

Kahtsaai by William Annis

	LABIAL	CORONAL	PALATAL	VELAR	GLOTTAL
STOP	p	t, ts		k	ʔ
FRICATIVE		s, ʃ			h
NASAL	m	n			
APPROX.		r, l	j	w	

	FRONT	CENTRAL	BACK
CLOSE	i, iː		uː
CLOSE-MID	eː		o
OPEN-MID	ɛ		
OPEN		a, aː	

SOUND CHANGE

The sounds of a language
change gradually over
time.

mu:s

mu:si

mu:s

my:si

mu:s

my:sə

mu:s

my:s

mu:s

mi:s

maws

majs

Why?

A given sound
change never
NEEDS to happen!

Why?

- Gradual change
- Need for one group to distinguish itself
- Influx of non-native speakers

Gradual Change

-Mishearing

-Analogy

-Mispronunciation (e.g.
faster speech)

Gradual Change

-Mishearing

-Analogy

-Mispronunciation (e.g.
faster speech)

Sound Change...

- Has no exceptions
- Ignores grammar
- Ignores history

...but...

-Accelerated for
morphology

-May actually leave
certain paradigms alone

-Near mergers

Sound Changes
Assimilation
Dissimilation
Lenition
Deletion
Insertion

Assimilation

Sounds being more like
the sound(s) next to them.

