

Some English Phonology

Nasals

1. Notice what nasal consonants can appear at the beginning of a word in English:

[nuwn]
 [muwn]
 *[ñuwn]
 *[ɲuwn]
 *[ɳuwn]

What does this tell us the nasal phonemes of English are?

2. What happens when a nasal is followed by a stop?

[lɪmp]	*[lɪmt]	*[lɪmč]	*[lɪmk]
*[lɪnp]	[lɪnt]	*[lɪnč]	*[lɪnk]
*[lɪŋp]	*[lɪŋt]	[lɪŋč]	*[lɪŋk]
*[lɪŋp]	*[lɪŋt]	*[lɪŋč]	[lɪŋk]

3. There are no words in English ending in [...ŋ]. On the other hand, there are words ending in [...ŋ], even though English does not appear to have a phoneme /ŋ/. (If it did, we would have to explain the unusual fact that there are no words beginning with [ŋ].) How can we account for these facts?
4. Give the phonological derivation of the word *king* [kɪŋ].

Palatalization

1. Notice what happens when an alveolar obstruent is followed by /y/:

digestion	/dayʒest+yən/	[dayʒesčən]
presidential	/prezɪdɛnt+yæl/	[prezɪdɛnčɪ]
habitual	/hæbɪt+yuæl/	[hæbɪčuəl]
artificial	/artɪfɪs+yæl/	[artɪfɪʃɪ]
sensual	/sens+yuæl/	[sɛnʃuəl]
Don't you	/daʊnt yu/	[daʊnčə]
I bet you	/aɪ bɛt yu/	[aɪbɛčə]

Formulate the rule responsible for the change.

2. What happens to the /y/ that triggers the palatalization of the alveolars? Formulate the rule.
3. What order do these two rules apply in?
4. Now notice what happens when the /y/ that triggers palatalization is followed by a stressed vowel.

artificiality	/artɪfɪs+yæl+ɪti/	[artɪfɪʃiæɪlɪti]
presidentiality	/prezɪdɛnt+yæl+ɪti/	[prezɪdɛnčɪæɪlɪti]

State the rule. How is it ordered relative to the two other rules?