LECTURE 9

PHONOLOGICAL PROCESSES

IN CONNECTED SPEECH

II

2. Elision:

Under certain circumstances sounds disappear; or in other way, in certain circumstances a phoneme may be realized as zero, or have zero realization or be deleted.

2. Elision:

As with assimilation, elision is a typical of rapid, casual speech (gradation).

We will look at some examples:

1. loss of weak vowel after / p t k /

potato → /pʰ teɪtəʊ/

tomato → /tʰ ma:təʊ/

canary → /kʰ neəri/

perhaps → /pʰ hæps/

today → /tʰ dei/

Example:

2. weak vowel + / n l r / becomes syllabic:

tonight → **/tnaɪt/**

police → **/pli:s/**

correct → **/krekt/**

Example:

3. Avoidance of complex consonant clusters

George the Sixth's throne ➔

/dʒɔ:dʒ ðə sɪksθs θrəʊn/ ➔ **/sɪksθrəʊn/**

acts ➔ **/æks/**

Example:

2. loss of final / v / in "*of*" before consonants:

lots of them → **/lɒts ə ðəm/**

waste of money → **/weɪst ə mʌni/**

3. Linking:

In real connected speech, we sometimes link words together. The most familiar case is the use of linking *r* ; the phoneme *r* does not occur in syllable-final position in BBC accent, but when a word's spelling suggests a final *r*, and a word beginning with a vowel follows, the usual pronunciation is to pronounce with *r*.

Example:

here → **/hɪə/** **but** ***here are*** → **/hɪər ə /**

four → **/fɔ:/** **but** ***four eggs*** → **/fɔ :r egz /**

Cont.

Many BBC speakers use *r* in a similar way to link words ending with a vowel even when there is no 'justification' from the spelling.

Example:

Formula A ➙ **/fɒ :mjələr eɪ /**

Australia all out ➙ **/ɒstreɪliərɔ :l aʊt/**

media event ➙ **/mi:diər ɪvent/**

Cont.

This has been called intrusive *r* : some English speakers still regards this as incorrect or sub-standard pronunciation, but it is widespread.

Juncture

"Linking *r* " and "intrusive *r* " are special cases of *juncture*; this name refers to the relationship between one sound and the sounds that immediately precede and follow.

Cont.

my turn : maɪ tɜ:n

The relationship between m and aɪ , and between t and 3: , and between 3: and n, is said to be one of close juncture.

Cont.

my turn : maɪ tɜ:n

m is preceded by silence and n is followed by silence, and so m and n are said to be in a position of external open juncture.

What is it that makes perceptible the difference between:

maɪ tʒ:n and maɪt ʒ:n

This is where the problem of internal open juncture becomes apparent.

Cont.

maɪ t^hɜ:n and maɪt ɜ:n

1. /t/ is aspirated (initial in *turn*)

2. /t/ is not aspirated (final in *might*)

3. The diphthong /aɪ/ is shorter in '*might*'

Cont.

Thus, the position of a word boundary has some effect on the realization of the /t/ phoneme.

Many minimal pairs have been invented to show the significance of juncture, a few of which are:

1. ‘might rain’ /maɪt rein/ r voiced when initial in ‘rain’. aɪ is short.	my train’ /maɪ trein/ r voiceless following t ‘train’.

2. ‘all that I’m after today‘	‘All the time after today’
t is unaspirated when final in ‘that’.	t aspirated when initial in ‘time’.

3. ‘He lies‘	‘heal eyes’
Clear l initial in ‘lies’	Dark l final in ‘heal’