

Historical Linguistics

그깃뻑 그 ㅇ그뻑 슈ㅇ가 戡뻑뻑, 슈ㅇ가 유뻑뻑
 kəkizpæk kwsy ŋatkwiɸə syŋka taktɸwtæɸ syŋka ŋwkɸwtæɸ
 can-picture I (NOM1) mind-my-inside world (ACC3) war-without world (ACC3) hate-without
 I can picture in my mind a world without war, a world without hate.

뿌꺄 그깃뻑 그 꺄 꺄뻑, 습 ㅇ애시구ter 시뻑
 pʉkət kəkizpæk kwsy kaŋ kipæ səb ŋæɸikuti? ɸipæ
 moreover can-picture I (NOM1) attack we-by because not-expect-EC they (NOM2)
 And I can picture us attacking that world, because they'd never expect it.

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--UHL-46

Languages are complicated.

(not just the languages you are making up...)

...and, in fact, kids sometimes make mistakes when they're learning them.

- what does 'livid' mean?

...and, in fact, kids sometimes make mistakes when they're learning them.

- what does 'livid' mean?
white? red? angry?

...and, in fact, kids sometimes make mistakes when they're learning them.

- what does 'livid' mean?
white? red? angry?
- the verb 'misle': I used to believe
in this verb...

...and, in fact, kids sometimes make mistakes when they're learning them.

- what does 'livid' mean?
white? red? angry?
- the verb 'misle': I used to believe in this verb...but I'd been **mised**.

Sometimes these 'mistakes' catch on,
in the form of:

- various kinds of semantic drift

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in the form of:

- various kinds of semantic drift

OE *(ge)bed* 'prayer'

(cf. German *beten* 'pray')

> ModE *bead*

("I'm counting my *beads* on this rosary")

Sometimes these 'mistakes' catch on,
in the form of:

- various kinds of semantic drift
OE *(ge)bed* 'prayer' > ModE *bead*

OE *steorfan* 'die'
(cf. German *sterben*)
> ModE *starve*

Sometimes these 'mistakes' catch on,
in the form of:

- various kinds of semantic drift
OE *(ge)bed* 'prayer' > ModE *bead*
OE *steorfan* 'die' > ModE *starve*

Passamaquoddy *mehcine* 'he/she
died', cognate with Wampanoag
mâhchuneâw 'he/she is sick'

Sometimes these 'mistakes' catch on,
in the form of:

- various kinds of semantic drift
OE *(ge)bed* 'prayer' > ModE *bead*
OE *steorfan* 'die' > ModE *starve*

OE *cniht* 'boy, servant'
(German *Knecht*) > ModE *knight*

Sometimes these 'mistakes' catch on,
in the form of:

- various kinds of semantic drift
OE *(ge)bed* 'prayer' > ModE *bead*
OE *steorfan* 'die' > ModE *starve*
OE *cniht* 'servant' > ModE *knight*

OE *huswif* 'housewife'
> ModE *hussy*

Sometimes these 'mistakes' catch on,
in the form of:

- various kinds of semantic drift
 - OE *(ge)bed* 'prayer' > ModE *bead*
 - OE *steorfan* 'die' > ModE *starve*
 - OE *cniht* 'servant' > ModE *knight*
 - OE *huswif* 'housewife' > ModE *hussy*
 - PAN **wada* 'there is'
 - > Tagalog *wala* 'there isn't'

Sometimes these 'mistakes' catch on,
in the form of:

- various kinds of semantic drift

OE *(ge)bed* 'prayer' > ModE *bead*

OE *steorfan* 'die' > ModE *starve*

OE *cniht* 'servant' > ModE *knight*

OE *huswif* 'housewife' > ModE *hussy*

PAN~~*~~*wada* 'there is'

reconstructed > Tagalog *wala* 'there isn't'

Sometimes these 'mistakes' catch on,
in the form of:

- various kinds of semantic drift
- recuttings (like *misled* > *misle-d*)

ME an ekename >

ModE a nickname

Sometimes these 'mistakes' catch on,
in the form of:

- various kinds of semantic drift
- recuttings (like *misled* > *misle-d*)
- sound changes!

some numbers:

	<i>Skt.</i>	<i>Greek</i>	<i>Latin</i>	<i>Gthc.</i>	<i>O.Ir</i>	<i>Lith.</i>	<i>OCS*</i>	<i>Bsque</i>	<i>Tkish</i>
1.	ékas	hei:s	u:nus	ains	oín	víenas	jedinŭ	bat	bir
2.	dvaú	dúo:	duo	twai	da	dù	dŭva	bi	iki
3.	tráyas	trei:s	tre:s	θreis	tri	try:s	trĭje	hiru	üç

*Old Church Slavonic

some numbers:

	<i>Skt.</i>	<i>Greek</i>	<i>Latin</i>	<i>Gthc.</i>	<i>O.Ir</i>	<i>Lith.</i>	<i>OCS*</i>	<i>Bsque</i>	<i>Tkish</i>
1	ékas	hei:s	u:nus	ains	oín	víenas	jedinŭ	bat	bir
2	dvaú	dúo:	duo	twai	da	dù	dŭva	bi	iki
3	tráyas	trei:s	tre:s	θreis	tri	try:s	trĭje	hiru	üç

cognates

in fact, we can be more systematic than this:

