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1- **Rhythm**: - the regular occurrence of prominent units in speech. Rhythm is detectable in stressed syllables. The timing is not as regular as a clock. The regularity of occurrence is relative.

2- **Stress-timed rhythm**: - A theory implies that stressed syllables occur at relatively regular intervals whether they are separated by unstressed syllables or not. It is in languages like English, Arabic and Russian.

Look at the following example:

1        2        3        4        5  
'walk 'down the 'path to the 'end of the ca'nal

The stressed syllables are given numbers: syllables 1 and 2 are **NOT** separated by any unstressed syllables, 2 and 3 are separated by **ONE** unstressed syllable, 3 and 4 by **TWO**, and, 4 and 5 by **THREE** unstressed syllables. The stress-timed rhythm theory states that the times from each stressed syllable to the next one will tend to be the same, no matter are the numbers of intervening unstressed syllables.

**Syllable-timed rhythm**:- A theory states that all syllables, whether stressed or unstressed, tend to occur at regular time intervals and the time between stressed syllables will be shorter or longer in proportion to the number of unstressed syllables. It is in languages as **French, Telugo, Yoruba**.

3- **Foot**:- The foot is a unit of rhythm. It begins with a stressed syllable and includes all the following unstressed syllables up to the following stressed syllable. For example;

	1		2		3		4		5	
	'walk		'down the				'path to the		'end of the ca	'nal

Other theories of rhythm point that some feet are **stronger** than others, producing strong- weak patterns in larger pieces of speech above the level of the foot. For example; the word "**twenty**" /'tewnti/ has ONE STRONG syllable and ONE WEAK syllable, forming ONE FOOT. Its rhythmical structure is made where **S** = Strong and **W** = Weak.

s		w		
twen		ty		



The word "places" has the same form;

s		w		
pla		ces		



The phrase "twenty places", the word on the right "places" normally takes the stronger stress than "twenty" (i.e. is rhythmically stronger). The tree diagram is as below;

By looking at the larger phrase "twenty places further back", and building up the further back" in a similar way to "twenty places". We will have a clearer structure.

The advantages of this analysis:

1- It shows us the relationships between strong and weak elements.

The strength of any particular syllable can be measured by counting up the number of times an **S** symbol occurs above it.

This "**metrical grid**" shows that the word "**back**" has the strongest foot.

						S
		S		S		S
S		S		S		S
-----						
twen	ty	pla	ces	fur	ther	back

5- **Metrical grid**:- a term used in the metrical phonology referring to a form shows the patterns of syllable stress.

6- **Stress shift**:- a tendency in English where speech tends to a regular alternation between strong and weak and tends to adjust stress levels. This shift occurs according to contexts and changes the word type (i.e. adjective to noun)

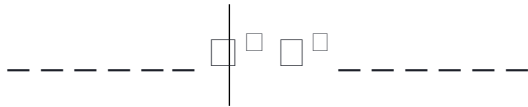
'disk/ /kɒmpækt/ disk compact                      /kəm'pækt/ compact  
 thirteen /θɜ:'tɪn/                      thirteenth place /θɜ:'tɪnθ 'pleɪs/  
 Westminster /west'mɪnstə/                      Westminster Abbey /westmɪnstər  
 'æbi/

Another factor that varies the rhythmicity of our speech;

We sometimes speak very rhythmically (i.e. some styles of public speaking) while at other times we may speak arrhythmically (without rhythm) if we are hesitant, afraid or nervous.

## 14.1 Assimilation

1- **Assimilation**: - is the situation when a sound belonging to one word can cause changes in sounds belonging to neighbouring words and become nearly alike. Assimilation varies according to speaking rate and style. Such as "that person" /ðæt pɜ:sn̩/.



Word boundary

2- **Regressive assimilation**:- a type of assimilation where the phoneme that comes first (□ □) is affected by the phoneme that comes after it (□ □). For example; "that person" /ðæt pɜːsn̩/

3- **Progressive assimilation**: - a type of assimilation where the phoneme that comes later (□ □) is affected by the phoneme that comes first (□ □). An example of this type is what we call **Coalescence** or **Coalescent assimilation**. When final /t, d/ are followed by /j/, they will combine to form /tʃ, dʒ/

not yet /nɒtʃet/      could you /kʊdʒu/