

The Phonetics of English Pronunciation

Session 08

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Topics

- *Linking*
- The forgotten German consonant [ʔ]
(The German desire for “clarity”)
- The “binding” English inheritance from French
- The “joys of variety” (different types of linking)

Read: Section VI.1, pp. 177-187

Today's topic: *linking*

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- We shall look at the reason *why* German speakers *do not link words in the same way*, and then look at the *different types of linking* in English.

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 - ⟨Eiche⟩ = [ˈʔaɪ.çə]
 - ⟨Insel⟩ = [ˈʔɪn.zəl]
 - ⟨oben⟩ = [ˈʔoː.b̩]
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- So [ʔ] can be defined as a consonant phoneme /ʔ/:
[fɛɔ̯.ˈraɪzŋ] ≠ [fɛɔ̯.ˈʔaɪzŋ]

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- The fact remains that *we only separate words with a glottal stop if they are being emphasized:*

“What an awful idea!”

[wɒt ʔən ʔɔ:fʌ ʔaɪdɪə] vs. [wɒt_ən_ɔ:fʌ_aidɪə]

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- But the *preceding* word can
 - a) end in a **consonant** (*hit, gave, push, etc.*), or
 - b) end in a **vowel** (*so, why, how, etc.*)and these two conditions lead to two basically *different linking phenomena*, which we can call:
 - a) **consonant-to-vowel** linking and
 - b) **vowel-to-vowel** linking

Consonant-to-vowel linking

- This is the easiest type of linking to explain: The final consonant *also* becomes the initial consonant of the next word (the two syllables share the consonant):

“Put it on immediately!” [ˈpʊtɪtɒnɪˈmiːdɪətli]

[ˈpʊrɪrɒnɪˈmiːdɪətli]

“Take it off again!” [ˈteɪkɪˈtɒfəɡən]

[ˈteɪkɪˈrɒfəɡən]

“Stick it in a bag!” [ˈstɪkɪtɪnəˈbæg]

[ˈstɪkɪrɪnəˈbæg]

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But before vowels it becomes *intervocalic*, and therefore has to be pronounced:

“How far can you see?”	[haʊ 'fɑ: kən jə 'si:]
“How far is it?”	[haʊ 'fɑ:ɹɪzɪt]
“Can you spare the time?”	[kən jə 'spɛə ðə 'taɪm]
“Can you spare a moment?”	[kən jə 'spɛəɹə 'məʊmənt]

A limerick for practice!

*Did you hear of this farmer from Frattonne
Who would go to church with his hat on?
“If I wake up,” he said,
“With my hat on my head,
I shall know that it has not been sat on.”*

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ɪfai 'weɪkɒp | hi 'sed
wɪð maɪ 'hætɒn maɪ 'hed
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A limerick (US version)

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hu wəd 'gou tə 'tʃəʃ wiðɪz 'hæɹən
ɪfai 'weɪkɹp | hi 'sed
wið mai 'hæɹən mai 'hed
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“We [j] always do”, “Free [j] access”, “tea [j] up!”
- Words ending with ⟨u⟩ vowels /u: əʊ (oʊ) aʊ/ insert a sort of [w]:
“How [w] are you?”, “Throw [w] out”, “go [w] in”

Intrusive [r] linking

- This is a peculiarity of Southern British English as a *non-rhotic dialect*.
some /ɑ:/, /ɔ:/ and /ə/ words are written with, some without an ⟨r⟩:
ma, ta, fah, Shah, mar, tar, far, car,
saw, flaw, Shaw, vs. soar, floor, shore,
sonata, pizza, etc. barter, bitter, etc.

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sonata, pizza, etc. barter, bitter, etc.
- The greater frequency of the ⟨r⟩ spelling has led speakers to extend the linking [r] to the words without ⟨r⟩:
“Sonata [ɹ] in B flat”, “Pizza [ɹ] and salad”, etc.

Homework

Read Section VI.1, pp. 177-187
and
hand in the exercise sheet by Thursday.