Grimm's Law (Rasmus Rask, Jakob Grimm)

	<u>Latin</u>	<u>Greek</u>	<u>English</u>
d-t	<u>duo</u>	<u>dúo</u>	<u>two</u>
	<u>ed</u> -o	<u>éd</u> -o	<u>eat</u>
	<u>decem</u>	<u>déka</u>	<u>ten</u>
g-k	<u>genus</u>	<u>gonu</u>	<u>kin</u>
	<u>ager</u>	<u>agrós</u>	<u>acre</u>
b-p	<u>labium</u>	--	<u>lip</u>
	<u>cannabis</u>	<u>kánnabis</u>	<u>hemp</u>
	<u>lubricus</u>	--	<u>slippery</u>

Once we've figured out all the sound laws we need for a bunch of related languages, we posit the 'underlying forms' that underwent the sound changes: protolanguage

Sanskrit

Latin

English

ad-

ed-

eat

...

Sanskrit

Latin

English

ad-

ed-

eat

...

Sanskrit

ad-

Latin

ed-

English

eat

Grimm's Law (Germanic):

d->t (also, b->p, and g->k)

Sanskrit

Latin

English

ad-

ed-

eat

Sanskrit

Latin

English

ad-

ed-

eat

Sanskrit

Latin

ad-

ed-

'eat'

danta

dent-

'tooth'

avi-

ovi-

'sheep'

dva-

duo

'two'

ajra

ager

'field'

Proto-Indo-European: *ed- 'eat'

Sanskrit (*e>a) ad-

Latin ed-

English (G.L...) eat

Proto-Indo-European: *ed- 'eat'

Sanskrit (*e>a) ad-

Latin ed-

English (G.L...) eat

The proto-form doesn't have to be the same as any daughter form...

w-->gw in Chamorro:

Tagalog

asawa

dalawa

wala 'there isn't'

Chamorro

asagwa 'spouse'

hugwa 'two'

gwaha 'there is'

...

w-->gw in Chamorro, and...

Tagalog

asawa

dalawa

wala 'there isn't'

Chamorro

asagwa 'spouse'

hugwa 'two'

gwaha 'there is'

PIE

*wir

Welsh

gwir 'man'

Proto-Germ.

*werra

*ward-

Late Latin

*gwerra 'war'

*gward- 'guard'

Tagalog

asawa

dalawa

wala 'there isn't'

PIE

*wir

Proto-Germ.

*werra

*ward-

Quenya

vendë 'maiden'

Chamorro

asagwa 'spouse'

hugwa 'two'

gwaha 'there is'

Welsh

gwir 'man'

Late Latin

*gwerra 'war'

*gward- 'guard'

Sindarin

gwend

big discovery:
sound change is regular.

(Neogrammarian Hypothesis)

big discovery:
sound change is regular.

-->shifts emphasis away from looking for lists of words that 'look similar'; now what we're looking for is lists of words that can be related by regular sound laws.

"looking similar" is not necessary to prove relationship:

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>
'two'	er	erku	duo

"looking similar" is not necessary to prove relationship:

	<u>Mandarin</u>	<u>Armenian</u>	<u>Greek</u>
'two'	er	erku	duo

"looking similar" is not necessary to prove relationship:

	<u>Mandarin</u>	<u>Armenian</u>	<u>Greek</u>
'two'	er	erku	duo
'fear'		erki-	dwi-
'long'		erkar	dwa:ron

PIE **dw* > Armenian *erk*

"looking similar" is not sufficient to
prove relationship:

Mbabaram

English

"looking similar" is not sufficient to
prove relationship:

Mbabaram

English

dog

"looking similar" is not sufficient to
prove relationship:

Mbabaram

dog

English

dog

"looking similar" is not sufficient to prove relationship:

Mbabaram

dog

(<**gudaga*:

Yidiny *gudaga*,

Dyirbal *guda*)

English

dog

(<OE *docga*

'mastiff')

"looking similar" is not sufficient to prove relationship:

Mbabaram

dog

Persian

bad

Malay

mata 'eye'

English

dog

English

bad

Greek

mati 'eye'

<u>Hawaiian</u>	<u>Maori</u>	<u>Tongan</u>	<u>Samoan</u>	
kalo	taro	talo	talo	'taro'
piko	pito	pito	pito	'navel'
moko	moto	moto	moto	'punch'
aka	ata	ata	ata	'dawn'
kai	tai	tahi	tai	'sea'
nuku	ŋutu	ŋutu	ŋutu	'beak'

