

Principles of Language Change

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Are you aware of language change?

Lexical changes

- Computer
- Internet
- Surfen
- Handy

Grammatical changes

- wegen des Wetters > wegen dem Wetter
- käme > würde kommen
- meines Vater's Auto > mein Vater sein Auto
- weil ich das nicht mag > weil ich mag das nicht

Recent changes in English

- (1) The media is not objective.
- (2) He is like:‘
- (3) Hopefully, I’ll be there in time.

- (4) Fortunately, it did not rain on that day.
- (5) Honestly, you have no taste.
- (6) I hope (that) I’ll be there in time.

Recent changes in English

- (1) My car is being broken.
- (2) My house is being painted.
- (3) This problem is being discussed in class.

- (1) My car is repairing.
- (2) My house is painting.
- (3) This problem is discussing in class.

What the media say?

British newspapers

We seem to be moving ... towards a social and linguistic situation in which nobody says or writes or probably knows anything more than an approximation to what he or she means.

[The Sunday Times 1999]

British newspapers

English used to be a language which foreigners couldn't pronounce but could often understand. Today it is rapidly becoming a language which the English can't pronounce and few foreigners can understand.

[The Daily Telegraph 1968]

British newspapers

We go out of our ways to promulgate incessantly ... the very ugliest sounds and worst possible grammars.

[The Sunday Times 1986]

What linguists say?

What linguists say

The history of all Aryan languages is nothing but a gradual process of decay.

[Max Müller 1886]

What linguists say

In the evolution of languages the discarding of old flexions goes hand in hand with the development of simpler and more regular expedients that are rather less liable than the old ones to produce misunderstandings.

[Otto Jespersen 1922]

What linguists say

Progress in the absolute sense is impossible, just as it is in morality or politics. It is simply that different states exist, succeeding each other, each dominated by certain general laws imposed by the equilibrium of the forces with which they are confronted. So it is with language.

[Joseph Vendryes 1923]

Topics, syllabus, requirements

Topics

- Patterns of language change
- Explanations for language change
- Implications of language change for linguistic theory

Course schedule

- The IE language family and the comparative method
- Phonological change (2 meetings)
- Lexical and semantic change
- Morphological change
- Grammaticalization
- Sociolinguistic aspects of language change
- Lexical and geographical diffusion
- Final exam

Requirements

- Final exam
- Short presentation
- Assignment on lexical change (2.6. 18:00)

Readings

Trask, R.L. 1996. *Historical Linguistics*. London: Arnold.

Aitchison, J. *Language Change. Progress or Decay*.
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Croft, W. 2000. *Explaining Language Change. An Evolutionary Approach*. Harlow: Longman.

McMahon, A.M.S. 1995. *Understanding Language Change*.
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

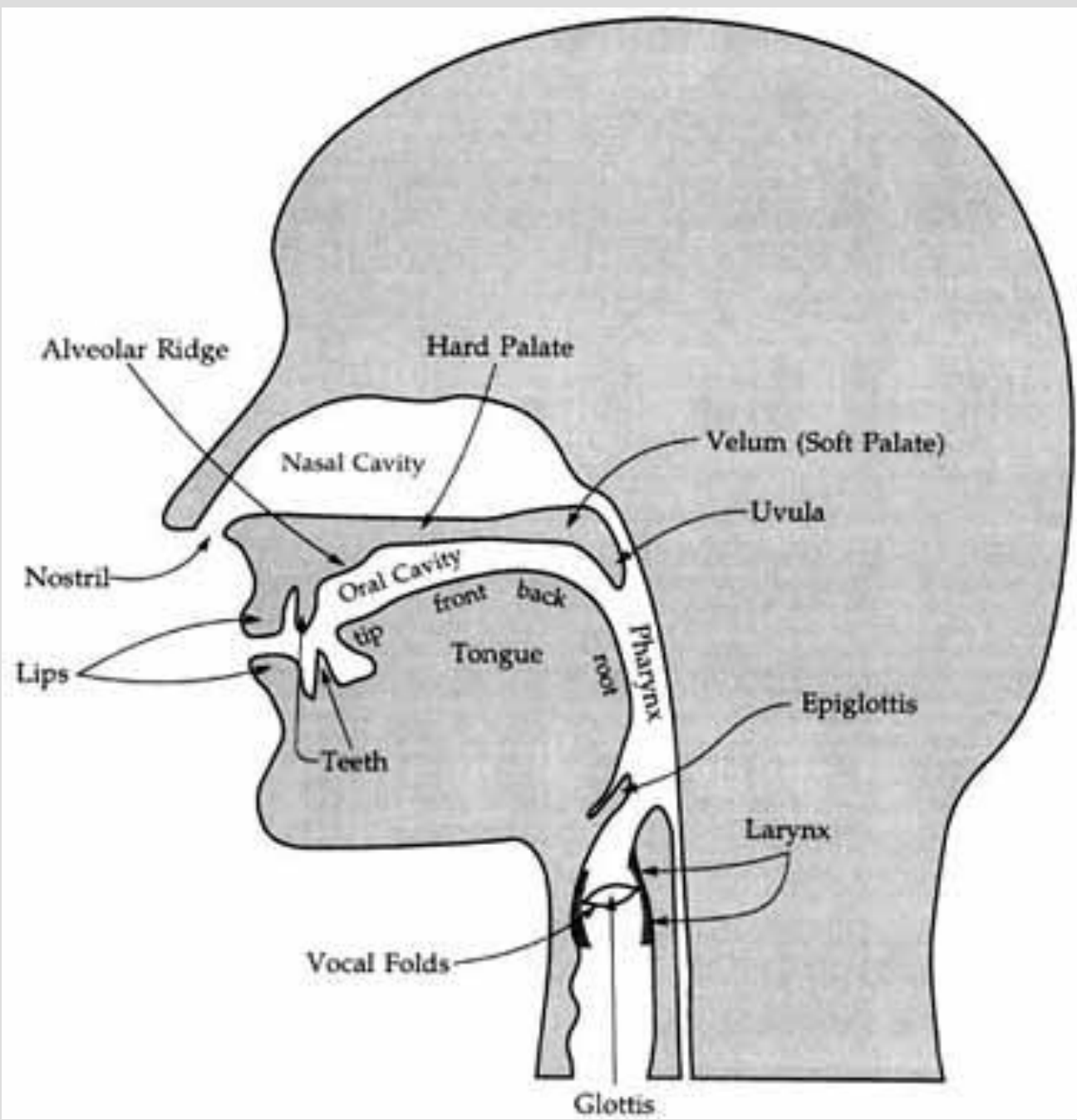
Hock, H.H. 1991. *Principles of Historical Linguistics*. Berlin:
Mouton de Gruyter.