Assimilation

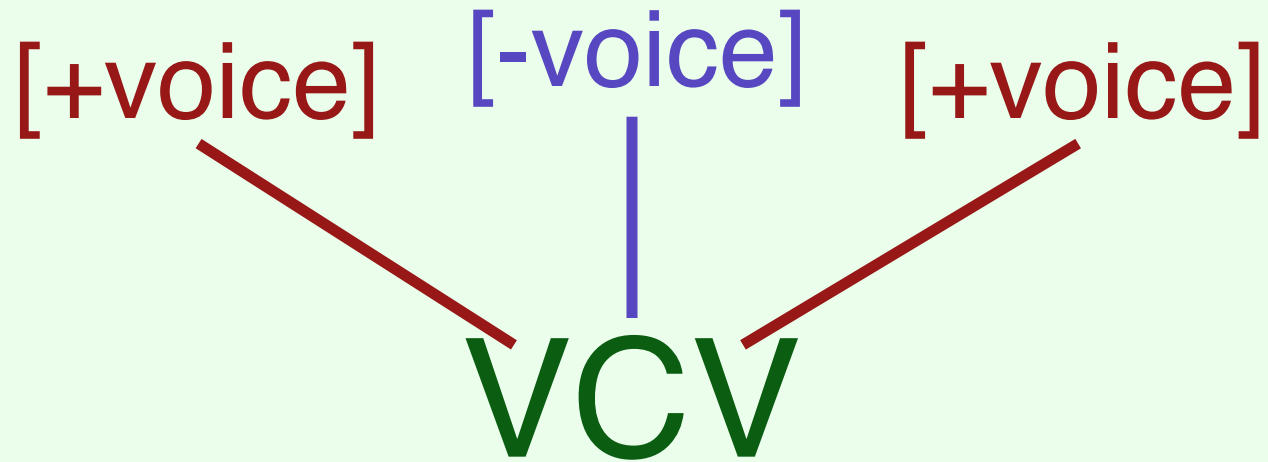
C > [+voice] / V_V

*lacus > lago

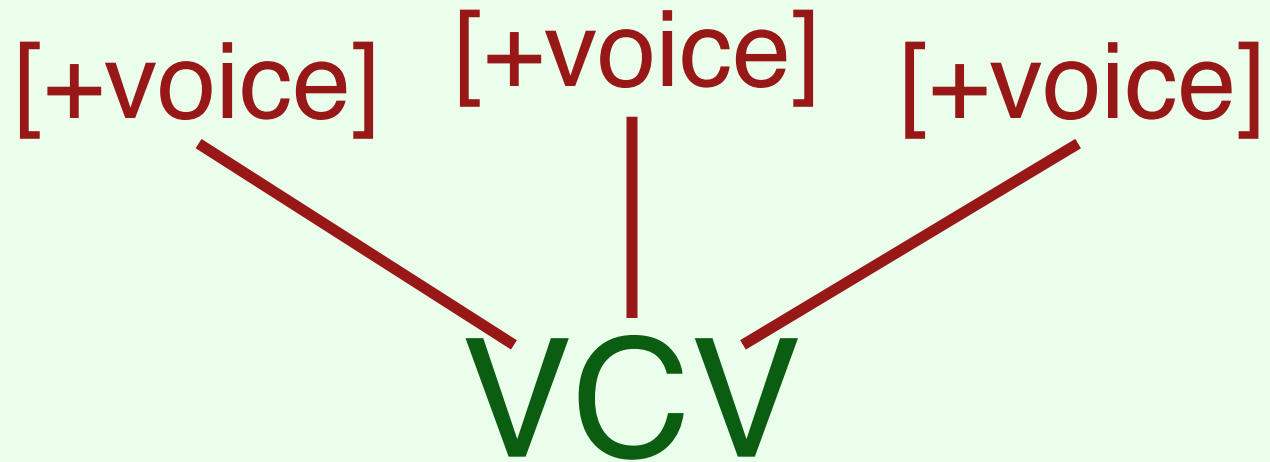
Assimilation

VCV

Assimilation



Assimilation



Assimilation

Japanese

daisuke > dais_uke

Assimilation

Japanese

swk > sw̥k

Assimilation

RESULT

Vocal folds do less work
(not off then on then off,
or vice-versa).

Common Assimilations

Nasal Place Assimilation

*in-possible > impossible

Common Assimilations

Voice Assimilation

*tʌtʃ + -d > tʌtʃt

Captain Picard “Wesley”

Common Assimilations

Anticipatory/Regressive

$s > z / _C[+voice]$

Common Assimilations

Perseveratory/
Progressive
d > t / C[-voice]_

Common Assimilations

Post-Nasal Fortition

C > [+voice] / N_

*n- + lima > ndima

Common Assimilations

Total Assimilation
(Geminations)

*octo > otto

*somnus > sonno

Common Assimilations

Palatalization

*kentum > *cent*

*gela:tus > *gelato*
future

*vetçer > v^jetçer

Common Assimilations

Umlaut

*goosi > geese

*mani > men

Digression

Vowel Harmony: Vowels change quality to match the vowels in the base.

Vowel Harmony

Turkish

køjin > køjyn

tʃodʒuyin > tʃodʒuyun

adam > adamun

Vowel Harmony

Turkish

-in, -yn, -un, -wn

Vowel Harmony

Turkish

-in, -yn, -un, -wn

All High

Vowel Harmony

- Only applies when there are affixes that can be changed
- Work within the system

Dissimilation

Sounds being less like the sound(s) next to them.

Dissimilation

moral

molar

solar

aural

oral

floral

mural

polar

Dissimilation

morar

orar

molal

florar

solal

murar

aurar

polal

Common Dissimilations

Manner Dissimilation

molar

moral

Common Dissimilations

Manner Dissimilation

*k^wi:nk^we > kink^we

Common Dissimilations

Manner Dissimilation

*t^hriks “hair”

*trik^hes “hairs”

Common Dissimilations

Manner Dissimilation

pollo /pojo/ [poɔo]

Common Dissimilations

Manner Dissimilation

*dʌθrak + qɔʃi >
dʌθraxqɔʃi

Common Dissimilations

Place Dissimilation

cardamom > cardamon

Common Dissimilations

Voice Dissimilation

Japanese

toki + toki > tokidoki

Common Dissimilations

Note:

Not intervocalic voicing!

oki oki

Lenition

Sounds get “weaker”.

Lenition

Finnish

konsertti > konsertissa

koti > kodissa

Skotlanti > Skotlannissa

Lenition

English
Sacramento
winter vs. winner

Common Lenitions

Opening

$SS > S > A > F > [h] > \emptyset$

Common Lenitions

Spirantization

$S > [+voice] > F > G > \emptyset$

Common Lenitions Spanish

status > estado

*estado > *estaðo >

*estaðo > estao

Common Lenitions

Finnish

tukea ~ tuen

ripaa ~ rivän

pataa ~ padan

Common Lenitions

Spanish
ehtao > ettao

Common Lenitions

Coda L Lenition

l > w / _{#/CC}

l > j / _{#/CC}

Deletion

Sounds get lost.

