Allophonic vs. Phonemic Change

1. Non-Phonemic Change

(1)   *Standard Spanish   Guatemalan Spanish*

pero   peřo   'dog'
karo   kařo   'car'
riko   řiko   'rich'

r > ř   unconditioned change

(2)   *Standard Spanish   Caribbean Spanish*

sano   sano   'healthy'
son   soŋ   'they are'
naða   naða   'nothing'
bʊen   bʊeŋ   'good'
beŋga   beŋga   'come on'

n > ŋ / __ velar (both dialects)
n > ŋ / __ # (Caribbean Spanish only)   conditioned sound change

2. Phonemic Change

Phoneme Merger

Axiom: Mergers are irreversible

(3)   *Archaic Spanish   Most Modern Spanish* ('Yeísmo')

caʎe   caje   'street'
caʎos   cajos   'tripe'
cajos   cajos   'islands'
jema   jema   'yoke'
ʎamar   jamar   'call (infin)'
aja   aja   'have (subjunctive)'
aʎa   aja   'find (3sg)

ʎ > j unconditioned change   /ʎ/ and /j/ merge to /j/

Phoneme Split

Axiom: Splits result from neutralization of conditioning environments - allophonic variation becomes phonemicized

(5)   English irregular plurals
        Secondary Split (or *Phonologicalization*) - increases the phonemic inventory (e.g. Stage 3)

Stage 1 (Proto-Germanic)

singular   *plural*   **At this point, these plurals are regular /-iz/**

*mu:s   *mu:siz   'mouse/mice'
*fo:t   *fo:tiz   'foot/feet'

Stage 2 (umlaut)   **V > [-back] / ___ ... V[-back] (conditioned non-phonemic change)**

mu:s   my:si
fo:t   fø:ti

Stage 3 (apocope)   **Final vowel loss ('merger') - yields Phoneme Split**

mu:s   my:s
fo:t   fø:t

Stage 4 (unrounding) **V[-back, +round] > [-round] (unconditioned change):**
mu:s   mi:s   **Phoneme Merger**
fo:t   fe:t

Stage 5 (vowel shift and diphthongization)   **unconditioned change**

maɪs   maʊs
fʊt   fit

Primary Split (or *Conditioned Merger*) - same phonemic inventory

(6) Latin Rhotacism

Early Latin	*Classical Latin*	/s/ /r/	s > r / V __ V
*rusal	rural	/ \		
*rusticus	rusticus	/s/ /r/	