

Examples for discussion:

Phonetic, phonemic, phonological grammar changes

I. Japanese /s/

Can you find cases of phonetic change? Phonemic change? Phonological grammar change?

Stage 1 (represented in Portuguese missionary materials)

see <<http://esopo.fc2web.com/Esopo/esopo/esopo408.html>>

[s] occurs: before [a o u] ([u] is a high back *unrounded* vowel)

[ç] occurs: before [i e] ([ç] is a fricative similar to [ʃ] but with flatter tongue)

- What is the distribution of [s] and [ç]?
- Are there any synchronic phonological rules?

Stage 2 (taking Modern Standard Japanese before/without recent loanwords)

[s] occurs: before [a e o u]

[ç] occurs: before [i]

- What is the distribution of [s] and [ç]?
- Are there any synchronic phonological rules?

Stage 3 (Modern Standard Japanese, with many recent loanwords)

[s] occurs: before [a e o i u]

[ç] occurs: before [a e o i u]

- What is the distribution of [s] and [ç] now?

II. Old English /æ/

What subtype of phonemic change is this?

Stage 1: Vowel length of /æ/ is predictable based on syllable structure

CæC (short vowel)

Cæ: . CV (long vowel)

Stage 2: Final schwa is deleted

CæC > unchanged

CæC

Cæ: . Cə > Cæ:C

Cæ:C

← new minimal pair!