# دراسة تطيلية للإدغام بنصوص إنكليزية مقروءة

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# An Analytical Study of Assimilation in English Reading Texts

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#### الستخلص

تهدف الدراسة الى تحليل الادغام كظاهرة تمثل التجانس الصوتى (الادغام) (مضارعة الاحرف المجاورة لبعضها بالمخرج والاهتزاز وطريقة النطق) باللغة الإنجليزية بمنهاج مختار مخصص للطلاب الجامعات العراقيين من أجل تعزيز فهم متعلمي اللغة الإنجليزية كلغة ثانية لمجموعة متنوعة من مهارات القراءة باللغة الإنجليزية بالإضافة إلى علم الأصوات الذي يعد أحد ركائز القراءة الفعالة والناجحة. ويسهم البحث بمساعدة الطلاب في التغلب على معضلاتهم أو حتى تقليلها من خلال القراءة والاستماع والتلفظ بطلاقة للكلمات المدغمة في بالنصوص الإنجليزية من أجل تفاعل ناجح وتقليل الكنة النشاز للطلاب العراقيين. البيانات التي تم جمعها هي تسجيلات صوتية لناطقين اصليين باللغة الانكليزية لـ ١٤ مقطع مقروءة مأخوذة من الكتاب النهجي Intermediate-Select readings / Second Linda Lee & Erik Gunderson بقلمي Edition ككتاب مدرسي يدرس للسنة الثانية في كلية اللغات / جامعة الكوفة. حللت الدراسة البيانات المستهدفة ووجدت أن الاستيعاب المتبادل ليس كما تم تعريفه على أنه أصوات متجاورة لها تأثير متبادل على بعضها البعض لإنتاج صوت مصهر ثالث جديد بل الخصائص مستنسخة من أحدهما. تم الكشف أيضًا عن أنه يقع التشديد الصوتى في الغالب في الادغام الكامل عندما تكون الحروف الساكنة متجانسة (أي تشترك الحروف الساكنة في سمتين، طريقة النطق والاهتزاز الصوتي). نظرًا لأن خاصية طريقة النطق مشتركة بين الصوتيين، فانه يتم نسخ الخاصية الثالثة (المخرج الصوتي) تلقائيًا من الصوت المجاور.

**الكلمات المفتاحية**: الادغام، التشديد، أماكن المخارج الصوتية، طريقة نطق الأصوات، رجعي، تقدمي

#### **Abstract**

This study is concerned with analysing of assimilation as an English co-articulated phenomenon in a selected reading course assigned for Iraqi students in order to enhance the Iraqi ESL learners understanding of variety of English reading skills as well as phonology which is one of the bases of effective and successful reading. The aim of this paper is to help students overcome their problems through reading, listening and fluently pronouncing assimilated words in of English connected speech utterances for successful interaction and minimizing the Iraqi ESL students' foreign accent. The collected data are the soundtracks of 14 reading passages taken from "Intermediate-Select Readings" /Second Edition by Linda Lee & Erik Gundersen as a second year reading textbook at the College of Languages / University of Kufa. The study analysed the data under scrutiny and found that the reciprocal assimilation is not as it is defined as adjacent sounds having mutual influence on each other to produce a third new fused sound, some features are copied just by one of them. It was also revealed that germination mostly occurs in complete assimilation when consonants in sequence homorganic are (the consonants have two features in common, manner of articulation and phonation). Since manner articulation feature is existed in both sounds, the third place of articulation feature is copied automatically from the adjacent sound.

**Keywords:** Assimilation, Germination, Voicing, Place, Manner, Regressive, Progressive

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#### 1. Introduction

The data under analysis should receive scholarly attention, because the 2nd year- Iraqi ESL students at the College of Languages –University of Kufa find great difficulty in recognizing the phonological phenomenon of assimilation in target reading passages and it is more challenging to understand assimilated spoken within a word or between words boundaries in normal speed rate.

This paper concerns itself with the task of analysing collected data of the audios of 14 reading textbook; therefore, the study attempts to find answers to the following questions:

- 1. What are the most common types of assimilations that can be found in the collected data?
- 2. What are the most and the least features of assimilation?
- 3. How and where is germination formed and found?

#### 1.2 The Methodology

The present paper is intended to observe, collect, and analyse assimilation when two adjacent consonants with different features line up across words boundaries.

The collected data are the sound tracks of 14 reading passages taken from *Intermediate-Select Readings* /Second Edition by Linda Lee & Erik Gundersen as a second year reading textbook at the College of Languages / University of Kufa. The data are analysed with the assistance of digitally recorded CDs. The speech material was read by native speakers at a normal speed rate and can be slowed down by using special programme where necessary. To achieve a high level of listening comprehension and fluency to sound naturally without foreign accent, the present paper examines assimilation rules, patterns and 480 statistical examples of different sorts of assimilation in the analysed data.

People normally speak by producing a continuous stream of sounds, connected successive of utterances. In most cases, there are exceptional occasions where a speaker makes a separate sound or word in isolation with no sound preceding or following it. Therefore, "speech sounds seldom occur in isolation; they are nearly always strung together to form words and sequences of words" (Christophersen, 1968:135). However, considering speech as a natural connected sequence of utterances does not mean that these segments are completely autonomous

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of each other. They may have a strong effect on production of neighbouring speech sound unit within the same word or between words to become more similar or identical in pronunciation.

Native speakers have a strong tendency to minimize his efforts in speech production as the key to having a swift, natural, smooth-flowing form of daily interaction. As result co-articulated speech has many aspects, such as leave out a sound (elision), some features of one sound are taken or 'copied' by the other (assimilation), sometimes and can also insert a sound in order to have a softer co-articulated speech (linking, or insertion).