<u>Hawaiian</u>	<u>Maori</u>	<u>Tongan</u>	<u>Samoan</u>	
<u>k</u> alo	<u>t</u> aro	<u>t</u> alo	<u>t</u> alo	'taro'
pi <u>k</u> o	pi <u>t</u> o	pi <u>t</u> o	pi <u>t</u> o	'navel'
mo <u>k</u> o	mo <u>t</u> o	mo <u>t</u> o	mo <u>t</u> o	'punch'
ak <u>a</u>	at <u>a</u>	at <u>a</u>	at <u>a</u>	'dawn'
<u>k</u> ai	<u>t</u> ai	<u>t</u> ahi	<u>t</u> ai	'sea'
nu <u>k</u> u	ŋu <u>t</u> u	ŋu <u>t</u> u	ŋu <u>t</u> u	'beak'

<u>Hawaiian</u>	<u>Maori</u>	<u>Tongan</u>	<u>Samoaan</u>	
k alo	t aro	t alo	t alo	'taro'
pi k o	pi t o	pi t o	pi t o	'navel'
mo k o	mo t o	mo t o	mo t o	'punch'
a k a	a t a	a t a	a t a	'dawn'
k ai	t ai	t ahi	t ai	'sea'
nu k u	ŋu t u	ŋu t u	ŋu t u	'beak'

Hawaiian:

t→k

<u>Hawaiian</u>	<u>Maori</u>	<u>Tongan</u>	<u>Samoaan</u>	<u>P-Pol</u>
<u>k</u> alo	<u>t</u> aro	<u>t</u> alo	<u>t</u> alo	*talo 'taro'
pi <u>k</u> o	pi <u>t</u> o	pi <u>t</u> o	pi <u>t</u> o	*pito 'navel'
mo <u>k</u> o	mo <u>t</u> o	mo <u>t</u> o	mo <u>t</u> o	*moto 'punch'
a <u>k</u> a	a <u>t</u> a	a <u>t</u> a	a <u>t</u> a	*ata 'dawn'
<u>k</u> ai	<u>t</u> ai	<u>t</u> ahi	<u>t</u> ai	*tahi 'sea'
nu <u>k</u> u	ŋ <u>t</u> u	ŋ <u>t</u> u	ŋ <u>t</u> u	*ŋutu 'beak'

Hawaiian:

t → k

<u>Hawaiian</u>	<u>Maori</u>	<u>Tongan</u>	<u>Samoaan</u>	<u>P-Pol</u>
kalo	taro	talo	talo	*talo 'taro'
piko	pito	pito	pito	*pito 'navel'
<u>ʔ</u> ele	<u>k</u> ere	<u>k</u> ele	<u>ʔ</u> ele	'black'
<u>ʔ</u> ula	<u>k</u> ura	<u>k</u> ula	<u>ʔ</u> ula	'red'
a <u>ʔ</u> e	a <u>k</u> e	ha <u>k</u> e	a <u>ʔ</u> e	'up'
<u>ʔ</u> apo	<u>k</u> apo	--	<u>ʔ</u> apo	'grasp'

Hawaiian:

t→k

<u>Hawaiian</u>	<u>Maori</u>	<u>Tongan</u>	<u>Samoaan</u>	<u>P-Pol</u>
kalo	taro	talo	talo	*talo 'taro'
piko	pito	pito	pito	*pito 'navel'
<u>ʔ</u> ele	<u>k</u> ere	<u>k</u> ele	<u>ʔ</u> ele	*kele 'black'
<u>ʔ</u> ula	<u>k</u> ura	<u>k</u> ula	<u>ʔ</u> ula	*kula 'red'
a <u>ʔ</u> e	a <u>k</u> e	ha <u>k</u> e	a <u>ʔ</u> e	*hake 'up'
<u>ʔ</u> apo	<u>k</u> apo	--	<u>ʔ</u> apo	*kapo 'grasp'

Hawaiian:

t → k

k → ʔ

<u>Hawaiian</u>	<u>Maori</u>	<u>Tongan</u>	<u>Samoaan</u>	<u>P-Pol</u>
kalo	taro	talo	talo	*talo 'taro'
piko	pito	pito	pito	*pito 'navel'
<u>ʔ</u> ele	<u>k</u> ere	<u>k</u> ele	<u>ʔ</u> ele	*kele 'black'
<u>ʔ</u> ula	<u>k</u> ura	<u>k</u> ula	<u>ʔ</u> ula	*kula 'red'
a <u>ʔ</u> e	a <u>k</u> e	ha <u>k</u> e	a <u>ʔ</u> e	*hake 'up'
<u>ʔ</u> apo	<u>k</u> apo	--	<u>ʔ</u> apo	*hapo 'grasp'

Hawaiian:

k → ʔ

t → k

<u>Hawaiian</u>	<u>Maori</u>	<u>Tongan</u>	<u>Samoaan</u>	<u>P-Pol</u>
kalo	taro	talo	talo	*talo 'taro'
ʔele	kere	kele	ʔele	*kele 'black'
aka	ata	ata	ata	'dawn'
ihu	ihu	ihu	isu	'nose'
ao	ao	<u>ʔ</u> aho	ao	'day'
aloha	aroha	<u>ʔ</u> alo <u>ʔ</u> ofa	alofa	'love'
wae	wae	va <u>ʔ</u> e	vae	'leg'
leo	reo	le <u>ʔ</u> o	leo	'voice'
hau	hau	hau	sau	'dew'
wai	wai	vai	vai	'water'

