

ABSTRACT for
Workshop on Variation, Gradience and Frequency in Phonology
6-8 July 2007, Stanford University

"Frequency Effects in the Lexical Diffusion of Phonological Change"
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Frequency effects on the progress of phonological change through the lexicon offer answers to a number of misunderstandings about lexical diffusion that often appear in the literature. This workshop will review the role of frequency in the progression of sound change by providing rejoinders to the following misunderstandings:

- *That lexical diffusion is "sporadic", a term used, for example in Hinskens (1998) and Aski (2001).*
- *That lexical diffusion affects only phonetically abrupt changes associated with lexical rather than postlexical rules (Labov 1994; Kiparsky's 1995).*
- *That lexically diffused changes show no clear phonetic conditioning (Kiparsky 1995).*
- *That lexically diffused changes always affect the most frequent words first, as originally suggested by Schuchardt (1885).*
- *That phonetically regular changes are productive, whereas lexically diffused changes are not (Bakken 2001: 67).*
- *That analogy and borrowing suffice to account for lexical diffusion (Kiparsky 1995; Janda and Joseph 2003).*
- *That age of acquisition or discourse factors account for patterns of lexical diffusion (Fenk-Oczlon 1989a, b; 2001).*