Everything that students have always wanted to
know about phonology
(but where ashamed to ask)

Basic speech sounds

Classification of consonants

- Voicing
- Manner of articulation
- Place of articulation



Voiced – voiceless consonants

[f] father

[v] vase

[s] salt

[z] zoo

[t] tree

[d] door

Manner of articulation

Plosives	[p] [b] [t] [d] [k] [g] [ʔ]
Fricatives	[f] [v] [θ] [ð] [s] [z] [ʃ] [ʒ]
Affricates	[tʃ] [dʒ]
Nasals	[m] [n] [ŋ]
Liquids	[l] [r]
Glides	[w] [j]

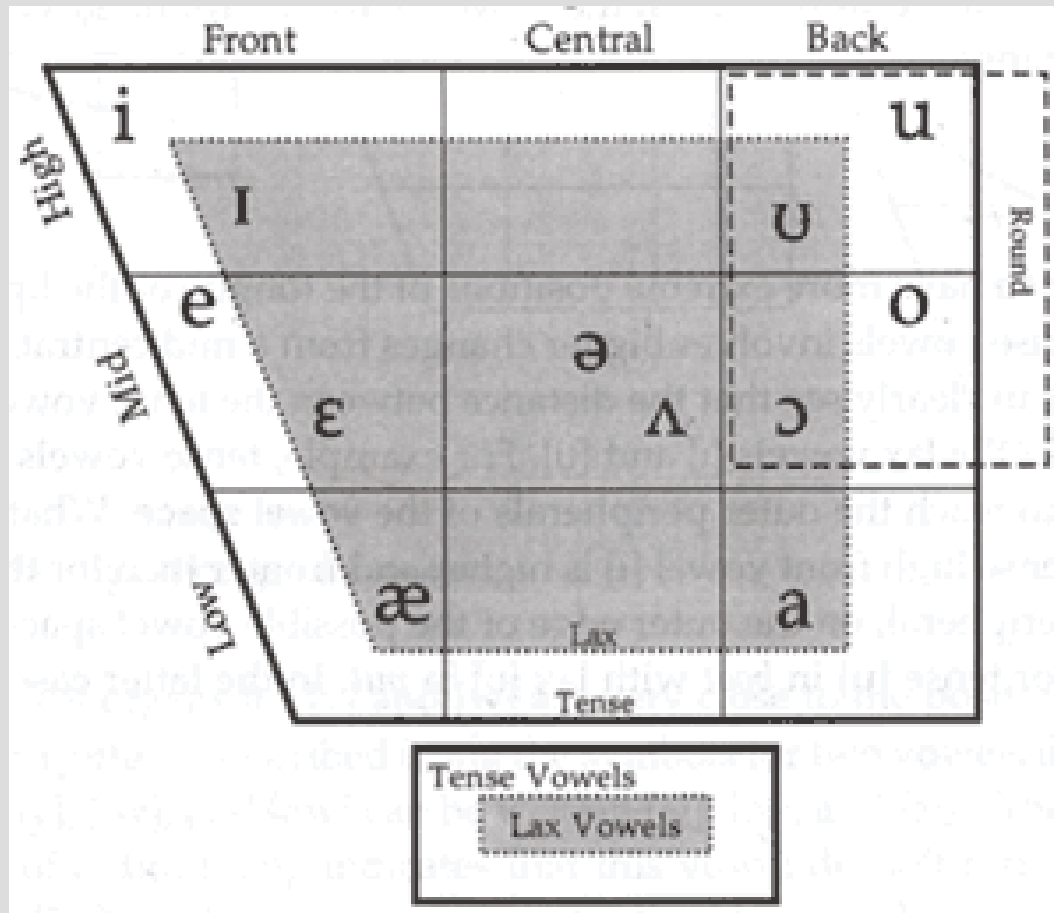
Place of articulation

Bilabial	[p] [b] [m] [w]