<u>Hawaiian</u>	<u>Maori</u>	<u>Tongan</u>	<u>Samoaan</u>	<u>P-Pol</u>
kalo	taro	talo	talo	*talo 'taro'
ʔele	kere	kele	ʔele	*kele 'black'
aka	ata	ata	ata	*ata 'dawn'
ihu	ihu	ihu	isu	*isu 'nose'
ao	ao	<u>ʔ</u> aho	ao	*ʔaho'day'
aloha	aroha	<u>ʔ</u> alo <u>ʔ</u> ofa	alofa	*ʔaloʔofa 'love'
wae	wae	va <u>ʔ</u> e	vae	*vaʔe'leg'
leo	reo	le <u>ʔ</u> o	leo	*leʔo 'voice'
hau	hau	hau	sau	*sau 'dew'
wai	wai	vai	vai	*vai 'water'

<u>Hawaiian</u>	<u>Maori</u>	<u>Tongan</u>	<u>Samoaan</u>	<u>P-Pol</u>
kalo	taro	talo	talo	*talo 'taro'
ʔele	kere	kele	ʔele	*kele 'black'
aka	ata	ata	ata	*ata 'dawn'
ao	ao	<u>ʔ</u> aho	ao	*ʔaho'day'

Hawaiian:

k → ʔ ('black')

t → k ('taro')

ʔ → ∅ ('day')

<u>Hawaiian</u>	<u>Maori</u>	<u>Tongan</u>	<u>Samoaan</u>	<u>P-Pol</u>
kalo	taro	talo	talo	*talo 'taro'
ʔele	kere	kele	ʔele	*kele 'black'
aka	ata	ata	ata	*ata 'dawn'
ao	ao	<u>ʔ</u> aho	ao	*ʔaho'day'

Hawaiian:

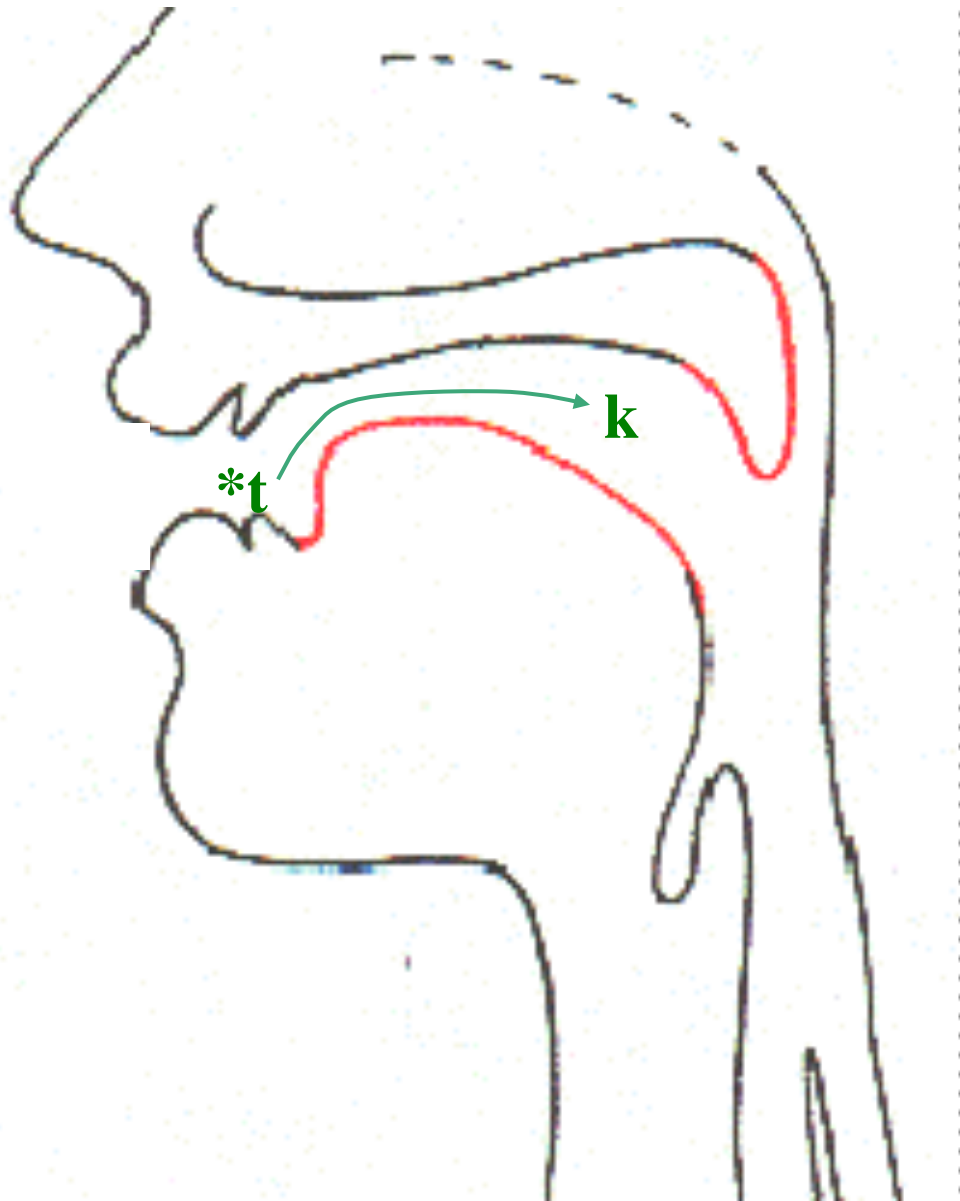
ʔ → ∅ ('day')

k → ʔ ('black')

t → k ('taro')