#### 2. What is Assimilation

Etymologically, the word "assimilation has come from Latin "adsimilāre" which is itself assimilated. Morphologically speaking, it is formed of the Latin prefix ad-, the root simil\_, and the verb suffix-āre. The /d/ of prefix "ad-"is changed to /s/ under the influence of the initial consonant of the root /s/ (Schlauch, 1967:107; Bloch, 2002:2; Vallins, 1954: 51; and Poole, 1999: 126). Assimilation may apply between consonants, between vowels, or between a consonant and a vowel. (Gordon ,2016;123-124)

A large number of definitions has been presented by many phoneticians, phonologists and linguistics in general. Although they are different in phrasing but slightly different in meaning, as they are manifested in the following definitions:

Crystal (2003:38) states that assimilation is "the influence exercised by one sound segment upon the articulation of another so that the sounds become more alike or identical". By the same token Stageberg (1987:29-30) defines assimilation as "The phonetic process by which one speech sound comes to resemble or become identical with a neighbouring sound between words or within a word". Kuiper and Allan (1996:70) also emphasize the same meaning when they state, "assimilation is the name given to the process where one segment becomes more like (or identical to) another segment or two segments become more like each other". Carr (2008:16) defines assimilation as a process whereby two, normally adjacent, sounds become more similar to each other. However, two segments may be not immediately adjacent become more similar (Zsiga,2013:233). Ellis

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and Horncastle (1999: 24-25) define assimilation as "The variation in the phonetic description of a speech unit as it becomes more like an . Jones (1984:218) highlights the influence as he "adjacent speech unit points out that assimilation is "The process of replacing a sound by another sound under the influence of a third sound which is near to it in the word or sentence". Ladefoged (1993:111) also focuses on the influence stating, "... When one sound is changed into another because of the influence of a neighbouring sound, there is said to be a process of assimilation". However, two segments may be not immediately adjacent become more similar (Zsiga,2013:233). Bakovic (2007:335) divides assimilation processes into two types, local and long-distance. Local assimilations obtain between strictly adjacent segments, such as between the consonants in a consonant cluster. Long-distance assimilations obtain between segments that are not (necessarily) adjacent, such as between consonants across a vowel.

It is obvious that the above definitions concentrate on the fact that one sound becomes similar to a second under the influence of a third which is near to it in the word or at word boundary as in "bags" /bægs/ in which /s/ becomes /z/ under the influence of /g/, and "that side" /ðæs said/ in which /t/ in "that" may be pronounced /s/ under the influence of /s/ in "side".

#### 2.1 Types of Assimilation

Assimilation can be categorised into several types, the major categories depend on degree, the direction, and distance of influence. It can also be classified according to whether it is obligatory or partial. However, there are six types of classification.

#### 2.1.1 Degree of Influence

Many linguists classify assimilation according to altitude of influence of a one sound on an adjacent one here; A difference needs to be made between whether assimilations are complete (categorical) or partial (gradient) (Recasens, 2018: 12).

#### (a) Complete Assimilation

Complete or (total) assimilation is defined as the phonetic process in which all features of one speech sound are copied or become (identical) with the neighbouring one. Thus, one sound is totally transformed into another sound to be completely assimilated, e.g., "ten mile" /ten maɪl /

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may be pronounced /tem mail /. Total assimilation produces geminates (Ogden, 2017:57). Gemination is a phonetic process in which consonants are lengthened in speech(Collée,2016:10). Here, /n/ is changed to /m/ under the influence of the following /m/ resulting a *geminate* consonant. When the first word ends with totally transformed /m/ sound under the regressive influence of the initial /m/ sound of the next one, the native speaker does not pronounce both sounds nor does he pronounce just one sound, instead they come together to make a slightly longer /m²/ sound, so "ten mile" becomes /tem²ail/ to make speech more fluent in every day speech. (Knowles 1987:130). Complete assimilation takes place in voicing, place of articulation and manner of articulation. It may be progressive or regressive (Zsiga,2011:20).

#### (b) Partial Assimilation

Partial assimilation is a phonetic process by which only some common features of neighbouring segments are copied to make target sound features are more like source sound ones but not identical. For example, the phrase 'ten bikes' is pronounced as /tem ba1ks/ (Crystal, 2003:38). In this example, the target alveolar sound /n/ changes to bilabial sound /m/ under the influence of the following source bilabial sound /b/, they share the same place of articulation, voicelessness and differ in manner of articulation. The phrase 'green paper' /gr1:n pe1pə/ is realized as /gr1:m pe1pə/ in rapid co-articulated speech where the voiced alveolar nasal stop [n] copies the bilabialness feature of the following adjacent voiceless bilabial plosive [p] and thus becomes voiced bilabial nasal stop [m] (Hartmann and Stork,1976:23; Jones, 1984:131). Partial assimilation takes place in voicing, place of articulation and manner of articulation. It may be progressive or regressive.

#### 2.1.2Direction of Influence

Many linguists and phoneticians such as Bolozky (1997: 291f), Roach (2000:142), Malmberg (1990:61), Matthews (1978: 101), Newman (1996: 5f) have categorised assimilation on the basis of the direction of influence on **regressive** (anticipation), **progressive** (Perseverative) **or reciprocal (coalescent)** (Abercrombie, 1982: 134). Regressive means that the source sound influences or changes an immediately preceding target one to change it into another sound. Thus, the effect of this assimilation is backward or right-to-left assimilation. The direction of influence may be determined by some sound features

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such as fortis or lenis, continuant or non-continuant, bilabial, or alveolar sounds. For instance, the word "football" / fotbo:1 / can be phonetically transcribed as / fobbo:1 /, the following sound /b / has right-to-left effect on former /t/ and alters it into /b/. This type can be found between two words, e.g., "hit down" is transcribed as / hid davn/ where /d/ in "down" has backward influence on immediately preceding /t/ to be totally assimilated into /d/(Ibid).

Progressive assimilation oppositely shows the adaptation of a sound that comes next as it is affected by the dominant one that comes first and changes it into another sound in left-to-right influence as in the following phrase 'bake them' /beɪk ðem/. This can be pronounced /beɪk kem/, the first dominant sound /k/ has forward effect on following sound /ð/ and copied it into /k/ sound (Ibid).

Reciprocal assimilation is defined by phoneticians as something in between, in that it is neither regressive nor progressive because the two adjacent sounds have mutual influence on each other to produce a third new fused sound that has common features from both (Kuiper and Allan, 1996:73). Reciprocal assimilation is also known as "coalescent assimilation" Crystal, 1994: 28). If we analysed the phrase "bless you", we can realize that /ble/u/ in which voiceless alveolar fricative /s/ and voiced palatal approximant /j/ don't have equal effect to produce voiceless post-alveolar fricative /]/. This means that voiceless alveolar fricative /s/ has the progressive domination, where voicelessness and manner of articulation are transformed to /ʃ/ from /s/, rather than bidirectional or reciprocal effect, hence none of the /j/ characteristics are copied by third / sound. If we take another example to illustrate the progressiveness direction of this sort of assimilation 'last year'/laist jip/ we can find that the combination of voiceless alveolar stop /t/ and voiced palatal approximant /j/ doesn't have equal influence on voiceless postalveolar affricate /t]/, since only voicelessness is copied from /t/.