Labiodental	[f] [v]
Interdental	[θ] [ð]
Alveolar	[t] [d] [s] [z] [n] [l] [r]
Pala-Alev.	[ʃ] [ʒ] [tʃ] [dʒ] [j]
Velar	[k] [g] [ŋ] [w]

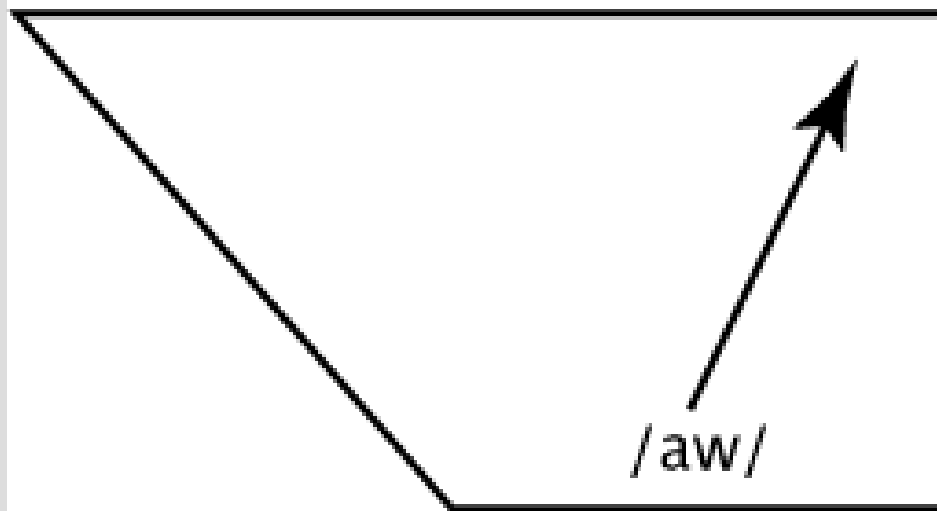
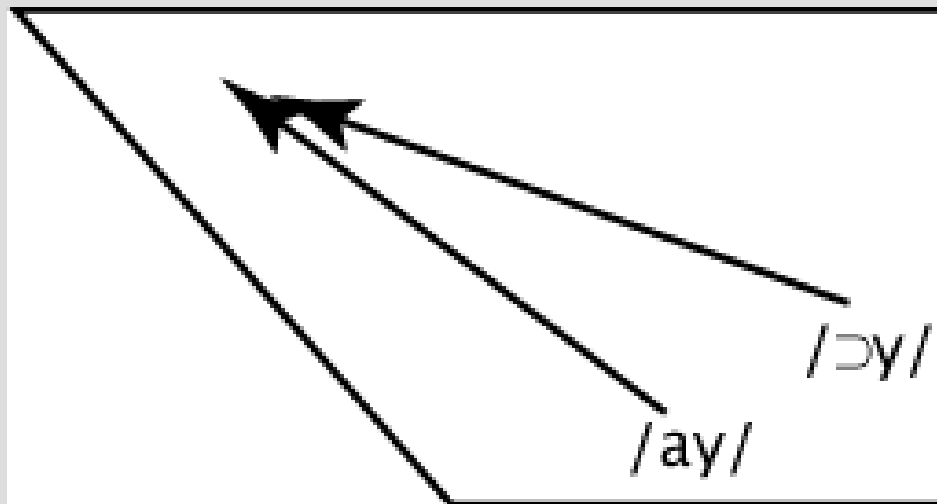
Classification of vowels

- height
- advancement
- lip rounding
- tenseness

English vowels



English diphthongs



Exercise

Provide the articulatory features

- a. [z] Voiced, alveolar, fricative
- b. [dʒ] Voiced, palatal-alveolar, affricate
- c. [y] Voiced, palatal, glide
- d. [ɪ] High, front, lax, unrounded
- e. [ʊ] High, back, lax rounded

