

The Road to Neutralization: Flapped Consonants in English

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Flapping is a widely documented phenomenon occurring in a variety of languages. It is a leniting process, which means that it targets consonants and makes their articulation more sonorous. In English, and particularly some American dialects, the most widespread occurrence of this phenomenon is the flapping of alveolar stops /t, d/ between a stressed and an unstressed vowel, which leads to the neutralization of minimal pairs such as “matter” and “madder.” However, there are several other environments and sounds which may exhibit flapping in English besides the aforementioned well-known instance. Using data and theoretical propositions introduced in previous works, the presentation aims to present these lesser-explored variants of flapping, including the flapping of /r/ and the curious behavior of /nt, nd/ clusters.

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