Alternations and modifications of speech sounds in English

Types of modification:

* assimilation,
* accommodation,
* reduction,
* elision,
* inserting.

* The adaptive modification of a consonant by a neighbouring consonant in a speech chain is **assimilation.**

* 1. Place of articulation

* •   t, d > dental before [ð, θ]: *eighth, at the, said that*

* •   t, d > post-alveolar before [r]: *tree, true, dream, the third room*

* •   s, z > post-alveolar before [ʃ]: *this shop, does she*

* •   t, d > affricates before [j]: *graduate, could you*

* •   m > labio-dental before [f]: *symphony*

* •   n > dental before [θ]: *seventh*

ASSIMILATION

* **progressive:**
* stay [stei], /t/ without aspiration (loss of plosion);
* **regressive:**
* tenth [tenθ], /n/ - dental
* **double:**
* tree [tri:]

* **partial:**
* *little* (loss of plosion)
* **full:**
* *less shy* [leʃai],
* *does she* [dʌʃi:]

* **Accommodation** is used to denote the interchanges of VC or CV types.

* <u>Lip position</u>

* • consonant + back vowel:

* *pool, rude, who* (rounded)

* • consonant + front vowel:

* *tea, sit, keep* (spread)

* **Reduction** is actually qualitative or quantitative weakening of vowels in unstressed positions.

* Reduction

* qualitative   quantitative
* can [kæn] – I can [ai ken] me [mi:] – let me [let mi]

* **Elision** is a complete loss of sounds, both vowels and consonants.
* 1. Loss of [h] in personal and possessive pronouns and in the forms of the auxiliary verb *have*.
* 2. [l] lends to be lost when preceded by [o:]: *always, already, all right*
* 3. In cluster of consonants: *next day, just one, mashed potatoes*
* 4. [t]+C, [d]+C: *listen* [lisn], *often* [ofn], *Wednesday* [wenzdi]
* 5. *–mb* at the end of the word: *lamb* [læm], *comb* [kom]
* 6. [i], [ə]: *different* [difrənt], *similar* [simlə]

* **Inserting** is a process of sound addition.

* 1. Linking [r] (potential pronunciation of [r]):
* *car owner*
* 2. Intrusive [r]:
* [r] is pronounced where no *r* is seen in the spelling *china and glass*