Four sounds as a result of coalescent assimilation combinations can be found in Standard English, as they are illustrated by the following rule:

Table A. Reciprocal Assimilation

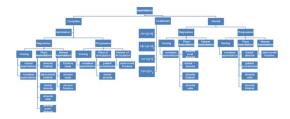
t	+	j	tſ
d	+	j	d <sub>3</sub>
8	+	j	ſ
z	+	j	3

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#### 2.1.3 On the Basis of assimilated Features

Assimilation can be classified according to the consonantal features copied (Roach, 2000: 139) as follows:

- (a) Place: the place of articulation of a given sound is changed to be assimilated into adjacent sound between words edges where the place of articulation of word final consonant may be altered to agree with initial sound of the next word or vice versa. Place of articulation assimilation can be progressive or regressive, e.g., "good game" / god geim / changed into / gog geim /, it has got the regressive assimilation in which the initial velar sound of the second word alters the alveolar place of the final consonant of first word (Christophersen, 1968:145).
- (c) **Manner:** the manner of articulation can be identified when a given sound is changed to be assimilated with the manner of articulation of another neighbouring sound within same context. An example of this is the occasional copying of the nasal manner, as in "that side" which may be pronounced /ðæs saɪd/, in which voiceless alveolar stop sound /t/ is homorganic with voiceless alveolar fricative sound /s/. That means they share the same features of place of articulation and voicelessness but differ in manner of articulation. Hence, /s/ sound alters the manner of articulation of /t/ in regressive direction to be identical with the following sound.



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# The Detailed Description of Assimilation Adopted by the Researcher Table 1 Complete Voicing Assimilation

	Table 2 Complete Voicing Assimilation					
Regressive voiced assimilation		amples	Data Code	Occurrence		
/t/ changes into /d/	most difficult	/meusddifikelt//d	P.3/Line 8	2.8%		
		:/				
	that demonstrate	/ðæddemenstre t//d	P.3/Line 13	1		
		:/				
	what do	/wod du//d:/	P.3/Line 26	1		
	that day	/ðæd dej//d:/	P.14/Line 47	1		
	It didn't	/id didnt//d:/	P.54/Line 35	1		
	just don't do	/d34sd dand du//d /	P.54/Line 61	1		
	almost daily	/ a : lmeusd de l li/	P.63/Line 18	1		
		/d:/				
	it doesn't matter	/id daznt mætə/	P.64/Line 56	1		
	must do	/mesd du//d:/	P.83/Line 20	1		
	great deal	/grejddi:l//d:/	P.84/Line 53	1		
	It depends	/iddi pend//d:/	P.94/Line 38	1		
	get done	/ged dan//d:/	P.113/Line 7	1		
	can't do	/kend du//d:/	P.114/Line	1		
			38			
	right directions.	/raid də rek [n//d:				
		1	17			

**Table 3 Complete Place Assimilation** 

Regressive place			I	Occurrence
assimilation	-		Data Code	
/alveolar changes	Examples		Data Cooe	I
into bilabial				
d changes into	enjoyed many	/ca dya (mmeni/m:/	P.4/Line 23	3.2%
m	youts-led	/ju:0-lem/	P.13/Line 27	1
	microfinance??	markreufaramas//m:/		1
	second-hand	/ sekendhænm / me	P.13/Line 30	1
	materials	tgeriel/im:/		1
	find most	farm meust/ /m=/	P.35/Line 78	1
	good morning	/gsm ma:ngn//m:/	P.33/Line 31	1
	seemed	/si:m mezmecarz//m:/	P.35/Line 84	1
	mesmerized			1
	find meaning	farm mi-nra/m-/	P.43/Line 25	1
	old man	/eusim maso/ /m=/	P.44/Line 37	1
	good me	/gasm mi/ /m:/	P.54 Line 44	1
	spend many	/spem meni/ /m²/	P.63/Line 24	1
	find my	farm mar/ /m:/	P.104/Line 44	-1
	could mean	kem mi n /m:/	P.124 Line 57	-
	world many	waten meni /mt/	P.124 Line 61	-
	had mothers??		P.133/Line 7	4
		from made/ /m=/		1
	used more	/ju:sm :ma//m:/	P.164/Line 31	
t changes into	not prepared.	mob but beeq /b:/	P.3 Line 3	5.2%
	don't pretend	/deap prg tend//p:/	P. 4/Line 44	1
	youngest	Samesp pa: trappent	P.14/Line 37	1
	participant	/p=/		1
	that provides	Base pre vard	P.14/Line 62	1
	different	defrenppa se nateti	P.24/Line 48	1
	personality	/p=/		1
	perfect place	/ pa:frkp plers//p:/	P.25/Line 75	1
	start putting	/sat:b Sestin/ /b:/	P.25/Line 76	-
	different pathway	/drfrenp pa:0wer//p:/	P.34 Line 63	1
	flat plains		P.43/Line S	-
		flap pleraz//p:/	P.43/Line 28	4
	most people	meusp pi-pl/p-/		1
	bright patches	peatb battes/  b=/	P.14/Line 39	1
	different perception	drfrenppe sepfn//p=/	P.53/Line 243	J
	Just pick	/dynsp prk//p:/	P.54/Line 44	]
	that produce	/Basp pre dju:s/ /p:/	P.73/Line 20	1
	student	/ stju:dop	P.74 Line 47	1
	programmer's	preugramez//p:/	P.74/Lane 47	1
	first place	/fa:sp plegs//p:/	P.S3/Line 14	1
	might produce	/mate pre dju:s/ /p:/	P.S4/Line 4S	1
	next person	/neksp pa:sn/ /p:/	P.94/Line 48	1
	most pertinent	/meusp pa:treent /p:/	P.103/Line 29	1
	that prove	/8ap pru: v//p:/	P.104/Line 25	1
	most professional	/meusp pre fe [enl//p:/	P.104 Line 61	-1
			P123/Line 115	-
	cannot prevent	/keasop prt vest//p:/		4
	might prove	/mate pro:v//p:/	P.125 Line 69 P.133 Line 2	4
	that produced	Basp pre dju:s/lp:/		1
	that period	Gasp precied//p:/	P.134/Line 58	1

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# **Table 4 Complete Place Assimilation**

