

An exception to the burst sound shift

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The stunning insight of Salmons (1956), perhaps best expressed in the famous passage “[papapatatakakaka]”,² and which can be summed up under the rubric “surds of a feather flock together” has since, of course, become known as Salmons’s Law, or, to give it its full name, SALMONS’S LAW (see also Honeybone, 1971).

(1) SALMONS’S LAW

voiceless obstruents like to stick together and don’t like to hang out with those strange foreign voiced obstruents at all, thank you very much

As is well known, it was soon recognised that this generalisation also accounts for the phonology of burst bicycle tyres, such as [ssssssffffff] and [ppppffffff] (see, for example, Rumpelstilzchen, 1980). This astonishing and unexpected result, now widely (if informally) referred to as the Burst Sound Shift (‘BSS’), demonstrated the explanatory power of SALMONS’S LAW, and formed the basis of all modern things.

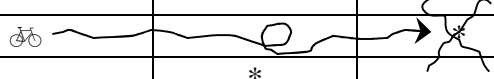
Recent new and novel potentially paradigm-shattering evidence has however just lately come to light which seems to cast doubt on the original observation, and hence to threaten the basis of our very civilisation. In this paper, I present an analysis which can account for this nasty counterexamplifying exception to the BSS, and I thus rescue all that we hold dear.

The offending newly-noted class of bicycle puncture events are such things as [kabanpsst] and [bu:mssssfff], and it is clear that the occurrence of [b] in both these forms appears on the surface to disprove both the BSS and SALMONS’S LAW. I note here for the first time, however, that all such known exceptions involve clumsily discarded drawing pins,¹ and I argue that this crucial observation allows us to account for the so-called counterevidence very cleverly. I formalise this through the adoption of an unobjectionably modified version of SALMONS’S LAW into the universal constraint set, along with the standard version of the constraint, as well, of course:

(2) 🚲 SALMONS’S LAW 🐿

it’s ok to mix surds and sonants, but only if there’s been a big bang due to drawing pins

The formal demonstration of this proof is given in (3), which shows everything that you need to know. Thank you.

(3) / bairsɪkl + baŋ/	NOALIENS	PUTTHECATOUT	🚲 SALMONS’S LAW 🐿	*plɪŋ	SALMONS’S LAW
a. pabapatadakaga					***
b. ☀ sssssffffff					
c. 🚲 kabanpsst 🐿					
d. plɪŋ				*	
e. 🐿 mi:ɹjau		*!			
g. 🐿 terkmitujɔlidə	*!				*

References

- Salmons, J. (1956) ‘Initial early observations’ *Diachronikakaka* 13, 42-8006.
 Honeybone, P. (1971) ‘Do self-references count for the purposes of citation metrics?’ *Narcissisma* 42, 6008-3.
 Rumpelstilzchen, ?. (1980) ‘Ich weiß was, was du nicht weißt’ *Sehr kluge Sachen* 98, 2.

¹ £1.50 or £2.00 with cheese (£1.00=\$1.7449; oh yes, and *drawing pins* are ‘thumb tacks’, I think).

² The unenlightened might be tempted to transcribe this as [bababadadagagaga], but we know better.