

Chapter One

Fuzhou initial and rime change

Initials and vowels in participating syllables in a sandhi domain often change. But their changes are not as prevalent as tone sandhi. While tone change is almost mandatory in connected speech, initial and vowel changes function as a sort of switch that flips on and off to indicate different things. Morphologically, the presence or absence of the change are often used to indicate different parts of speech, or different meanings of the same given word. Syntactically, their absence or presence can be used to signify a different relationship between words or groups of words.

The change of Fuzhou initials in a given sandhi domain is progressive change. This means that the conditioning factor for each initial change is the phoneme immediately preceding the initial. Therefore, the initial change can take place anywhere after the first syllable of the sandhi domain.

The rime change, however, is closely connected to the tonal value. Some finals have a variant in complimentary distribution.¹ Depending on the tonal value of the tonal category in which the final occurs, the height of the main vowel(s) in these finals may shift.

This chapter attempts to establish the systems of the Fuzhou initial and rime change. First, a chart will summarize the system of the changes, then each type of the changes will be listed, followed by illustrating examples.

1.0 Fuzhou initial change

In connected speech, when tones of the syllables with close semantic relationship (such as a disyllabic word) change, initials and final consonants of the participating syllables may also change. However, unlike tone sandhi, the occurrence of the initial changes is less frequent. A very important reason is that initial change can sometimes have a lexical function. The same phrase with or without initial change will have completely different meanings.

The process of initial change is like this: first, the final phoneme of the preceding syllable (a vowel or a final consonant) changes the initial of its following syllable; and then the initial's place of articulation in turn may assimilate that of its preceding final phoneme.

Thus the main, conditioning factor for the initial changes is the finals that precede the changed initial. Final consonants most affected by the initial changes seem to be the nasal final -ŋ and final glottal stop. These final consonants are often assimilated by their following initials in places of articulation. These changes in place of articulation will also be included in the following initial change chart.

The chart below shows some general tendencies. The group of final nasals [m-, n-, ŋ-] stands out as one with the strongest character of all. These nasal endings not only are least susceptible to any change, they convert all their following initial stops into nasals. Final stops in general [-k, -ʔ] seem to work as a sort of firewall in the initial sandhi and prevent the initials after them from changing. The general impression of the open finals (finals that end with vowels) is that they usually soften their following initial consonants. In phonetic terms, they usually reduce their following initial consonants into corresponding fricatives with similar places of articulation, or simply cause them to drop, as in the case of the [k-, k²- h-] series.

¹See the chart of alternation finals in section 3.2 in Part I (the introduction section).

1.1 Initial change rules

<u>type</u>	<u>preceding final</u>	<u>following initial</u>	<u>changed (sandhi) initial</u>
type I	-a, -e, -ø, -o	p-, p'-	β-
	-i, -u, -y, -ʔ	t-, t'-, s-	r-
		k-, k'-, h-	Ø- (zero initial)
		ts-, ts'-	ʒ-
		m-, n-, ŋ-, l-, Ø-	no change
type II	-ŋ==> -m	p-, p'-	m-
	==> -n	t-, t'-, s-, l-	n-
	==> -ŋ	k-, k'-, h-, Ø-	ŋ-
	==> -n	ts-, ts'-	ʒ-
	-ŋ changed to corresponding -m, -n, -ŋ	m-, n-, ŋ-	no change
type III-ʔ	==> -p	p-, p'-	no change
	==> -t, -s	t-, t'-, s-	
	==> -k, -Ø	k-, k'-, h-	
	==> -t or -Ø	ts-, ts'-	
	==> -m, -n, -ŋ, -Ø	m-, n-, ŋ-, l-, Ø-	

1.2 Fuzhou initial change examples

The following list of examples illustrates the basic sandhi rules that apply to Fuzhou initials.

Since the initial's preceding final phoneme is the initiator of the whole initial change process, these final phonemes will serve as the main organizing factor. First, these final phonemes with similar behavior will be grouped into the same type; then, each of these types will break down into subgroups headed by each of the participating phonemes. This word list has three columns. The first column has the readings in isolation, the second column has the sandhi readings (the proper reading of the word in speech form), and the third column has the characters for the readings and their English translations. Both the citation and sandhi initials will be highlighted in the headings of each group of examples.

