

Syllables and Syllable Structure

1. Organization of sounds within words

Syllables

◆ sounds → syllables → words

each word consists of one or more syllables

one syllable → tough, hot, rhyme, where, sound, unit

two syllables → structure, within, consist, under, precede

three syllables → linguistics, phonetics, resonant,
consonant

more → phonological, organization, differentiation

each syllable consists of one or more sounds

◆ syllable

a phonological unit consisting of one or more sounds
can be divided into two parts

○ rhyme → a nucleus + a coda following it

↓ ↓
vowel consonant

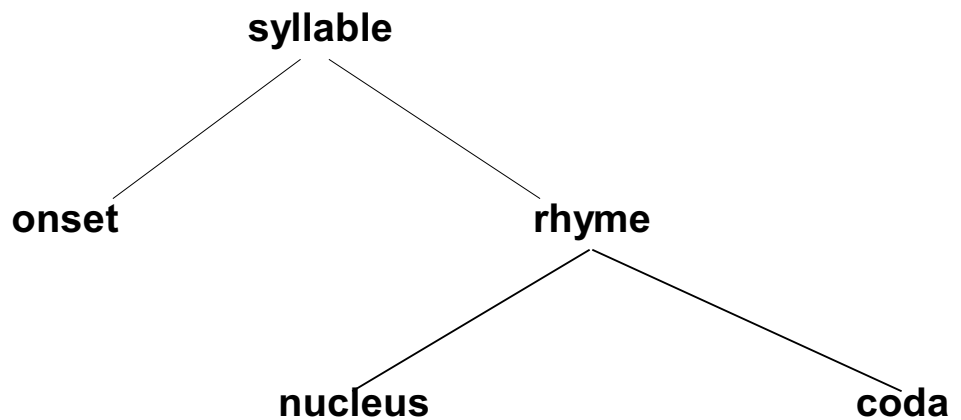
○ onset → consonants preceding the rhyme

the nucleus → the only essential part of a syllable

○ not every syllable has an onset

○ not every rhyme has a coda

○ a single sound can constitute a syllable → I, eye



2. Sequence constraints

- different languages use different sequences of consonants (C) and vowels (V)
- limited within each language
- English syllables allow several syllable patterns
in a pre-vious cap-tion
VC V CCV CV VC CVC-CVC
- phonotactic constraints
rules that describe permissible syllable structure in a language