

Lecture 6 Some rules affecting consonants

A. Some allophonic rules (realization rules).

See also Ladefoged's *A Course in Phonetics*, 4th ed., 'Rules for English consonant allophones', p. 57-60.

1. LENIS OBSTRUENT DEVOICING

[+voi -son] → (partially) devoiced when adjacent to [-voi] or pause

2.1 STOP APPROACH

- nasal after a homorganic nasal *amber, under, anger*
- lateral after a homorganic lateral *alter, builder*
- for fortis plosives only: with possible reinforcing [ʔ]
if preceded by a vowel or sonorant C
AND followed by a consonant (not syllabic, not nasal) or pause
cats, atlas, likely; cap||, lot||, back||; April, awkward;
amplify, thankyou; teacher, petrol; benches, poultry

2.2 STOP RELEASE

- nasal before a nasal *submit, kidney, acne*
- lateral before a homorganic lateral *atlas, medley*
- (RELEASE MASKING) before a non-homorganic plosive *acting, captain*
- (no release: gemination) before homorganic plosive *bedtime, background*

3. GLOTTAL REPLACEMENT

Syllable-final /t/ may → [ʔ]

- before (# and) a nasal *atmosphere, button*
- before (# and) any obstruent *nighttime, put down, football, not far*
- and for some speakers/styles more widely *not yet right, cut off*
- NB preceding segment must be vowel/sonorant **test me*

4. FRICATION OF /r/

r → [-son] / [t, d] ___

/r/ becomes fricative after /t/ or /d/

trip, drip, attract; petrol; rat-race; quite wrong, that reason;
wardrobe, bedroom; battery, federal; as a matter of fact

B. Some optional 'phonostylistic' (fast-speech) rules

5. DEALVEOLAR STOP ASSIMILATION: /t, d, n/ assimilate to place of following C

6. DEALVEOLAR FRICATIVE ASSIMILATION

/s, z/ → [ʃ, ʒ] before /ʃ, ʒ/, and perhaps before /j, r, tʃ, dʒ/ *this shop; ?student*

7. YOD COALESCENCE /t, d/ combine with following /j/ (esp. of *you(r)*) to give [tʃ, dʒ]

8. ALVEOLAR PLOSIVE ELISION

/t, d/ may be dropped when syllable-final

if preceded by a consonant agreeing in voicing AND followed by a consonant