Common Deletions

Word-final C Loss

French

trop [tʁo]

Common Deletions

Word-final V Loss

French

porte [pɔxt]

Common Deletions

Unstressed V Loss
comfortable

Common Deletions

Unstressed V Loss

comfortable

(Also metathesis!)

Common Deletions

Unstressed V Loss

[^hkʌmf.tɪ.bl]

(Also metathesis!)

Common Deletions

CC Simplification

knight

ought

light

Common Deletions

CC Simplification

rafts

crafts

listen

Common Deletions

Compensatory
Lengthening

*lixt > *li:t > lajt

Insertion

Sounds get added.

Common Insertions

Epenthesis

Thompson

messenger

passenger

Common Insertions

Prosthesis

status > *estado*

> *état*

Common Insertions

Paragoge

Japanese

strike > sʉtorai_oki_o

bus > basʉ_o

Other Phenomena

Word-Final Devoicing

Turkish

kitabın “of the book”

kitap “book”

Other Phenomena

Word-Final Lowering

$V > [-\text{high}] / _ \#$

$i, u > e, o / _ \#$

Other Phenomena

Breaking Spanish

*porta > puerta

*semper > siempre

Other Phenomena Breaking Finnish

*so:mi > suomi

*sø:n > syøn

*te:tæn > tiedæn

Other Phenomena

Nasalization

French

bon [bɔ̃]

Other Phenomena

Chain Shifts

Hawaiian

(1) $h/? > \emptyset$

(2) $f/s > h, k > ?$

(3) $t > k$

Ordering
Hawaiian
hiku “seven”
waʻa “canoe”
ʻuku “louse”

Ordering

$$(1) h/? > \emptyset$$

$$(2) f/s > h, k > ?$$

$$(3) t > k$$

Ordering

Proto-Polynesian

fitu “seven”

waka “canoe”

kutu “louse”

Ordering

(1) $f/s > h, k > ?$

(2) $h/? > \emptyset$

(3) $t > k$

Ordering

(1) $f/s > h, k > ?$

$fitu > hitu$

$waka > wa?a$

$kutu > ?utu$

Ordering

(2) $h/? > \emptyset$

hitu > itu

wa?a > waa

?utu > utu

Ordering

(3) $t > k$

$itu > iku$

$waa > waa$

$utu > uku$

Ordering

Hawaiian

iku hiku “seven”

waa waʻa “canoe”

uku ʻuku “louse”