1) type I endings (-a, -e, -ø, -o, -i, -u, -y, -ʔ) + **p-, p'- / β-**²

-a

a 242 pa44	a-βa 44-44	下巴	chin
ts'ia 44 puŋ51	ts'ia-βuŋ 44-51	车房	garage
hua44 puoŋ51	hua-βuoŋ 44-51	花盆	flower pot(s)
ts'a33 puoŋ242	ts'a-βuoŋ 44-242	炒饭	fried rice
ts'ia44 p'iu31	ts'ia-βiu 51-31	车票	tickets (for car rides)
ts'a51 p'ui44	ts'a-βui 44-44	柴胚	pieces of wood

²The changing part is highlighted. The slash means "changed into -- "

-e				
k'e44 pieŋ44 ma242 pai?23	k'e-βieŋ 44-44 me-βai? 51-23	溪边 勿会八	banks of a stream do not know	
sie51 p'ui51 le33 p'iŋ33	sie-βui 44-51 le-βiŋ 24-33	蛇皮 礼品	snake skin gifts	
-ø				
ts'ø44 pai?23	ts'ø-βai? 51-23	初八	the eighth day of a lunar month	
-ɔ/o				
t'ɔ33 puoŋ242 kɔ44 paŋ44 mɔ51 pei?23	t'ɔ-βuoŋ 44-242 kɔ-βaŋ 44-44 mɔ-βei? 21-23	讨饭 高班 毛笔	begging (lit. to ask for rice) senior classes brush pen	
tɔ44 p'ieŋ31	tɔ-βieŋ 51-31	刀片	blade, razor	
-i				
p'uai31 puo31 hui242 pɔ31 hai51 puoŋ51 hai33 pieŋ44 tsi33 peiŋ44	p'uai-βuo 51-31 hui-βɔ 51-31 hai-βuoŋ 44-51 hai-βieŋ 21-44 tsi-βeiŋ 21-44	破布 汇报 —盆 海边 只边	rags to report china pan seashore this side, here	
tsai33 p'ui44 mi33 p'uŋ44 tuai242 p'au31	tsai-βui 21-44 mi-βuŋ 21-44 tuai-βau 51-31	纸胚 米潘 大炮	cardboard rice water (after washing rice) canon	
-u				
tsiu33 pao44 tsiu33 piŋ51 ts'iu33 piu33	tsiu-βau 21-44 tsiu-βiŋ 21-51 ts'iu-βiu 24-33	酒包 酒瓶 手表	doggie bag wine bottle wrist watch	
ŋu51 p'ui51 iu242 p'ai31	ŋu-βui 44-51 iu-βai 51-31	牛皮 右派	cowhide a rightist, right-wing (politically)	
-y				
tsy44 pau44 øy242 pei242	tsy-βau 44-44 y-βei 51-242	书包 预备	book bag (school bag) to prepare	
ŋy51 p'ui51 ŋy51 p'ieŋ31	ŋy-βui 44-51 ŋy-βieŋ 21-31	鱼皮 鱼片	fish skin fish slices/fillet	
-ʔ				
tɔ?23 pieŋ44 tɔ?23 puo31	tɔ-βieŋ 44-44 tɔ-βuo 51-31	桌边 桌布	the edge of a table tablecloth	