Regressive place assimilation /alveolar changes	Evamples		Data Code	Occurrence
into bilabial				
/d/ changes into	could be	/kəb bi/ /b:/	P.13/Line 12	2.6%
/b/	should be	/ʃəbˈbi/ /b:/	P.24/Line 26	
	world beyond	/ws:lbb; jond//b;	P.43/Line 3	
	food but??	/	D 1147:	
	100d but??	/fu:b bet//b:/	P.114/Line 27	
	Would be	/wab bi/ /b:/	P.83/Line 15	
	childbirth	/ tsailb bs: 0//b:/	P.123/Line 7	
/n/ changes into /m/	tum my	/ts:m maj//m:/	P.4/Line 39	5.4%
	keep in mind	/ki:p  m ma d//m	P.4/Line 65	
		:/	P.4/Line 66	
	can make	/kam mejk//m:/	P.4/Line 00 P.13/Line 7	
	In most	/ m meust//m /		
	terrain made	/təˈreɪm meɪd//m :/	P.43/Line 20	
	even more	/'i:vm ma//m:/	P.45/Line 55	
	in modem	/ m modn//m:/	P.45/Line 59	
	motion machines	/'macsfmma'si: n//m:/	P.53/Line 27	
	on my	/om maj//m:/	P.63/Line 7	
	in May	/ m me //m:/	P.64/Line 33	
	on memory	/om memari//m:/	P.73/Line 23	
	than most	/ðem megst/ /m ; /	P.74/Line 33	
	can mean	ken mi:n//m:/	P.83/Line 10	
	town meeting	/tacem mi:tjn//m:/	P.84/Line 40	
	question me		P.93/Line 22	
	•	:/	TO COMPANY THE TAXABLE PARTY	
	application	ı/æplı	P.103/Line	
	must	kei [mmast//m:/	23	
	Common Market	/komem ma:kit/	P.113/Line 6	
	even more	/m./ /i:vm.ma//m:/	P.123/Line 2	
	even more modem	/modm med   sn//m	P.123/Line 2 P.123/Line 6	
	modem medicine	:/		
	children must	/tʃ ldrəm məst//m :/	P.124/Line 33	
	frighten most	/frajtm meust//m:/	P.124/Line 35	

**Table 5 Complete Place Assimilation** 

Regressive place assimilation /labiodental changes into bilabial	Examples		Data Code	Occurrence
/ v / changes into /m/	native /ne t m Mandarin?? mænder n//m:/		P.55/Line 34	0.1%

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#### **Table 6 Complete Place Assimilation**

Regressive place assimilation /dental changes into alveolar	Examples		Data Code	Occurrence
/θ/ changes into/s/	both salesperson	/baus sellzps: sn//s:/	P.103/Line 1	2.2%
	Strengths	/strens:/	P.4/Line 39	
	Months	/mans:/	P.34/Line 33	

#### **Table 7 Complete Place Assimilation**

Regressive				Occurrence
place assimilation /alveolar changes into velar		Examples	Data Code	Occuracy
/t/ changes into /k/	that could	/ðæk ked/ /k:/	P.4/Line 36	5.0%
	it came	/ kke m//k:/	P.14/Line 43	
	that claims	/ðæk kle¡m//k;/	P.14/Line 49	
	It can	/ k ken//k:/	P.33/Line 1	
	that can	/ðæk ken//k:/	P.33/Line 37	
	most common	/meusk komen/ /k:/	P.34/Line 46	
	right-colored	/raik kaled/ /k:/	P.43/Line 21	
	different concept	/d frenk konsept//k:/	P.54/Line 32	
	different conversational	/d frenkkonve'se Jenl//k	P.93/Line 16	
	pertinent characteristics.	/ps:tinenkkærekte ristik//k:/	P.103/Line 29	
	must communicate	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	P.104/Line 30	
	just couldn't	/d3Ask kədnt/ /k:/	P.114/Line 16	
	but creative	/bak kri ejtjv//k:/	P.135/Line 84	
/d/ changes into /g/	second grade	/sekenqgreid//g:/	P.14/Line 42	0.4%
	Romanized Greek	/recmena zq gri:k//g:/ ??	P.44/Line 42	

#### **Table 8 Complete Place Assimilation**

Regressive place assimilation /alveolar changes into palatal	Examples		Data Code	Occurrence
/d/ changes into /]/	said she	/se[ [i//[:/	P.4/Line 61	0.4%
	indeed shadows	/ın'di: [	P.44/Line 53	
		fædæ//f:/		
/z/ changes into /]/	says she	/se[ [i//[:/	P.3/Line 21	2%
	has shown	/hej fecm//f:/	P.23/Line 1	
	Studies show	/stadif [ett//[:/	P.23/Line 20	
	teams should	/ti:m[[ed//[:/	P.24/Line 39	
	others showed	/¿ðəʃ [əʊd//ʃ:/	P.44/Line 41	
	as she	/aʃʃi//ʃ:/	P.53/Line 9	
	is shown	/ [[em//[:/	P.123/Line 26	
	programs should	/preugræm/	P.124/Line 52	

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# An Analytical Study of Assimilation in English Reading Texts.... (620)

## **Table 9 Complete Place Assimilation**

Progressive place assimilation / palatal changes into post-alveolar	Examples		Data Code	Occurrence
/j/ changes into /j/	distinguish /d1'stingwiffa:' yourself self//5:/		P.104/Line 54	0.1%

