

Lgcs 101, Historical Linguistics. Exam 1. 11 March 2010.

Part 1: Sound Change.

1. What sound changes differentiate Guaraní from its parent language, Proto-Tupí-Guaraní, in the following data? State the changes as phonological rules. Indicate the order in which the rules must have applied, if there is a crucial ordering, and apply these rules to the Proto-Tupí-Guaraní word for 'smoke' to show how the Guaraní form evolved. (*Contemporary Linguistics*)

	<i>Proto-Tupí-Guaraní</i>	<i>Guaraní</i>	
(1)	jukir	jukɨ	'salt'
(2)	moajan	moajã	'push'
(3)	puʔam	puʔã	'wet'
(4)	meʔeŋ	meʔê	'give'
(5)	tiŋ	tʃĩ	'white'
(6)	potiʔa	potʃiʔa	'chest'
(7)	tatatiŋ	tatatʃĩ	'chest'
(8)	kɨb	kɨ	'louse'
(9)	men	mê	'husband'

2. What sound changes took place between Proto-Slavic and Bulgarian in the following data? (The symbol $\overset{\cdot}$ over a vowel indicates that it is short.) Indicate any crucial orderings in which the changes must have applied, and apply these rules to the Proto-Slavic word for 'near' to show how the Bulgarian form evolved. (*Contemporary Linguistics*)

	<i>Proto-Slavic</i>	<i>Bulgarian</i>	
(10)	gladŭka	glatkã	'smooth'
(11)	kratŭka	kratkã	'short'
(12)	blizŭka	bliskã	'near'
(13)	zεzika	zεfkã	'scorching'
(14)	lovŭka	lofkã	'adroit'
(15)	gorika	gorkã	'bitter'

3. The nouns *bath* and *house* were once differentiated from the verbs *bathe* and *house* by the fact that the verbs ended with a short vowel sound. Furthermore, /θ/ and /s/ had the allophones [ð] and [z] between vowels, due to a general rule voicing fricatives intervocally. Later a rule was added to the grammar of English deleting unstressed short vowels at the end of words, resulting in a contrast between the voiced and voiceless fricatives, so that the new phonemes /ð/ and /z/ were added to the phonemic inventory. What is the term for this type of phonemic change? (*An Introduction to Language*)

Part 2: Borrowing, analogy, and morphological change

Identify the kind of change involved in the following examples.

(16) Spanish *perros calientes* 'hot dogs, lit. dogs hot' from English 'hot dog'.

(17) English *climb/climbed* was originally *climb/clomb*.

(18) The English word *asset* comes from the loanword *assets*, from Anglo-French *asetz*, which was singular.

(19) English *sand-blind* 'half-blind' from Old English **sam-blind* 'lit. semi-blind'.

(20) English *four* should be *whour*, but was influenced by the /f/ in *five*. (Trask's *Historical Linguistics*)

(21) English *penthouse*, from Anglo-French *pentiz* "attached building, appendage".

(22) In some dialects of African American English, *say* can be used as a complementizer, e.g., *They told me say they couldn't get it*.

(23) Compare the Old English singular and plural forms:

<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>	
boc	bec	'book(s)'
ac	æc	'oak(s)'

Although the Old English words have an umlaut plural (as in Old English *gos/ges* 'goos/geese'), the Modern English forms do not. Explain how the change in plural formation could have come about.

(24) Old English normally formed superlatives by means of a suffix *-ost* or *-est*, as in *heard* 'hard', *heardost* 'hardest', and *eald* 'old', *ealdest* 'oldest'. A few words, however, took a different suffix *-(u)m(a)*, as in *fore* 'before', *forma* 'most before', and *ūt(e)* 'out', *ūt(e)m* 'most outer'. These irregular forms underwent two changes. First they acquired an additional suffix, yielding *formest* and *ūtemest*. Then, the ending was altered in a phonologically irregular way, yielding the modern forms *foremost* and *utmost*. Explain how these two changes could have come about (that is, identify the two types of change). (Trask's *Historical Linguistics*)

(25) Latin and English both descend from a common proto-language, Proto-Indo-European. We can see that the two languages are related by observing regular sound correspondences between them, e.g., where Latin has [p], English has [f], e.g., Latin *pisces* 'fish', English *fish*. These correspondences show that Germanic languages like English underwent a series of changes in their consonant system that Latin did not undergo, e.g., p > f.

The following Latin roots (leftmost column) are found in words that have been borrowed into English (middle column). All of these roots have Germanic cognates as well (rightmost column).

<i>Latin</i>	<i>Related borrowing</i>	<i>English cognate</i>
nepos	nepotism	nephew
pisces	piscine	fish
tenuis	tenuous	thin
cornu	cornucopia	horn
duo	dual	two
ager	agriculture	acre

(a) State, as generally as you can, the sound changes that occurred in the Germanic **obstruent** system, resulting in the English examples. What is the name for this type of set of related sound changes?

(b) What can you conclude about the timing of the borrowing of the Latin forms with respect to the time of these sound changes in the obstruent system?

(c) On the basis of the sound changes you've observed, and the meaning of the borrowing, make a guess about the English cognate for the following Latin roots.

<i>Latin</i>	<i>Related borrowing</i>	<i>English cognate</i>
pedis	pedestrian	
edere	edible	
genus	genocide	