What are Spoonerisms?

- **Spoonerisms** are a very common type of speech error, involving phonetic transposition after lexical selection.

  - Consonants, vowels, or morphemes are switched either inside one word or between two words.

  - The phonemes that are affected are usually only one to two letters long.

  
  
  “dear old queen” -> “queer old dean”

  phonemes
“Rules” of Spoonerisms

- Reversed phonemes always originate in the same phrase.
- Spoonerisms are almost always phonologically possible sounds.
- There are typically repeated phonemes either before or after the switched phonemes.
- The syllabic position of the transposed phonemes is almost always identical.
“Rules” of Spoonerisms

- Consonants in the initial position of a word or syllable tend to be the most frequently affected.

- Consonants are more frequently transposed than vowels.

- Distinctive features of reversed phonemes (voicing, nasality, openness) are usually identical, with the exception of place of articulation.
Project Objectives

- Make the list of guidelines that define Spoonerisms into a more strict set of rules.

- Write a program that creates potential Spoonerisms to prove a standard theory
Program Details

- Program requests a user input of two words
- Two words are then translated into IPA
- IPA forms are “Spoonerized” based on rules
- Spoonerized words are translated back to standard English
- Program outputs the generated error
Experts in the Field

- Victoria Fromkin
  - Completed extensive research on Spoonerisms
  - Collected over 600 errors

The Non-Anomalous Nature of Anomalous Utterances

I have chosen to focus on one seemingly unwavering rule...
Definition: diphthong [ˈdɪfθəŋ ˈdɪp-] n
1. a vowel sound, occupying a single syllable, during the articulation of which the tongue moves from one position to another, causing a continual change in vowel quality.

- According to Fromkin...
  the errors surrounding words containing diphthongs seem to suggest that “complex vowels are single units, or that errors which ‘violate’ phonological constraints are ‘corrected’ after the substitution occurs.”
Examples of Diphthong

- First and goal to go $\rightarrow$ first and girl to go
- Took part in the first $\rightarrow$ took pirt in the farst
- Dissertation topic $\rightarrow$ ... taypic
- Available for exploitation $\rightarrow$ available
- Soup is served $\rightarrow$ serp is sooved
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<th><strong>Canadian</strong></th>
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Use of Transducers

- Originally using non-deterministic
- Deterministic may better help prove theory
Reference