

Preliminaries:

(1) Some **Phonesthemes**: (*Firth 1931*)

<i>snuff, snout, snicker</i>	‘nose’
<i>flitter, flicker, flutter</i>	‘rapid movement’
<i>glisten, glance, glare</i>	‘reflection’
<i>snack, flood, glum</i>	(Counter-examples)

(2) *sting* : **Assonance** /*st-*/ **Rime** /*-ɪŋ*/ (*Bolinger 1951*)

(3) **Phonesthemes Form A Classifier System**. (*Rhodes and Lawler 1981*)

(4) Categories typically expressed in Classifier Systems
[often combined and subdivided]: (*ibid*)

• **Dimensionality**

- 1-Dimensional
- 2-Dimensional
- 3-Dimensional

• **Animacy**

- plant
- animal
- human
- body parts (particularly of humans)

• **Material State**

- solid / fluid
- concave / convex
- rigid / flexible
- extended / limited ~ excessive/diminutive
- (degree of) angularity and connectedness

(5) Portions of the English Classifier System in assonances: (*ibid*)

Semantics	Assonance	Semantics	Assonance
1-D Rigid.....	<i>st-</i>	1-D Bent.....	<i>kr-</i>
1-D Non-Rigid.....	<i>str-</i>	1-D Connected.....	<i>br-</i>
1-D Extended.....	<i>pr-</i>	Connection (‘together’).....	<i>kl-</i>
2-D.....	<i>fl-</i>	2-D + 1-D Motion.....	<i>skr-</i>
2-D Thick.....	<i>pl-</i>	2-D Extended.....	<i>sk-</i>
3-D.....	<i>n-</i>	3-D Cylindrical.....	<i>sp-</i>
3-D Convex w/ Concave.....	<i>sn-</i>	3-D Compressed.....	<i>skw-</i>
Color.....	<i>bl-</i>	(Reflected) Light.....	<i>gl-</i>
Human (Gender Roles).....	<i>br-</i>	Compressed Fluid.....	<i>bl-</i>
Human (Social Roles).....	<i>pr-</i>	Liquid.....	<i>dr-</i>

(6) Selected Rimes: (*ibid*)

<i>-oop</i>curved	<i>-ap/-op</i>2-D	<i>-ine</i>1-D
<i>-ump</i>3-D	<i>-oat</i>liquid	<i>-ip</i>2-D (off)
<i>-irl/-url</i>rotation	<i>-ash</i>violent contact	<i>-ing</i>directed force

Diminutive, 2-Dimensional, 3-Dimensional, Indistinct Sensation, Pejorative, (Embodied Image)

RL81 = Rhodes, R. and J. Lawler, 1981. “Athematic Metaphors”, CLS 17.

-æt 34/51 = 67%

1) Embodied image: *Extended Tongue* (27) 2) Animal (7)

a) 2-Dimensional (18)

at *paten*
flat *platen*
fat *shatter*
pat *clatter*
mat *platter*
slat *scatter*
splat *smatter*
spatter
splatter
tatter
lattice

b) Speech (9)

blat
chat
prat
spat
prattle
tattle
flatter
natter

bat
cat
gnat
rat
scat
sprat
cattle

3) Residue (17)

brat *attic*
that *static*
drat *battle*
frat *chattel*
gat *rattle*
hat *atom*
tat *latter*
matter
natty

-əmp 22/26 = 85% [1 overlap]

1) R&L81 3-D (15) 2) Social [Pej] (7)

bump *clump* a) Pers b) Aural
dump *plump* *chump* *crump*
hump *slump* *frump* *thump*
jump *stump* *grump* *trumpet*
lump *rumple*
rump *crumple* a&b) *rumpus*
sump *tump*
mump

3) Residue (4)

pump
trump
compass
crumpet

-ip 30/41 = 73%

1) Diminutive (30)

a) Convex (16)

lip *blip*
pip *drip*
dip *flip*
zip *clip*
nip *skip*
chip *trip*
nipple *slip*
stipple *tip*

b) Concave (14)

rip *kipper*
sip *nipper*
yip *slipper*
quip *ripple*
scrip *cripple*
strip *tipple*
snip *zipper*

2) Residue (10)

hip *gyp*
chipper *triple*
ship *grip*
skipper *hippie*
whip *yippee*

-ap 21/30 = 70% [large overlap]

