Allophonic vs. Phonemic Change

1. Non-Phonemic Change

(1) **Standard Spanish**  **Guatemalan Spanish**

- pero ➔ peño ‘dog’
- karo ➔ kaño ‘car’
- riko ➔ řiko ‘rich’

\[r \rightarrow ř\] unconditioned change

(2) **Standard Spanish**  **Caribbean Spanish**

- sano ➔ sano ‘healthy’
- son ➔ soŋ ‘they are’
- naða ➔ naða ‘nothing’
- boen ➔ boenj ‘good’
- beña ➔ beña ‘come on’

\[n \rightarrow ɲ\] velar (both dialects)
\[n \rightarrow ɲ\] # (Caribbean Spanish only) conditioned sound change

2. Phonemic Change

**Phoneme Merger**

Axiom: Mergers are irreversible

(3) **Archaic Spanish**  **Most Modern Spanish (‘Yeismo’)**

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

\[ʎ \rightarrow j\] unconditioned change  
\[/ʎ/ \text{ and } /j/ \text{ merge to } /j/\]
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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>singular</th>
<th>plural</th>
<th>At this point, these plurals are regular /-iz/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*mu:s</td>
<td>*mu:siz</td>
<td>‘mouse/mice’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*fo:t</td>
<td>*fo:tiz</td>
<td>‘foot/feet’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mu:s</td>
<td>my:si</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fo:t</td>
<td>fø:ti</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stage 3 (apocope) Final vowel loss (‘merger’) - yields Phoneme Split

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<td>fø:t</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stage 4 (unrounding) \[V[-back, +round] > [-round] (unconditioned change)\): Phoneme Merger

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mu:s</td>
<td>mi:s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fo:t</td>
<td>fø:t</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stage 5 (vowel shift and diphthongization) Unconditioned change

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
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<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>maus</td>
<td>maus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fot</td>
<td>fit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Primary Split (or Conditioned Merger) - same phonemic inventory

(6) Latin Rhotacism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Early Latin</th>
<th>Classical Latin</th>
<th>/s/ /r/</th>
<th>s &gt; r / V __ V</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*rusal</td>
<td>rural</td>
<td>/ \</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*rusticus</td>
<td>rusticus</td>
<td>/s/</td>
<td>/r/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>