

Date _____
Features of the Connected Speech

- In all languages, the articulation process of sentences is simplified in connected speech.
- Every utterance is a continuum, changing pattern of sound quality with associated features of quantity, pitch and stress.
- It is important to note that a word in isolation is pronounced differently to the pressures of its sound environment or of the accentual or rhythmic group of which it forms part.
- These variations may affect the word as a whole, e.g. weak forms of function words in an unaccented situation; or it may especially affect the sound used at word boundaries, which will undergo a series of phonetic adjustments; e.g. assimilation, elision and liaison forms.
- The extent of these variations is mostly brought by the speed of the utterance, since the slower and ~~the~~ more careful the delivery, the greater the tendency to maintain a form hear to that of the isolate word.
- One's way of speaking varies according

to situations and thereby different styles are preferred. We also change our choice of vowels and grammatical structures depending on the formality or informality of the circumstances, & the same way, we make a series of phonetic adjustments, which include features such as

- Tempo or speed of delivery
- Rhythm or regularity of prominent syllables and words (English speech is rhythmical.)
- Continuity or place and length of pauses
- unaccented tension or articulatory precision
- Weak forms, assimilation, elision, and links.

Features of connected speech

It mainly refers to all those aspects which affect words and utterances at the level of qualitative production, the following three distinctive factors determine it:

1. Economy of articulation } the following features appear in every day English
linking
Elision
Assimilation
Gradation
2. Fast speech
3. Informal speech

Compression

Elision is the drop of a sound especially in unaccented syllables.

- It usually affects weak sounds such as /v/ /i/ and /z/ when they're between two consonants.
- Consonants which are usually elided are /k/ /t/ /h/ /l/ /v/ when there is a combination of more than two consonants.

~~Last~~ night. He stopped ~~breathing~~, it kept still.

Assimilation is an assimilatory process a segment takes on features from a neighboring segment.

- A consonant may pick up features from a vowel, a vowel may take on features of a consonant, one consonant may influence another, or one vowel may have an effect on another.

- Assimilation may be regressive or progressive.

For example, < broadcast > in careful pronunciation is /brɔ:kst/ in connected speech

becomes /brɔ:gst/; the phoneme /d/ has been replaced by a second /g/ under the influence of a third /k/.

This could be stated as a rule:

/d/ ← /g/ before /k/ before /g/

/d/ changes to /g/ before /k/ or /g/

bad girl

bird call

bird cash

hard copy

Grand canyon

second class

Elision - Omission of one or more sounds in a phrase, producing a result that is easier for the speaker to pronounce. The next day /ðə 'heks 'deɪ/

Intonation - When two vowel sounds meet, we tend to insert an extra sound which resembles either a /j/, /w/, or /r/, to mark the transition sound between the two vowels, a device referred to as intonation.

Intending /r/ The media /r/ are to blame.

Weakening - some words have one pronunciation (strong) when isolated, and another (weak) when not stressed within a phrase

a car

/eɪ 'kɑ: /

I bought a car

/əɪ 'bɔ: tɔ 'kɑ: /

Juncture

Refers to the relationship between one sound and the sounds that immediately precede it or follow it.

e.g. "my turn" vs. "might eat"

Example of close juncture: m + ai

External open juncture: m, n are in such point.

Internal open juncture: how are the two above mentioned examples differentiated?

English: the aspiration or not aspir. of /t/ thanks to its position at word boundary.

Linking (Liaison)

Words in English can be linked in special ways:

"linking r" and "intrusive r"

Linking r: "here are" vs. "here"

"four eggs" vs. "form"

"New and order" vs. "law"

Intrusive r: "Formula A"

"media event"

There are special cases of juncture,