1) RL81 Slightly Off 2-D (17)

bop *hop* *mop* *top* *hopper*
lop *plop* *crop*
pop *drop* *prop*
sop *flop* *topple*
clop *whop*
cop *stop* *chop*

2) RL81 Failure [Separate/Cut/Hurt] (15)

3) Residue (10)

op *wop* *proper*
fop *swap* *tropic*
shop *glop* *topic*
copper

Snapshots of 4 High-Coherence Rimes

Data from Lawler-Rhodes English Simplex Word Database

<http://www.umich.edu/~jlawler/monosyl.zip>

Preliminaries:

Rime	Size	Coherence			Examples
		Num	Pct	Rank	
-əmp	26	22	85%	1	RL81 3-D <i>rump hump lump stump Pej frump grump chump</i>
-əŋk	22	18	81	2	Pej <i>junk flunk bunk skunk drunk Aural chunk thunk plunk</i>
-əb	34	27	79	3	1-D Thick <i>slub club chub Dim shrub stub cub Pej flub lubber rubble</i>
-ɪŋk	34	25	74	4	Dim <i>slink trinket tinker dinky Dim Aural chink dink plink</i>
-ɪp	41	30	73	5	Dim <i>kipper sip yip quip Dim Convex pip blip clip trip</i>
-ɔl	28	20	71	6	2-D <i>shawl sprawl scrawl wall Motion crawl brawl squall haul fall</i>
-ap	30	21	70	7	Off 2-D <i>bop top hop pop Separate drop topple lop crop</i>
-æg	39	27	69	8	Crooked/Broken <i>snag zag crag sag rag</i>
-æf	25	17	68	9	RL81 Violent Contact <i>bash trash crash thrash slash gash</i>
-æt	51	34	67	10	(Tongue) 2-D <i>pat slat mat Speech blat chatter spat</i>
-æk	47	31	66	11	2-D Connected <i>plaque stack bracket tacky Aural crack clack quack yack</i>
-æŋ	27	17	63	12	1-D Connected <i>hang angle dangle tangle Aural jangle twang bang clang</i>
-ɪŋ	32	20	62	13	RL81 Dir Force <i>sling sting spring ring Dim Aural ping ding jingle lingo</i>
-əf	31	19	61	14	2-D Friction <i>scuff snuff shuffle ruffle rough Indist Sens fluff muffle gruff</i>
-ab	34	20	59	15	3-D Connected <i>knob fob glob bobbin cobble gob cob</i>
-æmp	22	13	59	16	2-D Contact <i>clamp cramp tamp damper ramp trample</i>
-il	23	13	57	17	2-D Motion <i>peel feel wheel keel kneel seal heel</i>
-ez	25	14	56	18	2-D Contact <i>graze glaze blaze braze raze Indist Sens daze haze craze</i>
-æb	34	19	56	19	Pej <i>rabble drab shabby crab Speech blabber jabber babble gabble</i>
-æm	35	19	54	20	2-D Contact <i>slam hammer flam clam cam Aural bam blam clamor stammer</i>
-um	24	13	54	21	3-D Interior/Expansion <i>room womb tomb bloom tumor</i>
-ɪt	47	25	53	22	Dim <i>spit whittle little kitten bit grit twitter ditty jitter critter</i>
-end	21	11	52	23	1-D Non-Linear <i>bend wend fend Mix/Fluid mend render blend</i>
-ət	37	19	51	24	3-D Orifice <i>gut shut rut butt jut glutton gutter putty</i>
-əs	20	10	50	25	Clothing/Stricture(???) <i>gusset hussy truss bustle muss gussy</i>
-i	41	20	49	26	Alphabet B C D E Closed Class <i>3 he she we be</i>
-ɪk	48	23	48	27	Dim 3-D Concave <i>nick crick tick click flick hickey Convex prick wick tickle</i>
-ɪz	21	10	48	29	Dim Multiple/Liquid/Aural <i>drizzle fizz pizzle swizzle jism chrism</i>
-ɔ	21	10	48	29	(Mouth/Tooth/Claw) <i>craw paw claw chaw jaw maw gnaw</i>
-əŋk	31	14	45	30	Articulation/Body Part <i>flank ankle shank hank spank yank crank wank</i>
-es	20	9	45	31	1-D Crossed <i>fess wrestle trestle press</i>
-æp	30	13	43	32	RL81 2-D <i>flap clap lap map wrap slap strap cap chap</i>
-ərɪk	21	9	43	34	Pej <i>irk lurk murk turkey jerk shirk smirk</i>
-ɪv	21	9	43	34	Dim Multiple <i>shiver quiver sliver sieve divot privet rivet</i>
-ɪp	24	10	42	35	Vertical <i>steep teepee leap heap deep Aural bleep cheep peep</i>
-əd	25	10	40	36	Liquid <i>flood blood mud crud puddle rudder udder</i>
-ɪnt	20	8	40	37	Dim Multiple <i>splinter glint hint lint sinter stint</i>

