First Year (second Course)

Fourth Lecture

4.2 Final Sequences (P. 69-71)

In the last lecture, we talked about clusters that involve stop+ stop consonants in final position. These stop sounds are produced at two different places (/kt/ and /pt/).

Now, we need to talk about the second type of stop+ stop clusters which, are produced in the same place. Consider the example "slip past" /slip pa:st/ (found on page. 69 in your text book). In this example, we have the stop sound /p/ followed by another stop sound /p/.

 How do we produce this cluster? How many closures and releases do we have here?

We must make the closure for the first /p/ sound, which is done by pressing the lips together as /p/ is a bilabial sound. While the sound /p/ is still made, we need to prepare for the second stop, which also /p/. So, in this case we will have one long closure for the two /p/s as they are pronounced in the same place i.e. we have one long closure.

As for the release, we have only one release after the second /p/ sound i.e. we do not make any release after the first /p/ sound.

Similar examples are found on page 69 such "what time".

 Please, in your comments on the class page, explain what should we do to pronounce this cluster correctly?

Stop + Nasal

Another type of final cluster may involve a stop sound followed by a nasal sound such as the utterance "button" where the /n/ is syllabic. In the previous types of clusters, we used to have an explosion from the oral cavity as the consonants involved are oral. In the case of the word "mutton", we have an oral sound followed by a nasal one.

To pronounce the cluster /tn/ in the word "mutton", we need first to make the closure for the sound /t/, which is alveolar. This means that that tip of the tongue is raised to be in complete contact with the alveolar ridge. While, we are still pronouncing the sound /t/ i.e. the tongue-tip is still in contact with the alveolar ridge (/t/ is being pronounced), the second sound /n/ is being prepared i.e. the soft palate is lowered and the air is pushed out through the nasal cavity. (P.72)

• Think of how the cluster /dn/ is produced in the word "hidden".