Hawaiian

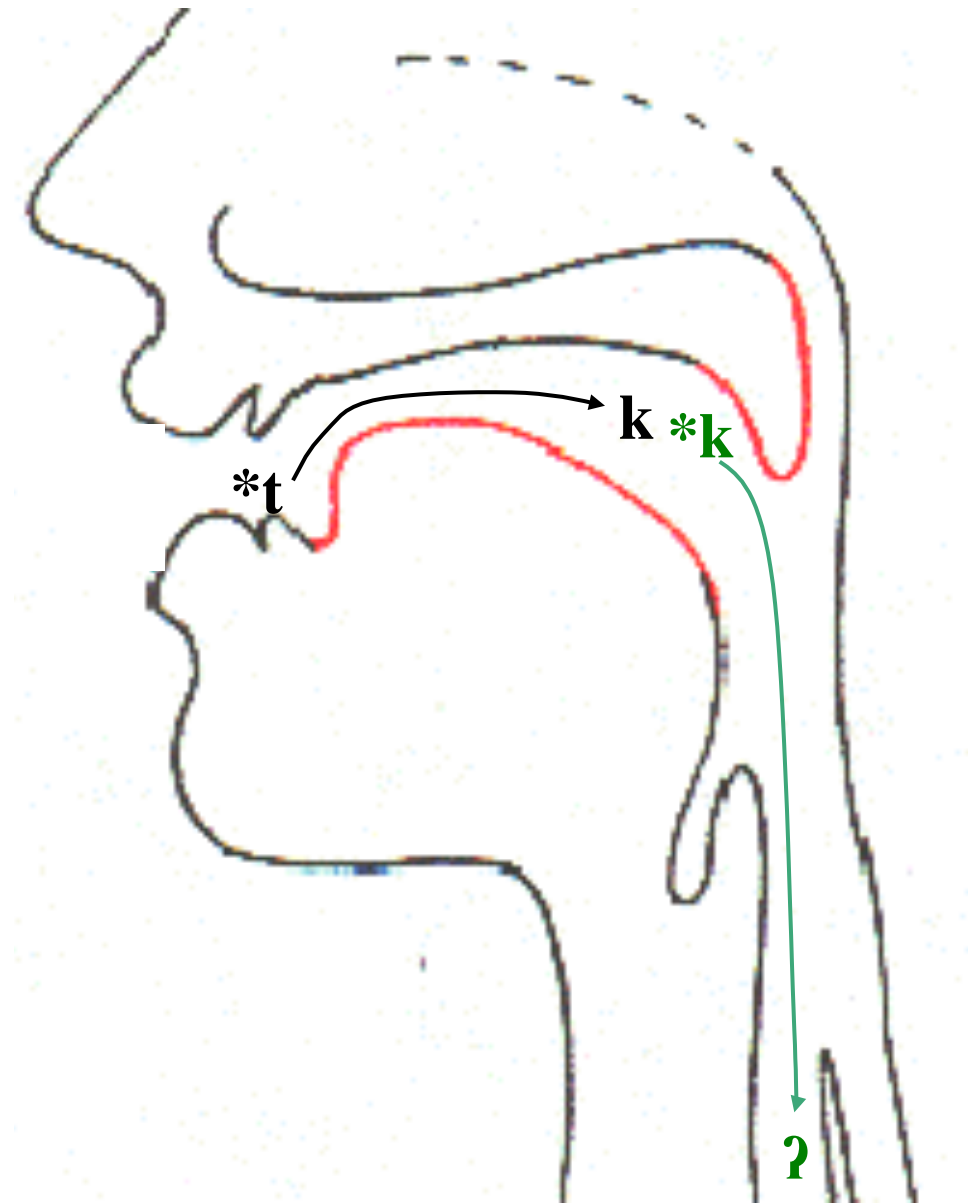
*ata 'dawn'
aka



Hawaiian

*ata 'dawn'
 ↙
 aka

*kula 'red'
 ↙