maʔ5 p'ienʝ31	ma-βienʝ 21-31	麦片	oatmeal
2) type I endings + t-, t', s- / r-			
-a			
ts'ia44 tau33	ts'ia-rau 51-33	车斗	car trunk
ka44 tinʝ51	ka-rinʝ 44-51	家庭	family
ts'ia44 t'au51	ts'ia-rau 44-51	车头	the front of a car
ts'ia44 t'ai44	ts'ia-rai 44-44	车胎	tires
k'a44 t'øyŋ33	k'a-røyŋ 51-33	跤桶	feet-washing basin
sa44 sianʝ31	sa-rianʝ 51-31	纱线	cotton thread
hua44 seinʝ44	hua-reinʝ 44-44	花生	peanuts
pa51 suŋ51	pa-ruŋ 44-51	扒船	to row a boat
ka33 sy33	ka-ry 24-33	假使	if
-e			
ke44 touŋ44	ke-rouŋ 44-44	街中	on the street
k'e44 ty44	ke-ry 44-44	溪猪	country bumpkin (lit. stream pig)
t'ie31 t'au51	t'ie-rau 44-51	剃头	to get a hair cut
tie33 sianʝ51	tie-rianʝ 21-51	里城	to enter the city
ma242 sia33	me ³ -ria 51-33	勿会舍	cannot part with
le33 sou31	le-rou 44-31	礼数	social etiquette
tie33 sie31	tie-lie 44-31	里势	inside
-ø			
ts'ɔ31 tɔ44	ts'ø-rɔ 44-44	– 刀	peeler
sø44 t'au51	sø-rau 44-51	梳头	to comb one's hair
ts'ø44 sanʝ44	ts'ø-ranʝ 44-44	初三	the third day of a lunar month
ts'ɔ31 sinʝ44	tsø-rinʝ 44-44	– 芯	the heart of Chinese silk cucumber
-ɔ/-o			
tɔ31 te33	tɔ-re 51-33	到底	what/how on earth...
kɔ44 tyŋ44	kɔ-ryŋ 44-44	高中	high school
tɔ31 t'aiʔ23	tɔ-raiʔ 51-23	倒贴	to pay for the difference
mɔ51 t'anʝ33	mɔ-ranʝ 33-33	毛毯	woolen blanket
tsɔ31 sa31	tsɔ-ra 51-31	做细	childhood

³In this case, and in some of the later examples, the sandhi final instead of the final in citation reading will be taken as the conditioning factor.

sɔ33 sie51 kɔ31 sou31 lɔ33 si25 tsuo33 si25	sɔ-rie 21-51 kɔ-rou 51-31 lɔ-ri? 21-5 tsuo-ri? 21-5	锁匙 告诉 老实 主席	keys to tell, to inform honest chairperson
-i			
kai44 touŋ44 mi33 tɔi242	kai-rouŋ 44-44 mi-rɔi 44-242	该当 米袋	destined, fated rice bag
ts'ai31 t'au51 tuai242 t'ie51 tsui33 t'øyŋ33	ts'ai-rau 44-51 tuai-rie 44-51 tsui-røyŋ 24-33	菜头 大啼 水桶	daikon (a kind of vegetable) to cry loudly water barrel
kei31 suŋ51 hui33 si25 lei31 sei223 i55 suoŋ51 ei31 søy31 tsai51 saŋ33	k'i-ruŋ 44-51 hui-ri? 21-5 li-rei? 51-23 i-ruoŋ 44-51 i-røy 51-31 tsai-raŋ 33-33	汽船 火食 利息 衣裳 意思 财产	steamer, ship food, meals interest (on money) clothes meaning property
-u			
ku44 tuoŋ242 t'au31 te33 kou242 te33 ŋou242 ta31 lau51 tiŋ33	ku-ruoŋ 51-242 t'au-re 51-33 ku-re 51-33 ŋu-ra 44-31 lau-riŋ 33-33	姑丈 透底 旧底 五帝 楼顶	uncle (aunt's husband) always the old times Good heavens! (lit. The Five Gods) upstairs
ts'iu44 t'ien44 t'au51 t'ai44 kau44 t'uŋ44	ts'iu-rien 44-44 t'au-rai 44-44 kau-ruŋ 44-44	秋天 头胎 交通	autumn the first born traffic, transportation
t'au51 sɔ44 hau242 sia31 siu33 suo223 ku33 saŋ44 hiu44 sei223 siu33 siŋ44	t'au-rø 44-44 hau-ria 51-31 siu-ruo? 44-23 ku-raŋ 21-44 hiu-rei? 51-23 siu-riŋ 21-44	头梳 校舍 小说 鼓山 休息 小心	a comb school housing novel(s) Gu Mountain (in Fuzhou) to rest, rest careful
-y			
tsy44 taiŋ31 ŋy51 tie51	tsy-rain 51-31 ŋy-rie 44-51	书店 鱼池	bookstore fish pond
ŋy51 t'ouŋ44 t'y51 t'au51	ŋy-rouŋ 44-44 t'y-rau 44-51	鱼汤 锄头	fish soup hoe
sy44 suoŋ33 ly33 sia242	sy-ruoŋ 51-33 ly-ria 44-242	思想 旅社	thoughts hotel, motel