#### **Table 10 Complete Place Assimilation**

Progressive place				Occurrence
assimilation / dental	Examples		Data Code	
changes into alveolar	, i			
/6/ changes into /z/	examples that	/(g za:mplz zat//z:/	P.125/Line 67	8.0%
	is the	/cz ze/ /z:/	P. 4/Line 64	]
	As the	/ez ze/ /z:/	P. 14/Line 36	]
	claims the	Mermaze//z:/	P. 14 Line 44	]
	as they	/ez ze[/ /z:/	P.23/Line 2	]
	activities that	/ak trvetrz zat/ /z:/	P.125/Line 67	]
	answers that	/a:nsez zat//z:/	P24/Line 34	]
	Computers that	/kem pju-tez zat/ /z:		
	sounds that	/sausotz zast /z:/	P34/Line 23	1
	shows that	/jeusz zast/ /z:/	P34/Line 24	1
	languages they	/langwidgz zei//z:/	P34/Line 41	]
	patterns that	/pastnz zast//z=/	P34/Line 47	]
	solidifies those	se lidifatz zesz /z:/		]
	connections that	/ke nek nz zat/z:/	P:34/Line 66	1
	identifies the	/ar destrfarz ze//z:/	P:43/Line 11	1
	goes that	/geusz zast//z:/	P:44/Line 33	1
	was that	/wez zat//z:/	P:44/Line 33	1
	irregularities that	/pregje laretiz zat/z :/	P:44/Line 53	1
	reads the	/ri=dz ze//z=/	P:73/Line 19	1 1
	Devices that	/d[ va[sz zast /z:/	P:73/Line 20	1
	says they	/sez ze[/ /z:/	P:73/Line 21	1 1
	as three	/ez zci:/ /z:/	P:73/Line 25	1 1
	memorizes the	/memera [z[z ze/ /z:/	P:73/Line 26	1
	knows the	/ceuz ze//z:/	P:84/Line 39	1
	means that	/mi:nz zat/ /z:/	P:85/Line 76	1
	has the	/bez ze//z:/	P.94/Line 35	1
	is that	/(z zat / /z:/	P:103/Line 37	1
	requires that	/rg kwagez zat//z:/	P:105/Line 64	1 1
	changes they	/teradyrz zer//z:/	P123/Line 16	1
	issues that	/(['u:z zat//z:/	P:124/Line 34	1
	as there	/ez zee/ /z:/	P:124/Line 60	1
	strategies that	/stratedy(z zat/ /z:/	P:134/Line 46	1
	details that	/ di-te (lz zast/ /z:/	P:134/Line 49	1
	abdities that	/elbgletgz zat/ /z=/	P:134/Line 56	1
	realize that	ri-elaga zast /z:/	P:131/Line 11	1
	reconceptualize the	/r[ken sept]uela[z ze//z:/	P.134/Line 53	

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# An Analytical Study of Assimilation in English Reading Texts.... (621)

#### **Table 11 Complete Manner Assimilation**

Regressive manner assimilation / stop changes into fricative	Exa	mples	Data Code	Occurrence
	that summarizes	/ðæs s., merajz//s:/	P.3/Line 10	
	best-suited	/bes su:t1d//s:/	P.3/Line 20	1
	different styles	/dj frens stajl//s:/	P.24/Line 49	1
	can't say	/kens sej//s://s:/	P.33/Line 29	1
	about six	/el baus siks//s:/	P.34/Line 33	1
	that skill	/ðæs skilz/ /s:/	P.34/Line 54	1
	start studying	/sta : s st. d m/ /s : /	P.34/Line 67	1
	must struggle	/mes str. gl//s:/	P.34/Line 67	1
	first set	/f : s set//s:/	P.43/Line 23	1
	weren't satisfied	/w:ns sætjsfajd/ /s:/	P.44/Line 39	1
	can't see	/kens si://s:/	P.45/Line 63	1
	last September	/la : s sep! tembe//s:/	P.53/Line 2	1
	right side	/rajs sajd//s:/	P.53/Line 16	1
	just sit	/d3.ss;t//s:/	P.54/Line 29	1
	lot slower	/los slece//s:/	P.31/Line 54	1
	that sets	/ðæs sets//s:/	P.54/Line 45	
	at sunset	/es seset/ /s : /	P.63/Line 6	
/t/ changes into /s/	but sometimes	/bes samtanmz//s:	P.63/Line 25	6.6%
	a short summary	/e/b:ss.meri//s:/	P.84/Line 44	1
	last sentence	/la:s senetns//s:/	P.84/Line 46	1
	The best speakers	/ðə bes spi:ka//s:/	P.84/Line 51	1
	pleasant surprise.	/plezns se psajz//s :/	P.85/Line 81	
	must sell	/mes sel//s:/	P.103/Line 23	1
	must say	/mes sej/	P.104/Line 38	]
	about salary	/e bass sæleri/	P.105/Line 62	]
	cannot stop	/kenus stup/	P.123/Line 13	]
	prevent science	/pri vens   sajens//s:/	P.123/Line 15	
	don't see	/dens si://s:/	P.124/Line 32	1
	at school	/es sku:1//s:/	P.124/Line 43	]
	most successful	/meos sek sesfl//s:	P.124/Line 49	
	about science	/elbaws sajens//s:	P.124/Line 47	
	that civilization	/ðæs sīvəlaī zeīfn//s:/	P.125/Line 67	

**Table 12 Complete Manner Assimilation** 

Regressive Manner Assimilation / stop	Ex	amples	Data Code	Occurrence
changes into fricative				
/d/ changes into /n/	would never	/wan neva/ /n:/	P.4Line 43	3.0%
	would not	/wen not//n:/	P.34/Line 60	
	did not	/d n not//n:/	P.35/Line 83	
	weekend nights	/wik en nait/ /n:/	P.63/Line 190	
	and newspaper	/en 'nju:zpe:pe//n	P.83/Line 23	
	a good-natured	/gunneit[ed//n:/	P.84/Line 34	
	good notion	/gcm nec[n//n:/	P.85/Line 64	
	and never	/en neve/ /n:/	P.82/Line 76	
	and no one	/en no wan//n:/	P.94/Line 25	
	paid no attention	/pein no ə ten[n//n :/	P.94/Line 53	
	should never	/ʃən nevə//n:/	P.104/Line 33	
	stound, no task	/e racsn no ta:sk//n :/	P.113/Line 11	
	and nod out	/en mot aust/ /n:/	P.114/Line 40	
	bad night	/bæn najt//n:/	P.114/Line 46	
	illuminated nothing.	/ilu:mineitin na0in//n:/	P.133/Line 10	

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**Table 13 Partial Manner Assimilation** 

Progressive Place Assimilation/semi- vowel changes into fricative	Examples		Data Code	Occurrence
/j/changes into/3	lead you	/led 3u/	P.134/Line36	0.3%
before /d/	underprivileged youth	/Ande privelid3d	P.34/Line 37	

