Neogrammarians  Sound change is regular (except for analogy and borrowing)

Anti-Neogrammarians  (They weren't called that) Every word has its own history

MAP 7.1: Geographical distribution of words which retained /k/ in areas of Normandy (redrawn after Palmer 1972: 273)

Apparent time studies

1 Glottal stop at end of word in:

jet engines
treat a
helmet on
shut up
lot of
2 Oral release after nasals

Standard American (with nasal release):
Mountain [mawʔn]
Kitten [kʰɬʔn]

Oral Release variant
Mountain [mawʔən]
Kitten [kʰɬʔən]

In urban areas these generalizations about language change have been found to be true:

1-Most changes are started in the middle classes.
2-The innovators of change are people with in high esteem in their social group.
3-The innovators have lots of interaction with people both within and without their social group.
4-Women lead linguistic changes.
5-Ethic groups don't participate in the changes until they start participating in the general society.

Examples of Lexical Diffusion

recéss_{H,V} > récess_{n}, recéss_{V} (Other words like this: outláw, rebél, recórd)

f- > h- in Spanish (then later h > Ø)
forno > horno
faba > haba
faz > haz
fecho > hecho

But, not all words are affected so maybe it’s not regular.

fuerte
fuente
fuego
fuerza

Some argue that the exceptions may be due to not knowing exact phonetic context. Maybe phonetic context excludes f > h before w

But, you can’t explain
fiesta
fábrica
falda

so it looks like each word has history in that change didn’t affect everything. Or change was lexically diffused and never made it to certain words.

More frequent words undergo sound change first

t/d deletion in words such as just, perfect, child (Bybee)

Table 1: Rate of t/d-deletion for entire corpus by word frequency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>High frequency</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Low Frequency</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retention</td>
<td>752</td>
<td>45.6%</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>65.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deletion</td>
<td>898</td>
<td>54.4%</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>34.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chi-square = 41.67, p < .001

went, swept, lopped, checked

Table 2: Rate of deletion for regular Past Tense compared to all other words of comparable frequency (403 or less).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All words</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Past Tense</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>retention</td>
<td>831</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>77.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>deletion</td>
<td>709</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chi-square = 53.2, p < .0001

Labov notes (1994:506-7) that when word-initial short [æ] “occurs before a voiceless fricative, only
the more frequent, monosyllabic words are tensed: tense [ɛ] (?) ass and ask; lax ascot, aspirin, astronauts, aspect, athletic, after, African, Afghan”.
Vowel reduction happens in most frequent words first

high frequency “mistake” [məstejk]
low frequency “mistook” [mɪstʊk]

High frequency “astronomy” [əstrənəmi]
Low frequency “gastronomy” [gæstrənəmi]