 ʔula

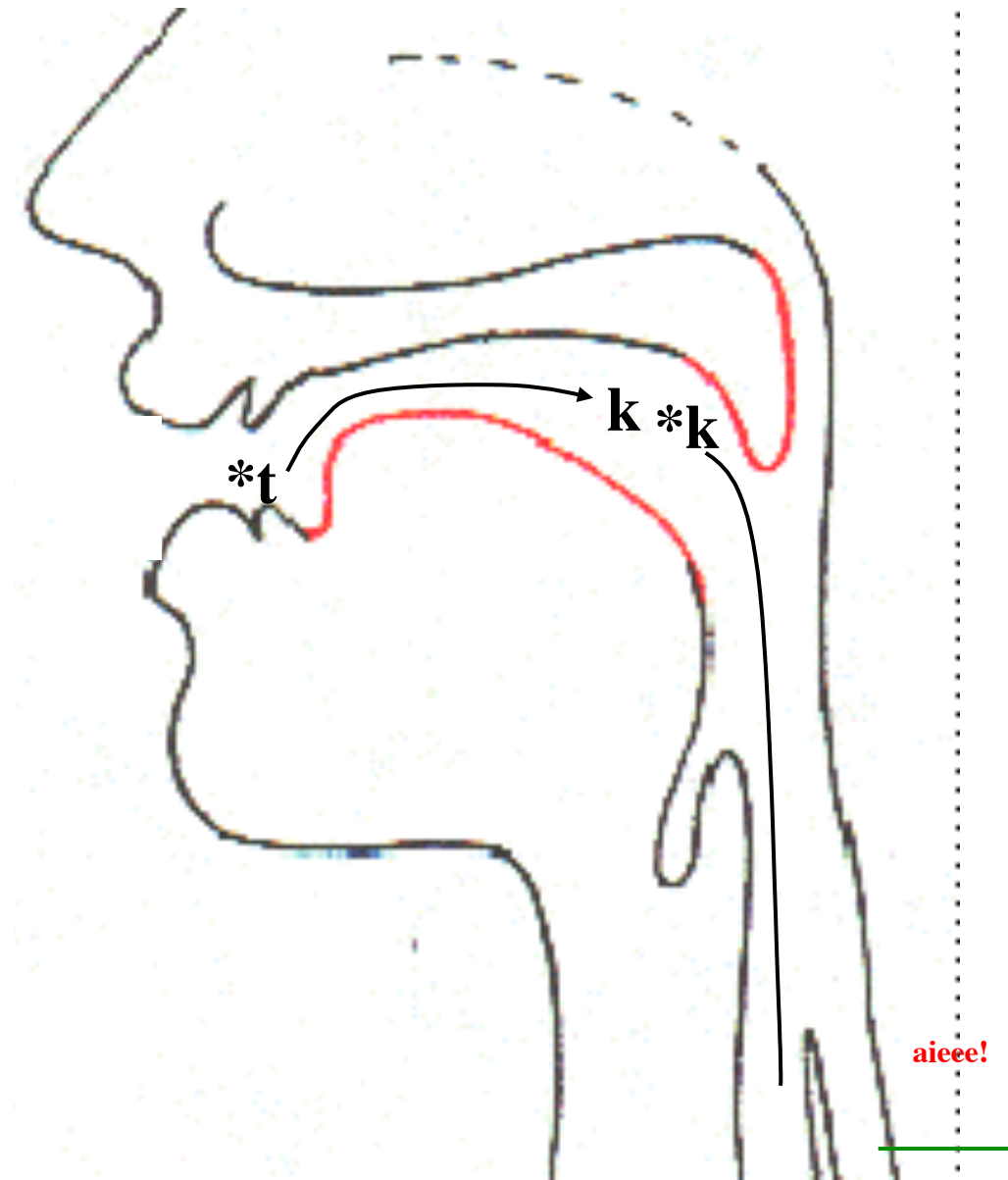


Hawaiian

*ata 'dawn'
↳
aka

*kula 'red'
↳
ʔula

*leʔo 'voice'