Diminutive, 2-Dimensional, 3-Dimensional, Indistinct Sensation, Pejorative, (*Embodied Image*)

RL81 = Rhodes, R. and J. Lawler, 1981. "Athematic Metaphors", CLS 17.

Low-Coherent Rimes (22)				
Rank	Rime	Size	#Coh	%Coh
38	-ər	36	14	39
39	-im	26	10	38
40	-ayt	38	14	37
41	-o	44	16	36
42	-ək	25	9	36
43	-awt	23	8	35
44	-ad	29	10	34
45	-ayn	30	10	33
46	-ol	38	12	32
48	-ot	22	7	32
48	-im	22	7	32
49	-at	33	10	30
50	-æn	23	7	30
51	-en	42	12	29
52	-ænd	31	9	29
53	-up	24	7	29
54	-æd	31	8	26
55	-on	23	5	22
56	-ir	43	9	21
57	-əg	30	6	20
58	-u	60	11	18
59	-est	22	3	14

Non-Coherent Rimes (37)			
Rime	Size	Rime	Size
-or.....	52	-al	28
-il	47	-ed	27
-ay	45	-ən	27
-e	44	-æl	26
-ok	40	-et	26
-el	37	-en	26
-et	37	-ek	26
-it	34	-ev	25
-əb	34	-iz	24
-ik	34	-ak	32
-art	22	-id	28
-m	31	-ərn	21
-ut	31	-un	21
-aw.....	31	-æs	21
-əm	31	-ev	20
-in	29	-id	20
-ig	29	-ayr	20
-el	29	-ed	20
-ayd	20		

Suffixes occurring in English Simplex Words

-ər:	<i>blunder</i>
	<i>prosper</i>
-əl:	<i>bramble</i>
	<i>bridle</i>
	<i>prattle</i>
-ən:	<i>bludgeon</i>
	<i>bracken</i>
	<i>prison</i>
-ət:	<i>blanket</i>
	<i>bracket</i>
	<i>prophet</i>
-əs:	<i>practice</i>
	<i>prowess</i>
	<i>precious</i>
-əʃ:	<i>blemish</i>
	<i>brandish</i>
-əm:	<i>blossom</i>
	<i>prism</i>
-i :	<i>blarney</i>
	<i>brandy</i>
	<i>prissy</i>
-o :	<i>blotto</i>
	<i>bronco</i>
	<i>presto</i>
-əb:	<i>cherub</i>
	<i>scarab</i>
-ə :	<i>drama</i>
	<i>villa</i>
-əŋ:	<i>darling</i>
	<i>awning</i>
-əd:	<i>acid</i>
	<i>fluid</i>
-ək:	<i>panic</i>
	<i>hammock</i>
-əns:	<i>science</i>
-əz:	<i>Mrs</i>
-li :	<i>sprightly</i>

Total in database:

- **5381** Simplex Words
 - **480** rimes
 - **70** assonances
 - **17** suffixes

This study:

- **2902** Simplex Words (**53.9%**)
 - (**96** rimes $\geq$ 20 words each)
 - **30.2** mean words/rime
 - **28.7%** coherence overall (counting Non-Coherent rimes as zero)

- **37 Non-Coherent** rimes
 - **1075** Simplex Words
 - **29.0** mean words/rime

- **59 Coherent** rimes
 - **1807** Simplex Words
 - **853** coherent words
 - **30.6** mean words/rime
 - **47.2%** mean coherence ... including

- **37 High-Coherent** rimes
 - **1112** Simplex Words
 - **649** coherent words
 - **30.0** mean words/rime
 - **58.7%** mean coherence

NB: Inflected forms (e.g. *longer*) and pro-ductive derivations (e.g. *timely*) of monosyllabic words are **not** included in the database.

