

“Foreign” Accents 1

Why Jose doesn't sound like an English speaker and Johnny's Spanish accent is horrible.

Reasons

There are 3 principle reasons why non-native speakers do not pronounce a language in the same way as natives.

(1) There is a sound in the target language which does not exist in the native language

e.g. [θ, ð] in English (**th**ese **th**ings)

Substitution

Does not exist in many languages, such as French.

A common solution for this problem is: **substitution**

Possible substitutes [f, v, s, z, t, d]

Demo: French speaker #4 from accent archive
<http://classweb.gmu.edu/accent/>

Please call Stella. Ask her to bring these things with her from the store: Six spoons of fresh snow peas, five thick slabs of blue cheese, and maybe a snack for her brother Bob. We also need a small plastic snake and a big toy frog for the kids. She can scoop these things into three red bags, and we will go meet her Wednesday at the train station.

French speaker #4 substitutions:

Note:

'these'	=	[diz]
'with'	=	[wif]
'thick'	=	[tɪk]
'brother'	=	[brʌdə]
'things'	=	[fɪŋk]
'three'	=	[tri]

A Second Reason

A second reason: the same sounds exist in both languages but the patterns they follow are different because the difference is contrastive in one language and not in the other, or because the phonological rule is different in one language versus another.

e.g. final obstruent devoicing

Demo: Turkish speaker #1 from accent archive

Note:

'please' = [plis]
'slabs' = [sleps]
'cheese' = [çis]
'Bob' = [bap]

The Third Reason

Differences arise because the **sequences** of sounds that are admitted are different in the two languages. This also has major effects on borrowings from one language to another, and on the phonological production of children (the topic of the next class.)

e.g. The insertion of [ε] in certain environments by Spanish speakers.

Demo from accent archive: Spanish Speaker #1

Note:

'Stella' = [εstɛla]
'spoons' = [εspuns]
'slabs' = [εslɛf]
'snake' = [εsnek]
'scoop' = [εskup]
'station' = [εsteʃn]

Why?

Spanish has no [s] + [stop] combinations at the beginning of a syllable:

student	estudiante	[stV]
school	escuela	[skV]
spinal	espinal	[spV]

Another Factor: Syllable Structure

(also important for speech errors).

English syllables, Hebrew, Hawaiian, Indonesian
LF p103XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Often useful to represent the syllable structure like this:

.frɪ.kə.tɪv.
.mɛ.rɪ.krɪs.məs.

Loans/Borrowings into other languages

This is another place where differences between languages affect pronunciation.

Why does one language borrow words from another?

Loans

What happens if the syllable structures of two languages don't match, and one language borrows a word from another?

Ways to solve the problem:

- delete a consonant
- insert a vowel

Japanese and Korean borrowings from English

Japanese and Korean insert vowels to make the borrowed words conform to the syllable structure of J and K.

(see LF 104)XXXXX What are the syllable structures?

birth control → J. ba:su kontoro:ru

Sprite → K. si.pi.ra.i.ti

English → Hawaiian Loans

The vowel inventory of Hawaiian:

i	u
e	o
	a

The consonant inventory of Hawaiian:

p	k	ʻ	h
---	---	---	---

m	n
w	l

Hawaiian Syllables: V, CV

Native Hawaiian Words

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| • iwa | • nine |
| • niʻihao | • Place |
| • honolulu | • Place |
| • puaʻohi | • Chatter |
| • kaukau | • Admonish |
| • hoʻolauleʻa | • celebration |

Impossible Hawaiian Words

- *tuʻa (impossible consonant)
 *plai (consonant cluster)
 *kehunanal (final consonant)

English Loan Words in Hawaiian

English	IPA	IPA	Hawaiian
palm	pam	pam	paama
ticket	tikt	tikt	kikiki
soap	sop	sop	kopa
beer	bir	bir	pia
brush	brʌʃ	brʌʃ	palaki
wine	wain	wain	waina
rice	rais	rais	laiki
bell	bel	bel	pete
flour	flaw ə	flaw ə	palaoa
zodiac	zodiak	zodiak	kokiaka

Consonant Problems

Hawaiian has no [r]

r → l (brush, rice)

r → zero at the end of a word (flour, beer)

brʌʃ → palaki

rais → laiki

flaw ə → palaoa

bir → pia

Consonant Problems

Apart from labial [p] and glottal [ʔ], the only other stop in Hawaiian is [k]. Hawaiian also has no labial, dental or velar fricatives. All non-labial and non-glottal obstruents (stops, fricatives, affricates) are borrowed into Hawaiian as k.

t → k tikit → kikiki

s → k sop → kopa

ʃ → k brʌʃ → palaki

z → k zodiæk → kokiaka

k → k tikit → kikiki

Consonant Problems

Hawaiian has only one labial non-nasal and non-glide (“obstruent”) [p].

p → p pam → paama

b → p bɛl → pele

f → p flawə → palaoa

Syllabification Problems:

Hawaiian does not allow CCV

Problems: brush, flour

.brʌʃ. → .pa.la.ki.

.fla.wə. → .pa.lao.a.

Syllabification Problems

Hawaiian does not allow a consonant at the end of a syllable (therefore no consonant at the end of a word)

If C is in language; keep it and add a vowel:

.pam. → .paa.ma.

.wain. → .wai.na.

.bɛl. → .pe.le.

Syllabification Problems

If C is not in language, change it as above, and add a vowel:

t. → kV. .tɪ.kɪt. → ki.ki.ki.

ʃ. → kV. .brʌʃ. → .pa.la.ki.

s. → kV. .rais. → .lai.ki.

Hawaiian borrowed version of
“Merry Christmas”

What is it?

Problems of Syllable Structure

.mɛ.rɪ.kɾɪs.məs.

No C at the end of a syllable

No CC sequences

Insert Vowels to Repair
Syllables

.mɛ.rɪ.kV.rɪ.sV.məsV.

Non-Hawaiian Vowels

.mɛ.rɪ.kV.rɪ.sV.məsV.

Hawaiian: [i, e, a, o, u]

Fix Vowel Choices

.me.re.ke.ri.si.ma.sa.

Consonant Problems

.me.re.ke.ri.si.ma.sa.

Hawaiian has no [r]:

Consonant Problems

Replace [r] with [l]
.me.le.ke.li.si.ma.sa.

Now [r] is fixed, Next problem

.me.le.ke.li.si.ma.sa.
Hawaiian has no [s]
Replace [s] with [k]

Now [r] is fixed, Next problem

.me.le.ke.li.ki.ma.ka.
Hawaiian has no [s]
Replace [s] with [k]

The final Hawaiian form

.me.le.ke.li.ki.ma.ka.