Phonemes and allophones

Nasalization

[kæ̃n]

can

[kã̃m]

come

/N/

→

[nasal V] / ___N

[oral V] elsewhere

Vowel lengthening

[bɛːd]

bed

[hɛːv]

have

/V/

→

[long V] / ___ [+voice]

[short V] elsewhere

Flapping

[bʌtər] butter

[bətər] better

/t/ → [ɾ] / after stressed syllables at the
beginning of an unstressed syllable
[t] elsewhere

Minimal pairs

hit

heat

fan

van

dime

time

back

bag

Sue

zoo

German [x] – [ç]

[**a**x̩t]

eight

[ɪ**ç**]

I

[b**u**x̩]

book

[ɛ**ç**t]

real

[l**o**x̩]

hole

[spri**ç**]

speak

[h**o**:x̩]

hoch

[lɛ**ç**əln]

smile

[fl**u**x̩t]

flight

[ri**ç**ən]

smell

[l**a**x̩ɛn]

laugh

[fɛ**ç**tən]

to fence

Morphophonemics

Morphophonemics

[kæts]

cats

[kisəz]

kisses

[dɒgz]

dogs

[dʒɪræfs]

giraffes

[bʊʃəz]

bushes

[gærəʒəz]

garages

[kɑːz]

cars

[mætʃəz]

matches

[laɪts]

lights

[bæŋks]

banks

[s] after voiceless speech sound

[z] after voiced speech sounds

[əz] after sibilants

Morphophonemics

[ɪmpɒsɪbl̩]	impossible
[ɪnsɛnsətɪv]	insensitive
[ɪŋkɒnsɪstənt]	inconsistent

[m]	before labials
[n]	before alveolars
[ŋ]	before velars

Phonetic exercises

Exercise 1

Provide the phonetic symbol

- a. High front tense unrounded vowel [i]
- b. Low back lax unrounded vowel [a]
- c. Voiced labiodental fricative [v]
- d. Voiceless palatal fricative [ʃ]
- e. Voiced velar nasal [ŋ]

Exercise 2

Provide the articulatory features

- a. [z] Voiced, alveolar, fricative
- b. [dʒ] Voiced, palatal-alveolar, affricate
- c. [y] Voiced, palatal, glide
- d. [ɪ] High, front, lax, unrounded
- e. [ʊ] High, back, lax rounded

Exercise 3

Identify the common articulatory features

- a. [k, ŋ, g, x] velar
- b. [v, ʒ, z, ʤ] voiced fricatives
- c. [w, y] glides
- d. [i, e, o, u] tense vowels
- e. [e, o, ɔ, ε] mid vowels

Exercise 4

Provide the IPA symbol for the first speech sound

- | | | | |
|------------|-----|------------|------|
| a. though | [ð] | a. judge | [dʒ] |
| b. easy | [i] | b. Thomas | [t] |
| c. knife | [n] | c. physics | [f] |
| d. thought | [θ] | d. civic | [s] |
| e. contact | [k] | e. use | [j] |

Exercise 5

Write in ordinary English

- | | |
|------------|----------|
| a. [ritʃ] | reach |
| b. [rɪdʒ] | ridge |
| c. [kaɪt] | kite |
| d. [ækʃn] | action |
| e. [θæŋks] | thanks |
| f. [ʃules] | shoelace |

Exercise 5 (Italian)

[faŋgo]	mud	[tinta]	dye
[tɛnda]	tent	[tɛŋgo]	I keep
[tiŋgo]	I dye	[fuŋgo]	mushroom
[nero]	black	[byaŋka]	shite
[aŋke]	also	[dansa]	dance
[dzɛnte]	people	[sapone]	soap

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[sapone]

soap

Exercise 6 (German)

[axt]	eight	[Iç]	I
[bux]	book	[εçt]	real
[lɔx]	hole	[sprIç]	speak
[hoːx]	hoch	[lεçəlɪn]	smile
[fluxt]	flight	[riçən]	smell
[laxən]	laugh	[fεçtən]	to fence

Exercise 7 (Old English)

[bringan]	to bring	[lʊvu]	love
[driŋkan]	to drink	[mannes]	mans
[fæst]	fast	[mo:na]	moon
[fi:fta]	fifth	[ni:xsta]	next
[fɔlk]	folk	[ɔffrian]	to offer
[fɔnt]	font	[ɔvans]	oven
[ha:t]	hot	[n:on]	noon
[hlo:θ]	troop	[ru:x]	rough
[θuŋgɛn]	full grown	[lɛŋgan]	to lengthen
[nixt]	night	[hrævn]	raven

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