**Table 14 Partial Voicing Assimilation** 

Regressive voiceless assimilation	Exam	ples	Data Code	Occurrence	
/v/ changes into /f/	Have picked	/həfpıkd/	P.23/Line 33		
	have plenty	/həf plenty/	P.55/Line 66	. 00/	
before/p/	I've passed	/aıfpæs/	P.64/Line 55	1.0%	
-	have prepared	/həf pr pea/	P.45/Line 104		
	drove people	/drewf pi:pl/	P.115/Line 51		
/b/ changes into /p/ before /s/	website	/wepsajt/	P.2/Line 13		
	subsequent	/ sapsakwent/	P.24/Line 36	196	
	absolutely	/ æpsəlu : tli/	P.35/Line 84		
	obsessed	/ap ses/	P.115/Line 54		
	A productive thinker	/e pre d. kt. f	P.133/Line 25		
/v/ changes into /f/ before /θ/	Reproductive thinking	/ri:pro daktaf 0ankan/	P.134/Line 25	0.4%	
(a) Access into (f)	effective team	/j fekt f ti m/	P.23/Line 32		
/v/ changes into /f/ before /t/	have taken	/həf teakn/	P.64/Line 37	0.6%	
Delotero	have to	/hef te/	P.83/Line 21		
	havesimilar	/hef s mele/	P.24/Line 51		
	Prove Sound	/pru:fsawnd/	P.33/ title line		
	have struggled	/həf str. gl/	P.33/Line 9		
	twelve sessions	/twelf se_n/	P.34/Line 57		
	have seen	/hefsi:n/	P.29/Line 44		
/v/ changes into /f/ before /s/	drovestraight	/drapfstreyt/	P.64/Line 33	T.0%	
Delote/5/	informative speech	/ın fo mətıfspi t//	P.85/Line 66	1	
	relative stranger	/ relet_f stre_nd3e/	P.94/Line 39		
	bave sufficient	/hefse fg fnt/	P.125/Line 68		
	we've solved	/wi:fsulvd/	P.134/Line 34		
/v/ changes into /f/ before /k/	expensive kerosene	/ n k spensafkeresi: n/	P.13/Line 18		
	positive contribution	/ pazetyf,kautry bju:fn/	P. 4/Line 68	0.6%	
	have completely	/həf kəm pli tli/	P.94/Line 47		
(A) change into (A)	with poise	/w10 p=12/	P. 4/Line 64		
/δ/ changes into /θ/ before /p/	with people	/w 0 pi pl/	P. 35/Line 76	0.7 %	
Delote / p/	with professional	/w Opre fe enl/	P. 103/Line 9	1	

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# An Analytical Study of Assimilation in English Reading Texts.... (623)

## **Table 15 Partial Voicing Assimilation**

Regressive voiceless assimilation	Examples		Data Code	Occurrence
/δ/ changes into /θ/	with foreigners	/wie forana/	P.95/Line 64	0.8%
before /f/	with flair	/w <sub>I</sub> θ flee/	P.103/Line 8	
	with family	/w 0 fæməli/	P.114/Line 40	
	with friends	/w   0 frendz/	P.115/Line 55	
/δ/ changes into /θ/ before /t/	with teammates	/w θti:mme t/	P.25/Line 67	0.2%
/δ/ changes into /θ/	with specific	/wie spa sifik/	P.25/Line 67	0.4%
before /s/	with several	/wie sevrel/	P.73/Line 5	
	with straight	/wiestreit/	P.73/Line 15	
	with sight	/wie sait/	P.74/Line 33	
/δ/ changes into /θ/	with college	/wj0 koljd3/	P.23/Line 6	0.4%
before /k/	with computers	/wi0 kem pju te/	P.73/Line 18	
/d/ changes into /t/	would fit	/wat fit/	P. 3/Line 30	3.0%
before /f/	good fit	/gut fit/	P. 4/Line 66	
	could feel	/kət fi∶l/	P. 53/Line 10	
	thousand faces.	/θac/znt fe s z/	P. 83/Line 9	
	word for	/ws:tfə/	P. 84/Line 53	
	would find	wet faind	P. 133/Line 25	

## **Table 16 Partial Voicing Assimilation**

Regressive voiceless assimilation	Exa	amples	Data Code	
/z/ changes into /s/	actions people	/æk∫ns pi pl/	P.13/Line 1	2.
before /p/	prepares properly	/pri peas propali/	P.25/Line 70	8
	Babies Prove	/beibis pru: v/	P.33/title line	96
	was pure	/was pjua/	P.44/Line 31	1 1
	phases prove	/fejzjspm:v/	P.44/Line 48	1
	years play	/j pas plej/	P.63/Line 5	1 1
	sea's permanence	/si:s ps:menens/	P.63/Line 29	1 1
	His parents	/his pearant/	P.74/Line 35	1 1
	was playing	/was plej jŋ/	P.94/Line 55	1
	as playing	/as plej jŋ/	P.44/Line 58	1 1
	is possible	/is posabl/	P.104/Line 60	1 1
	recalls Pier	/ri ka:lspia/	P.114/Line 17	1 1
	newspaper	/'nju:sperpe/	P.83/Line 23	1 1
	salesperson	/seilsps:sn/	P.103/Line 1	1 1
/z/ changes into /s/	calls for	/ka:ls fə/	P.3/Line 10	
before /f/	provides fashion	/pre vaids fæ n/	P.14/Line 26	2
	strategies for	/strætedʒ¡s fe/	P.24/Line 40	96
	has found,	/has faund/	P.34/Line 48	
	babies for	/be bis fa/	P.34/Line 56	i I
	Gods flung	/gods flag/	P.44/Line 31	1 1
l	was fleeing	was fiinin	P.44/Line 36	l I
	memories for	/memeris fe/	P.63/Line 21	1 1
	his father	/his fa:ga/	P.74/Line 37	1
	comes from	/kams frem/	P.74/Line 47	1 1
	fingers fly	/ finges flai/	P.74/Line 49	1 1
	terrors for	/ teres fe/	P.83/Line l	1
	questions	/ kwestJems	P.85/Line 65	1 1
l	following	folacin/		
	is filled	/ sf l ŋ/	P.85/Line 71	1
	his friends	/h s frendz/	P.93/Line 3	1 1
	friends for	/frends fə/	P.114/Line 44	1 1
	audiences for	/ a:diens   s fe/	P.123/Line 26	
	as food	/es fu:d/	P.124/Line 56	
I	problems from	/ problems frem/	P.134/Line 48	
	stems from	/stems frem/	P.134/Line 58	
	themselves for	/ðam selvs fa/	P.135/Line 77	

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**Table 17 Partial Voicing Assimilation** 

