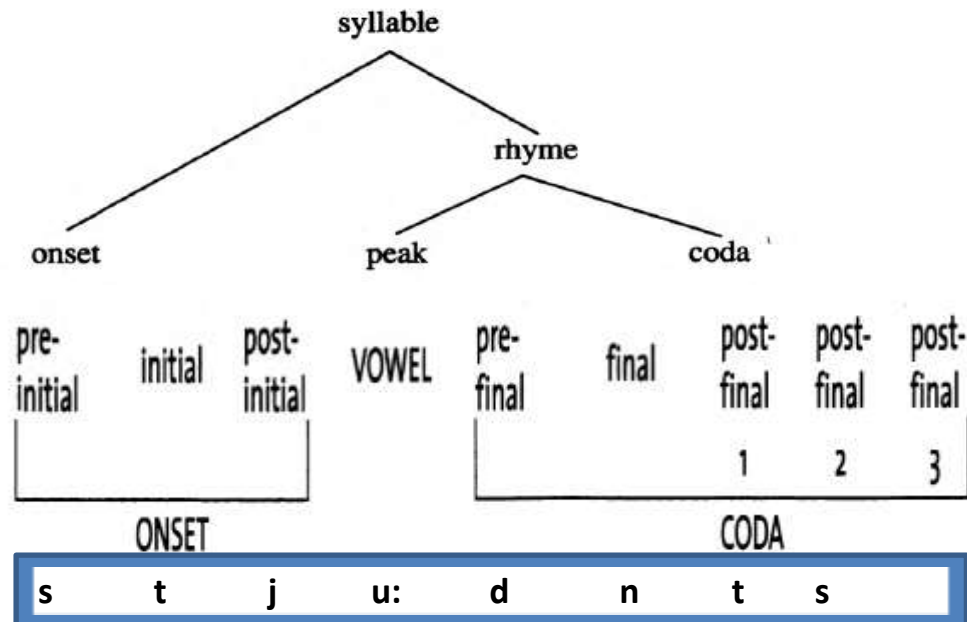**First Year (second Course)**

Sixth Lecture

4.2 Final Sequences

In our study of the structure of the syllable in English, we said that the maximum structure of the onset is to have three consonants provided that the first is /s/. Moreover, the maximum of four consonants can be found under the coda of the syllable.

Hence, the maximum structure of the syllable would be

ccc+v+cccc (Students) /stju:dnts/

The tree diagram of the maximum syllable will be as follows:

- **Note: There is a deleted vowel in the second syllable, which results in a one syllable word. Otherwise, the word will be of two syllables.**

The structure of clusters we have so far are found within words. This is called **"within word boundaries clusters".**

- **Can we have longer consonant clusters?**

Yes, we can.

In phrases, one word may end with a sequence of consonants and the next word has another sequence of consonants. In this case, we have longer sequences of consonants. This is called **"across word boundaries clusters".**

We learned how to move from one consonant to another to produce the initial and final consonant cluster without a vowel or a gap between them. **"we prepare for the second sound while the first is still in progress"**

Now, what we need to pay attention to is to **pass smoothly** from the **last consonant of the final cluster** to the **first consonant of the initial cluster** with no vowel or a gap between them. We need to put the organs of speech in position for the following consonant during the pronunciation of the previous consonant. Examples on page (77)

- **Question: How many consonants do we have in the cluster? Explain the pronunciation of the underlined consonants in the following cluster.**
  Next spring /neks**t s**priŋ/