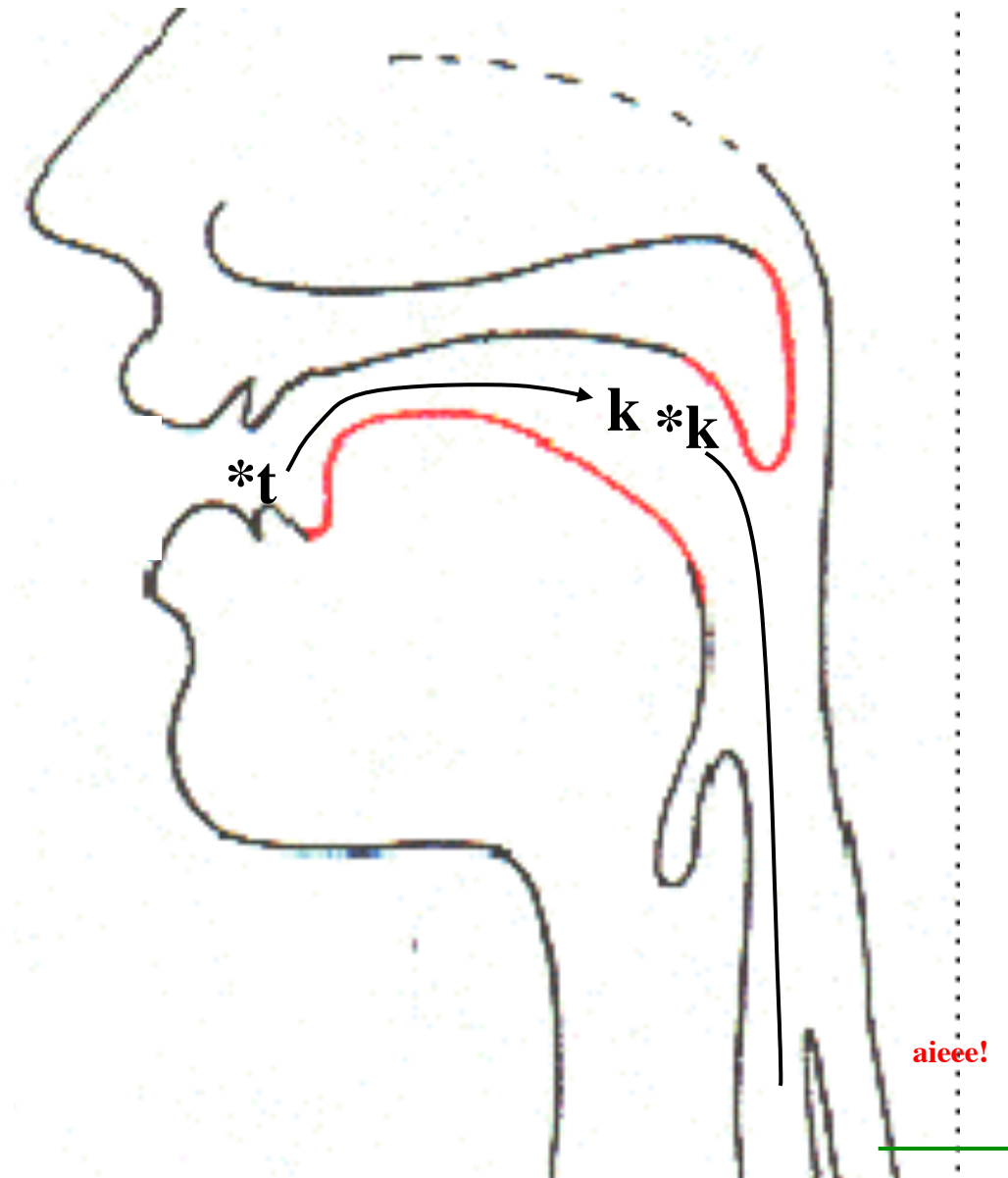
Hawaiian

*ata 'dawn'
↳
aka

*kula 'red'
↳
ʔula

*leʔo 'voice'

Chain S



Why should you care about this?

- sound change can have effects on the inflectional system of your language
- languages often end up borrowing words from related languages

Sound changes are a common source of ‘irregularity’ in inflectional systems.

Sound changes are a common source of ‘irregularity’ in inflectional systems.

Latin rex ‘king’ nox ‘night’ vox ‘voice’

Sound changes are a common source of ‘irregularity’ in inflectional systems.

Latin	rex ‘king’	nox ‘night’	vox ‘voice’
	reg-is (GEN)	noct-is (GEN)	voc-is (GEN)
	reg-em (ACC)	noct-em (ACC)	voc-em (ACC)

Sound changes are a common source of ‘irregularity’ in inflectional systems.

Latin	rex ‘king’	nox ‘night’	vox ‘voice’
	*reg-s ‘king’	*noct-s ‘night’	*voc-s ‘voice’
	reg-is (GEN)	noct-is (GEN)	voc-is (GEN)
	reg-em (ACC)	noct-em (ACC)	voc-em (ACC)

Sound changes are a common source of ‘irregularity’ in inflectional systems.

Latin	rex ‘king’	nox ‘night’	vox ‘voice’
	*reg-s ‘king’	*noct-s ‘night’	*voc-s ‘voice’
	reg-is (GEN)	noct-is (GEN)	voc-is (GEN)
	reg-em (ACC)	noct-em (ACC)	voc-em (ACC)

→ plus sound changes that turn final *gs and *cts to x (ks).

additional complications...

- reanalysis

<u>English</u>	<u>German</u>	<u>Gothic</u>	<u>O.Norse</u>	
adder	Natter	nadr-	naðra	'adder, snake'

English n-->Ø / # ___?

additional complications...

- reanalysis

<u>English</u>	<u>German</u>	<u>Gothic</u>	<u>O.Norse</u>	
adder	Natter	nadr-	naðra	'adder, snake'

no: a nadder --> an adder

additional complications...

- reanalysis
- analogy

	<u>'to choose'</u>	<u>'chose'</u>	<u>'chosen'</u>
OE	ceos <u>a</u> n	ceas <u>a</u>	geco <u>r</u> en
OHG	kios <u>a</u> n	kaus <u>a</u>	gikor <u>a</u> n

additional complications...

- reanalysis
- analogy

	<u>'to choose'</u>	<u>'chose'</u>	<u>'chosen'</u>
OE	ceos <u>a</u> n	ceas <u>a</u>	ge <u>c</u> ore <u>n</u>
OHG	kios <u>a</u> n	kaus <u>a</u>	gikor <u>a</u> n
ModE	choo <u>s</u> e	cho <u>s</u> e	cho <u>s</u> en
ModG	kü <u>r</u> en	ko <u>r</u>	gek <u>r</u> en

additional complications...