Regressive voiceless assimilation		Examples	Data Code	Occ urre nce
/z/ changes into /s/	always thought	/a:lweis 0a:t/	P.134/Line 37	0.5
before /θ/	his thought	/hisθa:t/	P.134/Line 60	96
/z/ changes into /s/	answers to	/q:nses te/	P.3/Line 3	296
before /t/	weaknesses to	/wi:knesiste/	P. 4/Line 38	
	is trying	/ ztra  n/	P. 4/Line 66	1
	hours to	/scas ta/	P.13/Line 18	
	homes to	/hecms te/	P.13/Line 20	1
	girls turn	/gs:lsts:n/	P.14/Line 32	1
	tries to	/trais te/	P.43/Line 25	1
	returns to	/rts:ns te/	P.55/Line 66	1
	engineers tend	/end3  n es tend/	P.124Line 36	1
	scholars tried	/skoles traj d/	P.133/Line 5	1
	was tied	/wes taid/	P.134/Line 57	1
/z/ changes into /s/	Always keep	/a:lwejski:p/	P. 4/Line 66	4.8
before /k/	his doctors kept	/h   s doktes kept/	P.74/Line 36	%
	kids can	/k   ds ken/	P.13/Line 16	1
	families can	/fæməlis kən/	P.13/Line 22	1
	lifestyles can	/la fsta ls ken/	P.24/Line 52	]
	employers consistently	ım 'plaıes ken 'sıstentli	P.35/Line 79	
	was covered	/waz kavad/	P.44/Line 51	1
	shadows cast	/ Sædev ka: st/	P.44/Line 53	1
	is crazy	/ skre zi/	P.53/Line 12	1
	is cool	/ sku:1/	P.63/Line 25	1
	us crazy	/as krejzi/	P.73/Line 7	1
	employees could	/m plaji:zked/	P.73/Line 11	
	his concentration	/h s konsn'tre [n/	P.74/Line 50	
	has changed	/has tjeind3/	P.123/Line 1	1
	has come	/has kam/	P.123/Line 1	1
	geniuses come	/dʒi:niəs skam/	P.133/Line 1	1
	ways can	/wejskan/	P.133/Line 24	1
	his contemporaries	/h s ken tempreriz/	P.134/Line 61	
	geniuses constantly	dʒi∶nies≀s konstentli	P.135/Line 69	

## **Table 18 Partial Voicing Assimilation**

Regressive Voiceless Assimilation	Examples		Data Code	Occurrence
/d <sub>o</sub> / changes into /t//	language fluently	/længwit] flu:ent/	P.34/Line0 8	0.4%
before /f/	Stage Fright?	/stelt  fralt/	P.85/Line 23	1
/d <sub>y</sub> / changes into /tJ/	message to	/mes t  tə/	P.23/Line 29	0.4%
before /t/	age two	/ejt/tu:/	P.74/Line 29	1
/d <sub>2</sub> / changes into /t]/	college students 2	/krol   t   stju : dnt/	P.23/Line 1	1.0%
before /s/	language skills	/læŋgwitjskilz/	P.33/Line 3	1
	age seven.	/eit  sevn/	P.34/Line 55	1
	exchange students	/ ks't[e nt stju: dnt/	P.53Line 5	
	large software	/la:tj spftwee/	P.73Line4	1

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## **Table 19 Partial Place Assimilation**

Regressive Place Assimilation/alveolar changes into velar	Exam	ples	Data Code	Occurrence
/t/ changes into /k/	about goals	/a bauk gaul/	P. 4/Line 03	1.0%
before /g/	support group	/sa pa k gru p/	P.23/Line 24	
	it gets	/ k gets/	P.34/Line 64	
	ancient Greeks	/einlank ari ks/	P.44/Line 39	
	thought graphically	/0a:k græf kli/	P.134/Line 60	
/d/ changes into /g/	would keep	/wag ki i p/	P.134/Line 60	1.1%
before /k/	required course	/ri kwajeg ko:s/	P.25/Line 65	
	numbered coordinates	/nambag kau a: dineit/	P.73/Line 25	
	speed comes	/si : g kamz/	P.74/Line 47	
	would come	/wag kam/	P.93/Line 5	
	should contain	/ʃəg kən teɪn/	P.104/Line 59	
/n/ changes into /ŋ/	phone calls	/facsy ka il/	P.83/Line 24	0.6%
before /k/	one couldn't	wan kednt	P.123/Line 9	
	one cannot	wan kenot	P.123/Line 13	
/n/ changes into /ŋ/ before /g/	one game,	/wan geim/	P.94/Line 56	0.2%

**Table 20 Partial Place Assimilation** 

Regressive Place				Occurrence
Assimilation/alveolar	Exa	mples	Data Code	
changes into bilabial		-		
/n/ changes into/m/	Open position	/eupem pel zj/n/	P. 3/Line 23	3.2%
before /p/	can play	/kem ple <sub>1</sub> /	P.13/Line 16	
1	between privileged	/b1 twi:m	P.14/Line 38	
1		privelidad/		
1	been part	/bi:mpa:t/	P.23/Line 7	
1	in preparing	/ımprı peæın/	P.23/Line 26	
1	even point	/i:vmp=jnt/	P.33/Line 2	
1	main points	/mejmpojnts/	P.84/Line 44	
1	question period	/kwest/empjeried/	P.85/Line 64	
1	in paragraph	/m pæregra :f/	P.103/Line 24	
1	when productivity	/wem produk tyven/	P.113/Line 49	
	driven primarily	/dravm praa mereli/		
1	often presented	/ufm prj   zentjd/	P.124/Line 31	
1	can provide	ken pre vaid	P.124/Line 41	
1	one place	/w.mple_s/	P.53/Line 18	
1	one person	/w.mp:sn/	P.94/Line 35	
	Pinpoint	/pampoant/	P.3/Line 24	
/n/ changes into/m/	then bring	/ðem brjn/	P.13/Line 16	2.6%
before/b/	organization	/p:genailzei/m	P.14/Line 49	
1	brings	bringz/		
1	can be	/kem bi/	P.23/Line 3	
1	children begin	/tfjldrembjgjn/	P.34/Line 46	
1	American babies	/əl merj kəm bejbi/	P.34/Line 56	
1	run by	/ram/baj/	P.53/Line 25	
1	mean better	/mi:mbeta/	P.83/Line 10	
	Main body:	/mejmbadi/	P.84/Line 36	
	mention both	/men/m beυθ/	P.104/Line 39	
	action because	/æk/mbj kmz/	P.114/Line 36	
	shown by	//aombaj/	P.123/Line 26	
	even being	/i:vmbi:jn/	P.133/Line 18	
	imagination	/mæd31 nei/mbi	P.135/Line 86	
	because	kuz/		

