

TYPES OF SOUND CHANGE

Sounds in a language may change over long periods of time. Most often they occur in order to ease pronunciation or simplify articulation of words.

INSERTION OR ADDITION OF SOUNDS

- One type of sound change involves insertion of a sound in a word to simplify its articulation.
- Epenthesis is the general term for it. Depending on the different positions within a word the sounds are inserted they may be given different names.

Prothesis

- Prothesis: Insertion of a sound in the beginning of a word.
- Eg. The initial vowel sound in Spanish words like *estate*, *espagnole*, etc
- Hindi: [iskuul] for *school*, [isteʃan] for *station*

Anaptyxis

- Anaptyxis: Insertion of a sound between two sounds in a word. The vowel insertion in the following words to simplify consonant clusters exemplify it.
- Eg.: skt. Karma > karam in dialects of Hindi
 - Dharma > dharam
 - Sneha > saneha
 - Prasaad > parsaad

- Enthesis: Insertion of sound at the end of the word is known as Enthesis
- Hindi: *davaa* > *davaai*
- *sandef* > *sandefaa*

Deletion or Loss of sounds

- Deletion: Sometimes some sounds within words could also get lost in course of time to simplify their articulations. Deletion may obtain in any position within a word whereby they are given different names as follows:

Aphaeresis

- Aphaeresis: Loss of a sound word initially (Consonant or vowel)
- Eg.: skt. Sneha > neha
- sphurti > furtii
- anaaj > naaj
- jmafaan > masaan

Syncope

- Syncope : Loss of a sound word medially
- Eg.: skt. Dugdha > Hindi duudha
- Hindi Galatii > galtii
- Skt. Vaartaa > baat
- u[Tra > uunTa

Apocope

- Apocope: Loss of sound at the end of the word
- Eg.: jilaa > sil
- Satya > sat

Assimilation

- Assimilation: When two contiguous sounds in a word become similar in articulation it is said to be assimilation.
- Eg.: in + balance > [imbæləns]
- In + gratitude > [ɪŋgrætɪtʃuəd]

Progressive assimilation

- If a sound influences its following sound to make it similar to it, it is said to be Progressive Assimilation, as in the following:
- Skt. satya > Prakrit sattaā
- patra > pattaā
- cakra > cakkaa

Regressive Assimilation

- If the following sound influences its preceding sound to make it similar to it, it is said to be Regressive assimilation
- Skt. Sapta > Prakrit sattaā
- Skt. jarkara > jakkar
- Skt. galpa > gappa
- dharma > Prakrit dhammaa

Partial assimilation

- If the sound is assimilated not completely to the preceding or following sound it is partial assimilation. Only place of articulation has been assimilated in the preceding consonant of the prefix in- in the following:
- In +balance > imbalance

Total Assimilation

- If a sound becomes totally like the preceding or following sound in the word it is Total assimilation
- Skt. Satya > sattaa
- patra > pattaa

Dissimilation

- Dissimilation: If the contiguous sounds in a word become dissimilar to one another, then it is said to be Dissimilation.

Progressive Dissimilation

- If the following sound in a word is made dissimilar from the preceding one, it is Progressive dissimilation.
- Skt. **Kaak** > **kaag**
- **Kankan** > **kangan**

Regressive Dissimilation

- If the preceding sound in a word is made dissimilar from the following one, is Regressive dissimilation
- Skt. Daridra > daliddar

Metathesis

- Metathesis: Sometimes the sounds within a words may interchange their positions. This is known as metathesis.
- Anguli > ungali
- Caaku > kaacu
- kiicaD > ciikaD
- vaaraaNasi > banaaras
- laknaw > naklaw

- Haplology: When consequent syllables carry similar sounds, one of them gets dropped in articulation.
- Eng. [laibrari] > [laibri]
- Engalnd > England
- Gentlely > [jently]

Causes for Language Change

- Ease of pronunciation or Least effort: People often simplify the pronunciation of words to economize on their efforts to produce them. Some of the changes like assimilation, deletion and addition are instances of such changes.

Causes for Language Change

- Overcharged Emotions: When people are overpowered by emotions, they are likely to modify the forms of the words giving rise to new forms of the words. For instance, articulations like dadada for daada, bacuaa for bacca, or biTiya for beTi are examples for such changes in sounds.

Causes for Language Change

- Fast Speech: Even in fast speech, sounds or syllables within words may get lost. Massaab for Master Saahab, or Daaksaab for Daaktar Saab in Hindi are instances for changes in the articulation of words due to fast delivery.

Causes for Language Change

- Creativity of writers: Sometimes gifted writers in the language may effect changes in the shape of the words to adhere to the requirements of meter or give new expressions. Words are ankhaDia instead of aankh, muurakh in place of murkh are instances whereby conventional forms of the words have been modified.

Causes for Language Change

- Adaptation of Non-native words: Words also undergo changes in their form in the process of nativization of Non-native vocabulary. For instance, word forms in Hindi like laalten for lantern, aspataal for hospital, akaadami for Academy, trasadii for tragedy are due to this process of native adaptation.
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