Random set of 51 words (for comparison with /-æt/ words)

<i>steam</i>	<i>bet</i>	<i>twitch</i>	<i>mat</i>	<i>bide</i>	<i>char</i>	<i>hopper</i>
<i>script</i>	<i>flub</i>	<i>jig</i>	<i>loon</i>	<i>race</i>	<i>fly</i>	<i>burnish</i>
<i>covey</i>	<i>leaven</i>	<i>ship</i>	<i>tally</i>	<i>furish</i>	<i>chard</i>	
<i>revel</i>	<i>trap</i>	<i>dawn</i>	<i>mob</i>	<i>pear</i>	<i>laud</i>	
<i>hackle</i>	<i>feel</i>	<i>stress</i>	<i>jaunt</i>	<i>clot</i>	<i>bruin</i>	
<i>prattle</i>	<i>win</i>	<i>lentil</i>	<i>slouch</i>	<i>rue</i>	<i>flutter</i>	
<i>pattern</i>	<i>furlough</i>	<i>spire</i>	<i>tup</i>	<i>strand</i>	<i>bronze</i>	
<i>ruin bit</i>	<i>audit</i>	<i>travel</i>	<i>bosom</i>	<i>comic</i>	<i>yaw</i>	

Random set of 41 words (for comparison with /-ɪp/ words)

<i>weapon</i>	<i>maze</i>	<i>briar</i>	<i>truckle</i>	<i>chub</i>	<i>hour</i>	<i>shatter</i>
<i>haw</i>	<i>bat</i>	<i>precious</i>	<i>plummet</i>	<i>crock</i>	<i>prick</i>	<i>circuit</i>
<i>bellow</i>	<i>drunk</i>	<i>tile</i>	<i>raise</i>	<i>cake</i>	<i>crutch</i>	<i>berth</i>
<i>oral</i>	<i>blarney</i>	<i>grieve</i>	<i>vixen</i>	<i>stray</i>	<i>cad</i>	<i>arch</i>
<i>face</i>	<i>varnish</i>	<i>awe</i>	<i>chaise</i>	<i>pass</i>	<i>triple</i>	<i>haste</i>
<i>glory</i>	<i>jewel</i>	<i>clink</i>	<i>hoyden</i>	<i>pod</i>	<i>faggot</i>	

Random set of 30 words (for comparison with /-ap/ words)

<i>odd</i>	<i>hod</i>	<i>skill</i>	<i>ranch</i>	<i>anal</i>	<i>fat</i>
<i>shrimp</i>	<i>robin</i>	<i>prole</i>	<i>tenet</i>	<i>flask</i>	<i>dove</i>
<i>clinch</i>	<i>starve</i>	<i>braid</i>	<i>kite</i>	<i>jingo</i>	<i>valve</i>
<i>cockle</i>	<i>broil</i>	<i>thump</i>	<i>ration</i>	<i>swain</i>	<i>frigid</i>
<i>whiffle</i>	<i>cautious</i>	<i>crow</i>	<i>taste</i>	<i>blazon</i>	<i>shutter</i>

Random set of 26 words (for comparison with /-əmp/ words)

<i>scowl</i>	<i>mend</i>	<i>fennel</i>	<i>trellis</i>	<i>buck</i>	<i>posh</i>	<i>too</i>
<i>pear</i>	<i>serve</i>	<i>strict</i>	<i>nuzzle</i>	<i>fifth</i>	<i>tomb</i>	<i>gray</i>
<i>zoom</i>	<i>wick</i>	<i>joss</i>	<i>traipse</i>	<i>loam</i>	<i>shuffle</i>	
<i>snide</i>	<i>pork</i>	<i>squalid</i>	<i>quack</i>	<i>curdle</i>	<i>thick</i>	

References

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- Firth, J.R. 1935. "The Use and Distribution of Certain English Sounds", *English Studies* 17:8-18.
- Lawler, J. 1990. "Women, Men, and Bristly Things: The Phonosemantics of the BR- Assonance in English", *Michigan Working Papers in Linguistics* I:1.
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- Rhodes, R. 1994. "Aural Images", in *Sound Symbolism*, eds. Ohala, Hinton, and Nichols. Cambridge University Press.

