

The pronunciation of English

András Cser

BBNAN-11700, seminar

**Next week: Quiz on /l/, /r/
and today's stuff!**

Recommended reading:
Chapter 2 of Balogné & Szentgyörgyi

Obstruents: aspiration

- Voiceless (=fortis) stops in English (= /p t k/) sound very differently from their Hungarian counterparts
- part of this difference has to do with *aspiration*
 - a little, noisy puff of air after the stop
 - in the case of /t/ also a strong /t^s/-like quality

Obstruents: aspiration

- The handout shows you when a stop is strongly aspirated or weakly aspirated or unaspirated

Obstruents: voice

Another important difference between English and Hungarian: voice assimilation

Hungarian:

- always regressive (=leftward; second consonant overrides first): *fog+tól* /foktol/, *rak+d* /ragd/
- can be either voicing or devoicing
 - (see previous two examples)
- Neutralisation of first consonant: *fogtól* = *foktól*;
mészből = *mézből*; *mésztől* = *méztől*...

Obstruents: voice

English:

- progressive devoicing of *-ed* and *-s* suffixes
 - *missed* /-st/, *gapped* /-pt/, *looked* /-kt/, *looks* /-ks/
- otherwise only regressive
- categorically no voicing
 - *gas bill* /sb/, *life jacket* /fdʒ/, *that girl* /tg/...
- devoicing possible but weak
 - *slideshow* /dʒ/ *bagpipe* /gp/

Obstruents: voice

English:

But what is the difference between a devoiced
and a really voiceless (=fortis) consonant?

Pre-Fortis Clipping: vowels are shorter before
fortis consonants

he wrōte frequently ~ he rōde frequently

a cǎp for you ~ a cāb for you

Transcription practice

yolk	/jəʊk/	sovereign	/'sɒvrɪn/
handkerchief	/'hæŋkətʃi:f/	receipt	/rɪ'si:t/
country	/'kʌntri/	jeopardy	/'dʒepədi/
county	/'kaʊnti/	garage	/'gærɑ:ʒ/
though	/ðəʊ/	create	/kri'eɪt/
thought	/θɔ:t/	creature	/'kri:tʃə/
procedure	/prə'si:dʒə/	basically	/'beɪsɪkli/
endeavour	/ɪn'devə/	choir	/kwaɪə/
leopard	/'lepəd/	purchase	/'pɜ:tʃəs/
scissors	/'sɪzəz/	among	/ə'mʌŋ/