- reanalysis
- analogy

PIE *kwetwer-, *penkwe-:

additional complications...

- reanalysis
- analogy

PIE *kwetwer-, *penkwe-:

>English ~~wh~~hour, five
f'

additional complications...

- reanalysis
- analogy

PIE *newn, *dekm '9, 10'

> Russian ~~n~~^yev^yat^y, d^yes^yat^y
d^y

additional complications...

- reanalysis
- analogy

Algonquian '2, 3, 4':

Wampanoag: nees, nuhshw, yâw

additional complications...

- reanalysis
- analogy

Algonquian '2, 3, 4':

Wampanoag: nees, nuhshw, yâw

Abenaki: niz, nas, yaw

additional complications...

- reanalysis
- analogy

Algonquian ‘2, 3, 4’:

Wampanoag: nees, nuhshw, yâw

Abenaki: niz, nas, yaw

Passamaquoddy-Maliseet: nis, nihi, new

additional complications...

- reanalysis
- analogy

ME male, femelle--> male, female

additional complications...

- reanalysis
- analogy
- language contact

Language contact

Eng. *lampshade* > Tagalog *lamsyed* 'lamp'

Tag. *bundok* 'mountain' > English *boondocks*

Language contact

Eng. *lampshade* > Tagalog *lamsyed* 'lamp'

Tag. *bundok* 'mountain' > English *boondocks*

French *outrage* > English *outrage*

Language contact

Eng. *lampshade* > Tagalog *lamsyed* 'lamp'

Tag. *bundok* 'mountain' > English *boondocks*

French *outrage* > English *outrage*

*PAN peDa? > Malay *perah* 'money'
Tagalog *pilak* 'silver'

Language contact

Eng. *lampshade* > Tagalog *lamsyed* 'lamp'

Tag. *bundok* 'mountain' > English *boondocks*

French *outrage* > English *outrage*

*PAN peDa? > Malay *perah* 'money'
Tagalog *pilak* 'silver', *pera* 'money'

Language contact

Eng. *lampshade* > Tagalog *lamsyed* 'lamp'

Tag. *bundok* 'mountain' > English *boondocks*

French *outrage* > English *outrage*

*PAN peDa? > Malay *perah* 'money'
Tagalog *pilak* 'silver', *pera* 'money'

Somerset *vox*, *vixen*

Language contact

Eng. *lampshade* > Tagalog *lamsyed* 'lamp'

Tag. *bundok* 'mountain' > English *boondocks*

French *outrage* > English *outrage*

*PAN peDa? > Malay *perah* 'money'
Tagalog *pilak* 'silver', *pera* 'money'

Somerset *vox*, *vixen* → standard E *vixen*

Adding these kinds of effects of language change and language contact is one way to add ‘verisimilitude’ to your language.

Common kinds of sound change to posit:

- $V_nC > \tilde{V}C, VVC$
- $w > gw$
- $kw > p$ (PCeltic $*k^wenn-$ \rightarrow Welsh *pen*, Irish *ceann* ‘head’)
- obstruents becoming voiceless finally
- stops becoming fricatives (esp. intervocalically)
- unstressed vowels dropping, or reducing to schwa
- consonant clusters simplifying
- palatalization or fricativization before
front high vowels
- liquids becoming other liquids, or nasals
- vowels becoming nasal, vowels harmonizing...

(also, if you do decide to create cognate words in related language, don't give them all the same meanings! meanings change over time...)

(see, for example, Tagalog *pilak* 'silver',
pera 'money')

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(also also: even in closely related languages, not all words are cognates...)

Tolkien's Elvish languages are probably the best and most famous case of a constructed language taking historical linguistics seriously...

Data on the following slides are largely from:

Salo, David. 2004. *A gateway to Sindarin*. University of Utah Press.

	<i>Quenya</i>	<i>Sindarin</i>
‘1’	minë	min
‘2’	atta	tad
‘3’	neldë	neledh
‘4’	canta	canad
‘5’	lempë	leben
‘6’	enquë	eneg
‘7’	otso	odo
‘8’	tolto	tolodh
‘9’	nertë	neder
‘10’	cainen	pae

* k^j elepê ‘silver’ → Quenya *tyelpe*,
Sindarin *celeb*
(*i geleb* ‘the silver’)

**galadâ* ‘tree’ → Quenya *alda*,
Sindarin *galadh*

Quenya drops unstressed vowels, initial g;
 $k^j > ty$

Sindarin drops final vowels, $k^j > c$,
voices voiceless obstruents after vowels,
makes voiced obstruents fricatives after vowels

Sindarin word-medial NC > NN:

pent ‘story’ *pennas* ‘history’
(Quenya *quenta*)

nimp ‘white’ *nimmida-* ‘whiten’
(Quenya *ninquë*)

Sindarin vowels raise and front before other high front vowels:

brenn-il ‘lady’ *brann-on* ‘lord’
ceb-i ‘to leap’ *cab-ed* ‘a leap’
(Quenya *cap-*)

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