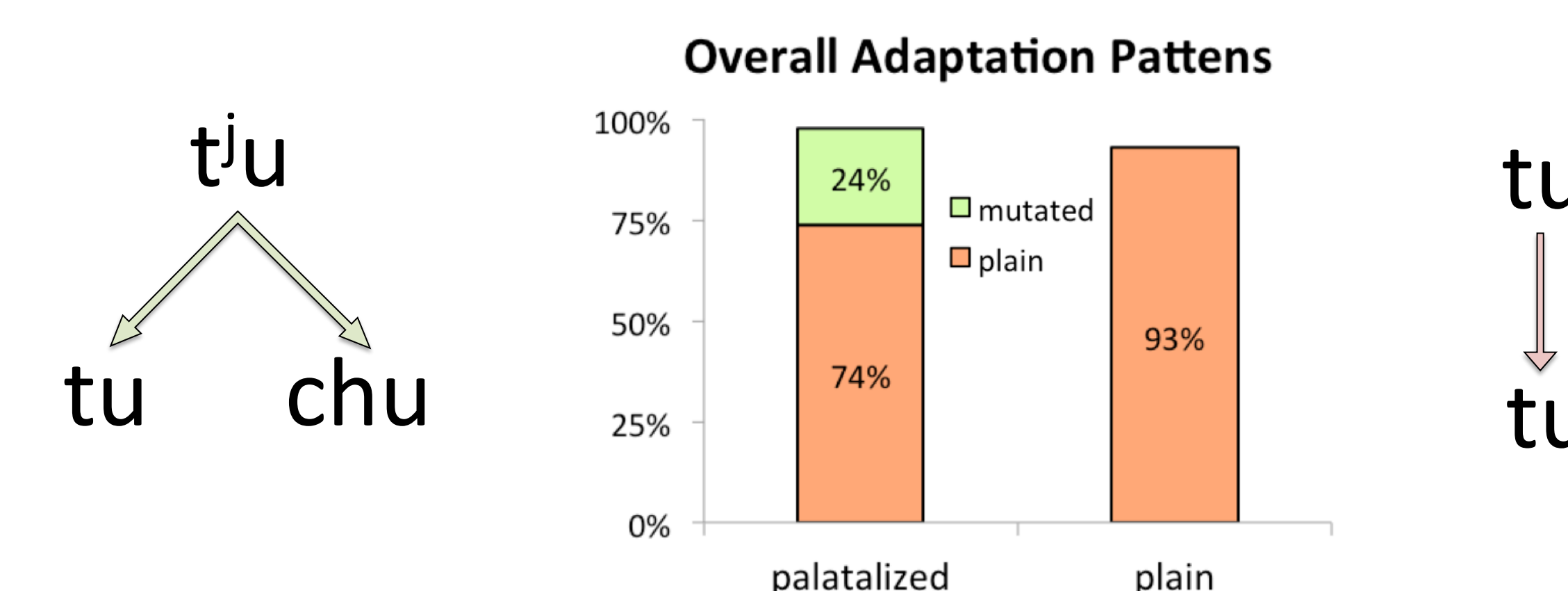
- can't have speakers adapt any word
- *we require foreign letters with distinct phonological and perceptual properties*
- palatalized consonants are not native to English and have have robust perceptual properties [5]

пат 'stalemate'  
пять 'five'



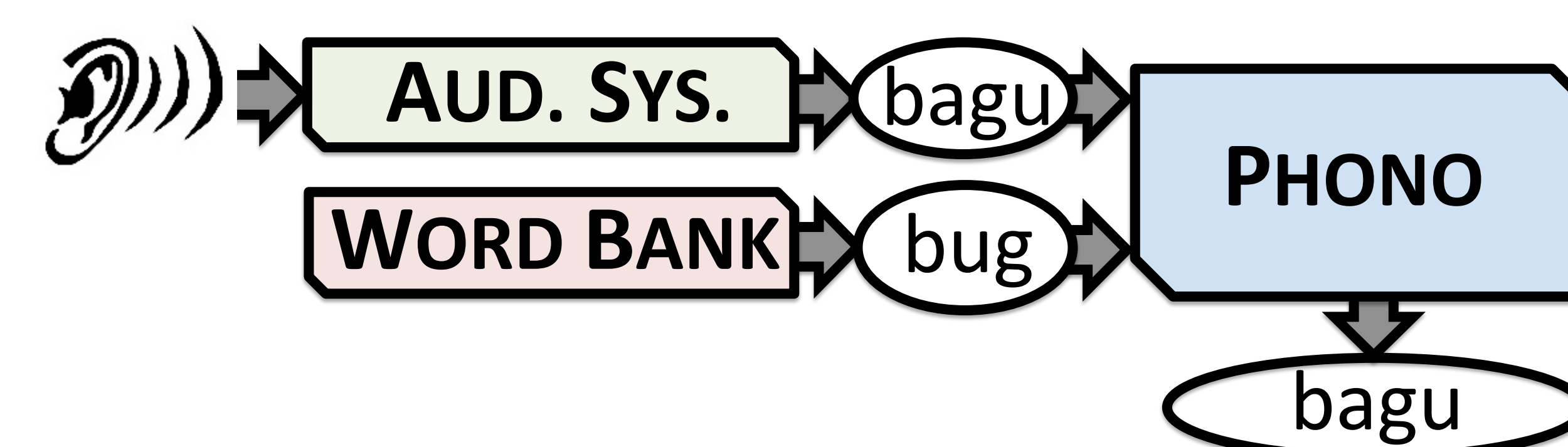
### 8. TESTING THE PERCEPTION ACCOUNT

- *Instructions:* Listen and "Americanize"



### 9. DISCUSSION

- The adaptations of English speakers, who have no experience with palatalized consonants, are correctly accounted for by a theory based on the auditory perception system.



**UPSHOT:** The adaptation process is dependent on the experience the borrower has with the source language; both theories of adaptation are necessary.