

## CHANGING SOUNDS

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### ABSTRACT

Changing sounds is an important topic in linguistics and phonetics. It explains how sounds in a language change over time or during speech. Sound changes happen naturally because people speak quickly, communicate with different groups, and adapt pronunciation for easier speaking. These changes influence pronunciation, spelling, and even grammar in languages. Understanding changing sounds helps students learn the history of languages and improves pronunciation skills. This thesis discusses the meaning of changing sounds, types of sound changes, their causes, and their importance in communication and language development.

**Key words:** changing sounds, phonetics, linguistics, assimilation, deletion, addition, metathesis, vowel shift, pronunciation, language development, communication, speech changes, sound change, language history.

### INTRODUCTION

Language is constantly developing. One of the main reasons for language development is sound change. Sounds are the basic elements of spoken language, and they often change from one generation to another. Linguists study these changes to understand how languages evolve. Sound changes can occur slowly over many years or quickly in daily communication. For example, words in English today are pronounced differently from how they were pronounced hundreds of years ago. Changing sounds are common in all languages. In everyday speech, people sometimes shorten words, combine sounds, or replace difficult sounds with easier ones. These changes help speakers communicate faster and more comfortably. Sound changes are also influenced by culture, geography, and contact with other languages. Therefore, studying changing sounds is important for understanding language history and human communication.

### MAIN PART

There are several types of sound changes. One common type is assimilation, which happens when one sound becomes similar to another nearby sound. For example, in fast English speech, the phrase "good boy" may sound like "gub boy." This occurs because speakers naturally adjust sounds for easier pronunciation.

Another type is deletion. Deletion means removing a sound from a word. In informal speech, people often say "famly" instead of "family." The missing sound makes pronunciation faster and simpler. Addition is another process where extra sounds appear in words. For example, some speakers pronounce "athlete" as "athelete" by adding an extra vowel sound. Metathesis is also an interesting sound change. It happens when sounds change places in a word. Some people pronounce "ask" as "aks." This type of sound change has existed in many languages for centuries. Another important process is vowel shift. Vowel shifts happen when vowel pronunciation changes over time. The Great Vowel Shift in English greatly influenced modern English pronunciation. There are many reasons why sounds change. One reason is ease of pronunciation. People naturally prefer speaking in a comfortable and quick way. Another reason is social influence. Young people often create new pronunciation styles that later become popular. Migration and communication between different language groups also affect pronunciation.

Technology and media can influence sound changes as well. Television, music, and the internet spread new accents and speaking styles around the world. As a result, pronunciation differences between regions may become smaller or larger depending on cultural trends.

Changing sounds are important because they help linguists understand language history. By studying pronunciation changes, researchers can discover relationships between languages. For example, similarities between English, German, and other European languages show that they came from the same language family.

### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, changing sounds are a natural and important part of language development. Sound changes happen because of pronunciation habits, social interaction, and cultural influence. Processes such as assimilation, deletion, addition, and vowel shifts affect how people speak every day. Studying changing sounds helps learners improve pronunciation and understand the history of languages. It also shows that language is always changing and adapting to human communication needs. Therefore, the study of changing sounds remains an essential field in linguistics and language education.

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