

Unit 7

Syllables & Rhythm (1):

assimilation, elision, morphophonology

Slides for the session of

Phonetics with Listening Practice (British)

held on

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⟨English Phonetics: Unit 7:⟩

/'ɪŋ.gɪf/ /fə.'net.ɪks/ /'ju:n.ɪt/ /sev.n/

['ɪŋ.gɪf.ə.'ner.əks.'jʊ:n.ət.'sev.ŋ] (AusE, broad)

⟨Syllables & Rhythm (1)⟩

/'sɪl.əb.əlz/ /ən/ /'rɪð.əm/ /wʌn/

['sɪl.əb.ɪz.ŋ.'ɹ̥wɪð.m. | 'wʌn] (AusE, broad)

⟨assimilation, elision, morphophonology⟩

/ə.'sɪm.ə.'leɪf.ən/ /i.'lɪz.ən/ /,mɔ:f.əʊ.fəʊ.'nɒl.ədʒ.i/

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① Assimilation

② Morphophonology

Assimilation and elision: theory

- Consonants at the edge of one syllable often adapt to neighbouring consonants — becoming more similar to them (ASSIMILATION) or disappearing altogether (ELISION) — so as to make the pronunciation smoother.

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- The next slide contains examples from Eckert and Barry:

Assimilation and elision: examples

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- [aɪ kən 'du: ɪt] → [aɪkŋ 'du:ˌwɪt]

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- Note:
 - ⟨Governors-General⟩ (plural)
 - ⟨Governor-General's⟩ (genitive singular).

Flexional morphophonology: past tense

- The regular past tense morpheme (typical spelling: ⟨ed⟩) is realized phonologically in three different ways:

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 - In modern English, ⟨èd⟩ and ⟨ed⟩ are used instead.
 - “His work was soon in rehearsal
Because he always usèd Purcell” (Flanders and Swann).

Derivational morphophonology (plus lexical and syntactic stress)

- See Eckert and Barry, pages 239 to 243.

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- We will examine some of these issues from a different perspective in the next class.