

# Assimilation Rules

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# Assimilation Rules

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## Definition

# Assimilation

- From Latin *assimilatio*, meaning "to render similar"
- A linguistic process by which a sound becomes similar to an adjacent sound.



# **Progressive Assimilation**

**If the phoneme changes to match the preceding phoneme, it is progressive assimilation.**



# Regressive Assimilation

**If the phoneme changes to match the following phoneme, it is regressive assimilation.**



# Reciprocal Assimilation

**If there is a mutual influence between the two phonemes, it is reciprocal assimilation.**

# Consonant Assimilation

**In the case the two phonemes can fuse completely and give a birth to a different one. This is called a coalescence. The result of consonant assimilation is usually a geminate consonant.**



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**Example**



# Total Assimilation

- “**winter**” :

/t/ □ [n] / [n] \_\_\_

(meaning that /t/ becomes [n] in the environment after [n]).

- “**center**” :

/t/ □ [n] / [n] \_\_\_

(/t/ becomes [n] in the environment after [n]).

# Partial Assimilation

- **“stopped”** :

/d/ □ [t] / [p] \_\_\_

(i.e. /d/ becomes [t] in the environment after [p].)

- **“picked”** :

/d/ □ [t] / [k] \_\_\_

(i.e. /d/ becomes [t] in the environment after [k].)

# Progressive (or left-to-right) Assimilation

- **“dogs”** :

/s/ □ [z] / [g] \_\_\_

( the ending [s] is assimilated to [z] by the influence of the preceding voiced [g].)

- **“pubs”** :

/s/ □ [z] / [b] \_\_\_

( the ending [s] is assimilated to [z] by the influence of the preceding voiced [b].)

# Regressive, or Anticipatory (or right-to-left) Assimilation

- “miss you” :

[m'ISE]

/s/ □ [S] / \_\_\_ [j ] .

(the sound [s] in [mls] is changed to [S] by the assimilation of the following palatal glide [j ].)

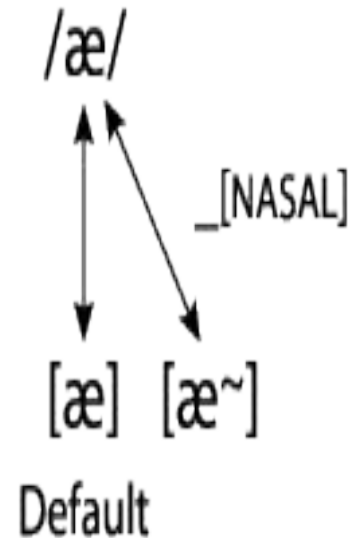
# Double Assimilation

- “man” :

/A/ □ [A] / [m] \_\_\_ [n]

(The [A] in /mAn/ is nasalized by its preceding [m] and its following [n].)

Phoneme  
Realization Rules



# References

- American English Phonetics  
作者: 孫淑惠 著  
發行所: 文鶴出版有限公司
- “<http://www.indiana.edu/~hlw/PhonProcess/assimilation.html>”
- “<http://www.ielanguages.com/linguist.html>”
- “[http://www.uni-assel.de/fb8/misc/lfb/html/t\\_ext/8-4-1.html](http://www.uni-assel.de/fb8/misc/lfb/html/t_ext/8-4-1.html)”

*The End*

