

**Lgcs 101: Historical Linguistics.** Lecture Notes. Thurs 15 Sept 2011.

### 0. Announcements

-Assignment 3 (due next Thurs.): Exercise 2.7 (Balto-Finnic).

-Reading for Tuesday: Chapter 4; the posted chapter on phonological naturalness.

### 1. Ordering of changes

The following data are from Bononi, spoken in Bougainville, an autonomous region of Papua New Guinea (Crowley/Bowern 2010).

<i>Proto-Oceanic</i>	<i>Bononi</i>	
*koti	kotʃi	‘cut’
*tina	tʃina	‘mother’
*puti	putʃi	‘pull out’
*mata	mata	‘eye’
*mate	mate	‘die’
*paʃan	paʃana	‘add meat to staple’
*kulit	kulitʃi	‘skin sugarcane’

Must the sound changes be ordered? How so?

### 2. Solution to Assignment 2

#### *Exercise 2.5: Tulu*

From Sapaliga to Holeya, the following three changes appear to have occurred:

#### *Affrication*

\*t > tʃ / # \_\_

Voiceless alveolar stop → post-alveolar affricate / # \_\_

#### *Low Vowel Backing*

\*a > ɑ / \_\_ nasal

Front low vowel → back / \_\_ nasal

#### *High Vowel Fronting*

\*u > i / \_\_ nasal

High back rounded V → front unrounded / \_\_ nasal

Of the four daughter dialects, all four dialects share the *Low Vowel Backing* change, and only Holeya has the *High Vowel Fronting* change. For the remaining discussion, the vowel changes are set aside.

From Sapaliga to Setti, \*t > s. An intermediate stage of affrication can be posited, so that \*t > tʃ > s. This gives us the following two changes for this dialect, the first crucially applying before the second:

*Affrication* (as above)

#### *Spirantization*

\*tʃ > s

Voiceless alveopalatal affricate → alveolar fricative / # \_\_

From Sapaliga to Jain 1, there appears to be further lenition, resulting in \*t > h. Here too we can posit intermediate stages: \*t > tʃ > s > h. This gives us the following three changes, again crucially applying in sequence:

*Affrication* (as above)

*Spirantization* (as above)

#### *Glottalization:*

\*s > h

Voiceless alveolar fricative → glottal / # \_\_

Finally, from Sapaliga to Jain 2, there appears to be even further lenition: \*t → ∅. Here too we can posit intermediate stages: t → tʃ → s → h → ∅. This gives us the following four changes, again crucially ordered in sequence:

*Affrication* (as above)

*Spirantization* (as above)

*Glottalization* (as above)

#### *Deletion:*

\*h → ∅

Voiceless glottal fricative → ∅ / # \_\_

### 3. Change as change in rule systems

Sound changes are sometimes viewed as addition or loss of a phonological rule. (There are differing opinions on this within the field.)

#### 3.1 Latin

Recall the following change Latin underwent:

(1)	Sg.	Pl.	
	Stage 1	[flo:s]	[flo:ses]
	Stage 2	[flo:s]	[flo:res]

Apparent exceptions: *causa* ‘cause’, *esox* ‘salmon’, *ecclēsia* ‘assembly’.

But these cases have explanations:

Some of these words did not have /s/ at the time the change occurred: *causa* ‘thing’ in Old Latin is *caussa*.

Some of these words entered Latin **after** the change occurred. Rhotacism of /s/ was completed by the fourth century BC. *Ecclēsia* ‘assembly’ was borrowed from Greek first century BC, and *esox* ‘salmon’ was borrowed probably from a Celtic language.

Similarly, in Spanish, /p t k/ changed to /b d g/ inter-vocally.

Modern Spanish has words like *copa* ‘wine glass’, *mito* ‘myth’ and *boca* ‘mouth’.

Upshot: Normally, a sound change happens at some time and then stops.

The effects (or non-effects) of earlier changes may be obscured by later changes, including borrowings.

#### 3.2 Yiddish

Data from Odden (2005)

Old High German (OHG) > Middle High German (MHG) > Yiddish, German

In OHG, words could end in a voiced obstruent:

(2)	<i>tag</i>	‘day’	<i>taga</i>	‘days’
	<i>gab</i>	‘he gave’	<i>gābumes</i>	‘we gave’
	<i>sneid</i>	‘he cut’	<i>snīdan</i>	‘to cut’

During the time of MHG (900-1200), word-final devoicing was introduced:

(3)	<i>tac</i>	‘day’	<i>tage</i>	‘days’
	<i>gap</i>	‘he gave’	<i>gāben</i>	‘we gave’
	<i>sneit</i>	‘he cut’	<i>snīdan</i>	‘to cut’
	<i>hant</i>	‘hand’	<i>hende</i>	‘hands’
	<i>wec</i>	‘way’	<i>weges</i>	‘ways’

German still retains this rule.

Yiddish, presently, has voiced word-final obstruents:

(4)	<i>tog</i>	‘day’	<i>tog-n</i>	‘days’
	<i>veg</i>	‘way’	<i>vegn</i>	‘ways’

Words like the following remain finally devoiced:

(5)	<i>gelt</i>	‘money’
	<i>avek</i>	‘away’

What has happened in Yiddish? Why do these last forms behave differently?

### 3.3 Dialects of Basque

*Older dialect*

<u>noun</u>	<u>definite</u>	
sagar	sagara	'apple'
gison	gisona	'man'
buzten	buztena	'tail'
lore	loria	'flower'
asto	astua	'donkey'
neska	neskea	'girl'

- (6) Posit two phonological rules to account for the alternations in the data.
- (7) Are your rules crucially ordered? If yes, how?
- (8) Show how they apply to [astua] and [neskea].

*Innovating dialect*

<u>noun</u>	<u>definite</u>	
sagar	sagara	'apple'
gison	gisona	'man'
buzten	buztena	'tail'
lore	loria	'flower'
asto	astua	'donkey'
neska	neskia	'girl'

- (9) Posit two rules to account for the alternations in the data.
- (10) Are your rules crucially ordered? If yes, how?
- (11) Show how they apply to [astua] and [neskia].

### 3.4 Generalization/simplification

English *lamb*, *climb*, *comb* have lost the final [b].

Similarly, *long*, *sing*, *fang* have lost final [g].

Contrast: *land*, *hand*, *find*. Some dialects do drop [d], however.

### 4. More practice

- Exercises 4.2, 3.3.
- Quebec French.