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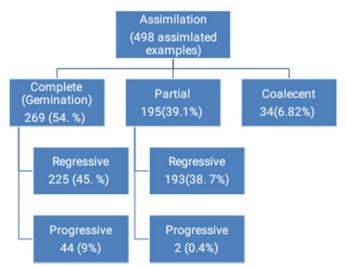
**Table 21 Partial Place Assimilation** 

Regressive Place Assimilation /alveolar changes into bilabial	Examples		Data Code	Occurrence
/t/ changes into /p/ before /b/	might be	/maip bi/	P.135/Line 86	3.0%
	list below	/lisp bi leu/	P.23/Line 9	
	might be	/maip bi/	P.135/Line 86	
	that being	/ðæp bi∶ ŋ/	P.25Line 79	
	that baby	ðæp beibi	P.33/Line 23	
	that being	/ðæp bi∶ ¡ŋ/	P.25Line 79	
	a lot better	/a lup beta/	P.54/Line 47	
	discreet but	/d1 skripb bet/	P.54/Line 29	
	that back	/ðæp bæk/	P.54/Line 61	
	that belongs	/ðæpbiˈlɒŋ/	P.63/Line 3	
	most blind	/meusp blard/	P.73/Line 18	
	not be	/nop bi/	P.83Line4	
	point by	/painp bai/	P.84/Line 52	
	different ball.	/d   franp ba : 1/	P.94/Line 49	
	about basic	/e¹bacop belsik/	P.123/Line 14	
/d/ changes into /b/	would point	/web pa int/	P.3 /Line 21	1.2%
before /p/	had planned	/həb plænd/	P.64 /Line 46	
	blind people	/blarb pi:pl/	P.73 /Line 18	
	should probably	/Jeb probebli/	P.84/Line 43	
	limited paradigm.	/lm t bpæredam/	P.134/Line 41	
	talented people	/tælent b'pi:pl/	P.135/Line 85	

**Table 22 Coalescent Assimilation** 

/t/changes into/t]/	Exam		Data Code	
before /j/	about yourself.	/a baut jo self/	P.3/Line 6	2.6%
100000000000000000000000000000000000000	about your	/a baut ja:/	P.3/Line9	1
	That you	/ðæt] ju/	P.4/Line 43	1
	Last year	/la:stjjie/	P.64/Line 46	1
	out your	/acst] jo:/	P.83 /Line 25	1
	at your	/æt]ja:/	P.84/Line 58	1
	expect you	/ik spekt ju/	P.93/Line 18	1
	hit your	/hit]ja:/	P.93 /Line 26	1
	grant you	/gra:nt/ju/	P.103 /Line 3	1 1
	what you	/wot] ju/	P.103 /Line 4	1
	Highlight your	/hailait jo:/	P.104/Line 47	1
	suit you	/su:t  ju/	P.104/Line 48	1
	contact you.	/kontækt  ju/	P.104/Line 56	1
/ d / changes into /d <sub>y</sub> / before /i/	and your	/end <sub>3</sub> ja:/	P.23/Line 10	0.2%
/s/changes into/J/before	versus your	/vs:selja:/	P.3 /Line 17	0.8%
/j/	drowsiness you	/drauzine  ju/	P.114/Line 26	1
	This year	/ðiljiə/	P.34/Line 35	1 1
	the less you'll	/ðə lej juəl/	P.38/Line 21	1
/ z / changes into / 3/ before /j/	summarize your	/samera <sub>13</sub> jo:/	P.3 /Line 10	1.6%
,	qualities you	/kwolet <sub>13</sub> ju/	P.3 /Line 24	1
	goals you	/gasl <sub>3</sub> ju/	P.4/Line 58	1
	provides young	/pre vaid, jan/	P.34/Line 63	1
	skills you	/sk <sub>1</sub> l <sub>2</sub> ju/	P.25/Line 77	1
	аз уоц	/a, ju/	P.103 /Line 19	1
	references you	/refrans; ju/	P.104/Line 53	1
	mothers younger	/maðə, jangə/	P.133 /Line 7	1 l

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**Table 23 The Summary of Assimilation Occurrence** 

#### **Conclusions**

The analysis shows that:

- 1. Assimilation in the target data may be partial or complete, and regressive or progressive and it takes place in voicing, place of articulation and manner of articulation.
- 2. Germination mostly occurs in complete assimilation when consonants in sequence are homorganic (the consonants have two features in common, manner of articulation and phonation). Since manner of articulation feature is common, the third place of articulation feature is copied automatically from the adjacent sound. However, place of articulation and phonation features cause partial assimilation, and they are not enough to initiate automated manner of articulation one.
- 3. Complete assimilation whether it occurs in voicing, place of articulation or manner of articulation, and whether it is regressive or progressive, it results in a geminated consonant.
- 4. After analysing many assimilation examples such as the phrase "bless you", we can realize that reciprocal assimilation is not as it is defined as adjacent sounds having mutual influence on each other to produce a third new fused sound. If we analyse / ble Ju/ in which voiceless alveolar fricative /s/

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and voiced palatal approximant /j/ do not have equal effect to produce voiceless post-alveolar fricative /ʃ/. This means that voiceless alveolar fricative /s/ has the progressive domination, where voicelessness and manner of articulation are transformed to /ʃ/ from /s/, rather than bi-directional or reciprocal effect.

- 5. When obstruents (plosives, fricatives, affricates) are concatenated, the first obstruent is kept voiceless, while the next one is changed to become partially devoiced within the same words or across words boundaries. This direction of assimilation is progressive. Regressive assimilation of voicing is never found in all collected data.
- 6. The most common complete place assimilation is a regressive one /alveolar changes into bilabial see Tables 3 and 4.
- 7. The most common complete place assimilation is progressive one / dental changes into alveolar (Table 10).
- 8. The most common complete manner assimilation is regressive one / stop changes into fricative (Table 11).
- 9. The most common Regressive voiceless partial assimilation as /z/ changes into /s/ before /k/ (Table 17).
- 10. Regressive place assimilation /labiodental / v / changes into bilabial /m/ and /dental /  $\theta$  / changes into alveolar /s/ are very rare (Tables 5 & 6).
- 11. Progressive complete place assimilation as in palatal changes /j/ into post-alveolar /J/ and semi-vowel / j / changes into fricative / ʒ/ before /d/ is very rare since we have a very small number of examples in all data analysed (Tables 9 & 13).

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