52 words with non-coherent rime /-ɔr/ (for comparison with /-æt/ words)

<i>oar</i>	<i>or</i>	<i>ore</i>	<i>aura</i>	<i>auric</i>	<i>oral</i>	<i>shore</i>
<i>boar</i>	<i>bore</i>	<i>boric</i>	<i>chore</i>	<i>door</i>	<i>dory</i>	<i>drawer</i>
<i>fore</i>	<i>four</i>	<i>for</i>	<i>floor</i>	<i>floral</i>	<i>gore</i>	<i>glory</i>
<i>hoar</i>	<i>whore</i>	<i>horrid</i>	<i>horus</i>	<i>core</i>	<i>corps</i>	<i>coral</i>
<i>quarrel</i>	<i>quarry</i>	<i>lore</i>	<i>lorry</i>	<i>more</i>	<i>moral</i>	<i>nor</i>
<i>pour</i>	<i>pore</i>	<i>porous</i>	<i>roar</i>	<i>soar</i>	<i>sore</i>	<i>sorrel</i>
<i>score</i>	<i>snore</i>	<i>spore</i>	<i>store</i>	<i>torrid</i>	<i>torus</i>	<i>tory</i>
<i>war</i>	<i>warren</i>	<i>yore</i>				

40 words with non-coherent rime /-ok/ (for comparison with /-ɪp/ words)

<i>cloak</i>	<i>oak</i>	<i>bloke</i>	<i>choke</i>	<i>folk</i>	<i>joke</i>	<i>coke</i>
<i>croak</i>	<i>poke</i>	<i>soak</i>	<i>smoke</i>	<i>spoke</i>	<i>stoke</i>	<i>stroke</i>
<i>toke</i>	<i>yolk</i>	<i>yoke</i>	<i>coca</i>	<i>mocha</i>	<i>focal</i>	<i>hokum</i>
<i>vocal</i>	<i>yokel</i>	<i>oakum</i>	<i>local</i>	<i>token</i>	<i>ochre</i>	<i>broker</i>
<i>poker</i>	<i>focus</i>	<i>hocus</i>	<i>crocus</i>	<i>locus</i>	<i>pocus</i>	<i>dokey</i>
<i>hokey</i>	<i>pokey</i>	<i>trochee</i>	<i>cocoa</i>	<i>loco</i>		

31 words with non-coherent rime /-əm/ (for comparison with /-ap/ words)

<i>scum</i>	<i>slum</i>	<i>bum</i>	<i>chum</i>	<i>stomach</i>	<i>drum</i>	<i>from</i>
<i>gum</i>	<i>glum</i>	<i>hum</i>	<i>come</i>	<i>crumb</i>	<i>mum</i>	<i>numb</i>
<i>plumb</i>	<i>pummel</i>	<i>rum</i>	<i>sum</i>	<i>some</i>	<i>strum</i>	<i>plummet</i>
<i>thrum</i>	<i>thumb</i>	<i>tummy</i>	<i>dumb</i>	<i>yum</i>	<i>mummy</i>	<i>plum</i>
<i>mummer</i>	<i>summer</i>	<i>hummock</i>				

26 words with non-coherent rime /-æl/ (for comparison with /-æmp/ words)

<i>shall</i>	<i>pal</i>	<i>slalom</i>	<i>talon</i>	<i>valor</i>	<i>phallus</i>	<i>gallus</i>
<i>callous</i>	<i>malice</i>	<i>palace</i>	<i>shallot</i>	<i>ballot</i>	<i>mallet</i>	<i>pallet</i>
<i>alley</i>	<i>shally</i>	<i>bally</i>	<i>dally</i>	<i>rally</i>	<i>sally</i>	<i>tally</i>
<i>shallow</i>	<i>hallow</i>	<i>callow</i>	<i>sallow</i>	<i>tallow</i>		

URLs

Lawler-Rhodes Simplex Words Database (DOS/Windows)

<http://www.umich.edu/~jlawler/monosyl.zip>

<http://www.umich.edu/~jlawler/readme.mono.html> (README file)

Bibliography of Phonosemantics (by Margaret Magnus)

<http://www.conknet.com/~mmagnus/Bibliography.html>

Phonosemantic Web sites

<http://www.conknet.com/~mmagnus/Links.html>

Linguistic Iconism Association Web site <http://www.conknet.com/~mmagnus/LIA/index.html>