ANNOUNCEMENT

- For Friday:
- begin Morphology
- Files 5.1, 5.3-5.4
- ASL moved to next Friday
Today

- Phonotactics
- Borrowing and accents
- Slips of the tongue

Readings: 4.6, 9.9
Which are impossible English words?

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Phonotactic constraints

- Restrictions on possible sound sequences in different positions of a word
  - e.g., English allows...
    - ... [tr] at the beginning of a word, but not the end
    - ... [ŋ] in the middle or at the end of a word, but not at the beginning
    - ... up to 3 consonants at the beginning of a word
Accent

- When the words of one language are pronounced with rules and phonotactics of another language

‘Foreign Accent Syndrome’

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/3235934.stm
Borrowing

- Words borrowed from a foreign language are (typically) altered to match the native language’s phonotactics
Borrowing

- **Sound substitution**: substitution of an similar sound for a foreign sound that is not in the native phonemic inventory
  - Ger. *Bach* [bax] → Eng. [bak]
  - Eng. *this* [ðlIs], *thing* [ðIN] → Fr. [zis], [siŋ]
  - Arabic *Al Qaeda* [al qaɪda] → Eng. [æl kʰɑɪdə]
Borrowing

- **Deletion**: elimination of a sound
  - Greek $\rightarrow$ Eng...
    - *Ptolemy*, mnemonic (but, see *amnesia*)

- **Insertion**: addition of a sound
  - Slavic $\rightarrow$ Eng.
    - *Gdansk* [gɔdʒnsk], *Tbilisi* [tʰ əbɪlɪsi]
  - Eng. $\rightarrow$ Japanese
    - *beer* [bɪɾu], *Christmas* [kurisumasu]
Speech errors or ‘Slips of the Tongue’

- Mistakes in a speaker’s linguistic performance
- They can provide clues about our linguistic competence
Anticipation

- A later sound is anticipated earlier in the utterance
  - firing of the faculty (← hiring of the faculty)
  - splicing from a tape (← splicing from a tape)
Perseveration

- An earlier sound perseveres later in the utterance
  - phonological fool (↔ phonological rule)
Metathesis

- Two sounds (or sound sequences) are switched
  - Yew Nork (← New York)
  - budbega (← bedbugs)
  - blushing crow (← crushing blow)
  - blake fruid (← brake fluid)
Slips don’t just involve whole sounds

- Lemadon (Lebanon) = nasality
- glear plue sky (clear blue sky) = voicing
- safe-spazing (space-saving) = place
Not everything is possible
e.g., ‘slips of the tongue’ →
  - tips of the slung
  - stips of the lung
  - lips of the stung
  → but not … *tlips of the sung
Slips of the tongue...

- ...obey the rules and phonotactics of the language
  - Fleudian [ʃ]rip (← Freudian [s]lip)
  - bird some shot[s] (← shot some bird[z])

- ...provide evidence in support of psychological reality of linguistic units
  - Consonants vs. vowels
  - Phonetic features