Lecture 3  The vowel system; clipping

1. VOWEL NOTATION. The phonemic transcription of English vowels may be
   • quantitative:  reed /ri:d/, rid /rid/  DJ Outline, EPD1-12
   • qualitative:  reed /ri:d/, rid /rid/  Ladefoged, Abercrombie (t = t)
   • (both)  reed /ri:d/, rid /rid/  Gimson, Roach, Wells LPD
     —see discussion at http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/wells/ipa-english-uni.htm

2. THE R.P. VOWELS (strong vowels)


3. PRE-FORTIS CLIPPING

feed /fi:d/, but feet /fi:t/  [fɪt, fɪʔt, fɪʔ]  
rise /raɪz/, but rice /raɪs/; etc.

first version:
V → [clipped] / _ [-voi]  When followed by a fortis consonant, a vowel undergoes clipping, i.e. has its duration cut, with no change of quality.

fee-paying /ˈfiːpiŋ/, scorecard /ˈskɔːrd/, U-turn, etc.

second version:
V → [clipped] / _ [-voi]; #  A vowel undergoes clipping when followed by one or more fortis consonants in the same morpheme.

build /bʊld/, but built /bʊlt/  [brʊt, brʊʔt, brʊʔ]

third version:
syllable


4. RHYTHMIC CLIPPING

read, reader, readership; man, manage, management; tend, tender, tenderness. ‘Stress-timed rhythm’, ‘isochrony’: Duration is progressively less as progressively more syllables follow within the same stress group.
teach, teacher; use (n), useful, usefulness