Ordering

$$(1) t > k$$

$$(2) f/s > h, k > ?$$

$$(3) h/? > \emptyset$$

Ordering

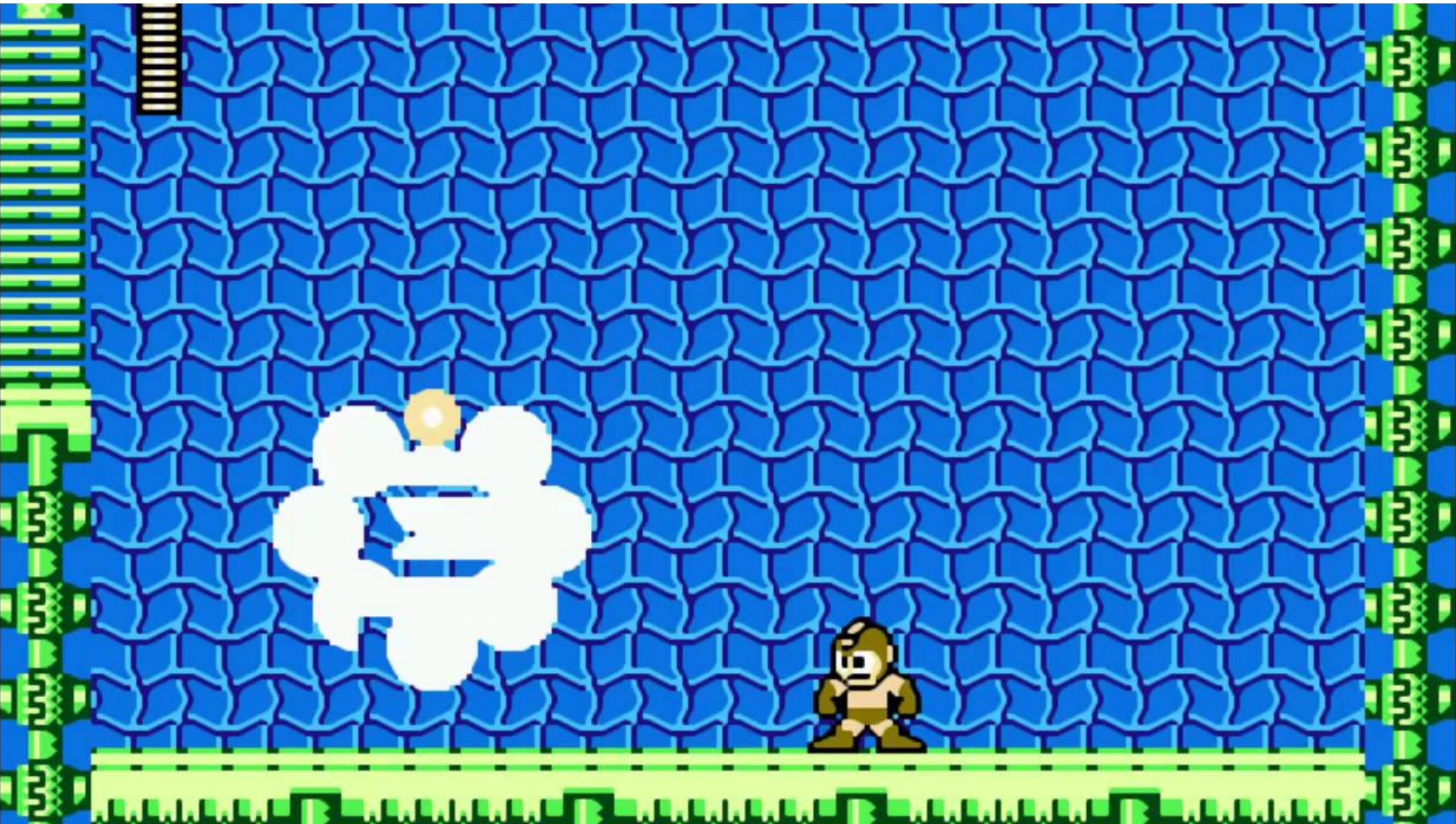
Hawaiian

iu hiku “seven”

waa waʻa “canoe”

uu ʻuku “louse”









Dothraki
nasa “snipe”
tavo “axe”
sado “drum”
vado “filly”
dini “drizzle”

Dothraki

nasa “snipe”

nʲas

tavo “axe”

tʲaf

sado “drum”

sʲaθ

vado “filly”

vaθ

dini “drizzle”

dĩ

Dothraki

nasa “snipe”

naðhə

tavo “axe”

taðhə

sado “drum”

haɮə

vado “filly”

faɮə

dini “drizzle”

ɮinə

Dothraki

nasa “snipe”

νεθ

tavo “axe”

τεφ

sado “drum”

σεð

vado “filly”

φεð

dini “drizzle”

τᾱ

Dothraki

nasa “snipe”

as

tavo “axe”

taf

sado “drum”

sat

vado “filly”

fat

dini “drizzle”

di

Dothraki

nasa “snipe”

nans

tavo “axe”

θat

sado “drum”

sanθ

vado “filly”

vanθ

dini “drizzle”

đin

Dothraki

nasa “snipe”

enese

tavo “axe”

eθevu

sado “drum”

seǎu

vado “filly”

veǎu

dini “drizzle”

iǎ^jan^ja

Dothraki

nasa “snipe”

najs

tavo “axe”

tajf

sado “drum”

sajt

vado “filly”

vajt

dini “drizzle”

d3in