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 [$\check{0}$, θ]: eighth, at the, said that
- * t, d > post-alveolar before [r]: *tree, true, dream, the third room*
- * s, z > post-alveolar before [\int]: this shop, does she
- * t, d > affricates before [j]: graduate, could you
- * m > labio-dental before [f]: symphony
- * $n > dental before [\theta]: seventh$

ASSIMILATION

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

- partial:
- * little (loss of plosion)
- * full:
- * less shy [lesai],
- * does she [d\\i\fi:]

- **Accommodation** is used to denote the interchanges of VC or CV types.
- * Lip position
- * 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. [1] 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*