

LINGUISTICS 221

Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology

STUDY GUIDE FOR THE MID-TERM EXAM (February 8, 2011)

A. THEORETICAL PRELIMINARIES

1. Identify and briefly describe the three branches of phonetics.
2. The basic (or functional) components of speech: define and illustrate your discussion with examples.
3. Segments, phonemes, allophones: define and illustrate your discussion with examples.
4. What is the true alphabetic principle?
5. Does English spelling conform to the true alphabetic principle? Discuss and provide *one* example.
6. Why is there a need for a phonetic alphabet? What is the objective of the *International Phonetic Alphabet*?
7. What are the principles of the *International Phonetic Alphabet* concerning the use of diacritics? Explain the contradiction between the second and the third principle.
8. Broad and narrow phonetic transcriptions: distinguish between these and provide *one* example.

B. THE VOCAL TRACT

1. Describe the speech organs listed below and refer to their role in speech:
 - a. lungs
 - b. trachea
 - d. the upper vocal tract
 - i. Upper surface
 - ii. Lower surface
 - e. the structure and function of the larynx; list to the five cartilages, define the *hyoid bone* and the *glottis*.

C. DESCRIBING SPEECH SOUNDS

1. What are the principles used in naming speech sounds? Illustrate your discussion with examples.
2. What are the three dimensions of consonant articulation?
3. Describe the three phases of stop articulation. List the stop sounds that occur in English. Identify the corresponding symbols.
4. Nasals: describe their articulatory mechanism. List the nasals that occur in English. Identify the corresponding symbols.
5. Prepare to discuss the similarities and differences between stops and nasals.

7. Describe the mechanism of fricative articulation. List the fricatives that occur in English. Identify the corresponding symbols.
8. Affricates: describe their articulatory mechanism. List the affricates that occur in English. Identify the corresponding symbols.
9. Approximants: describe their articulatory mechanism. Distinguish between the two groups of approximants.
10. Liquids: describe their articulatory mechanism. Distinguish between the two groups of liquids.
11. Glides: describe their articulatory mechanism. Refer to the position of the lips where relevant. Identify the glides that occur in English. Indicate the corresponding phonetic symbols.
12. Lateral articulation: define and provide examples.
13. Rhotic approximants: describe their articulatory mechanism.
14. Obstruents: which speech sounds belong here?
15. Review *all* pronunciation rules studied so far. Be prepared to explain them (with examples).
16. Vowels:
 - a. articulatory dimensions
 - b. Canadian English vowels: List them and identify their symbols
 - c. Canadian English diphthongs: List them and identify their symbols
 - d. tense and lax vowels: Define the articulatory characteristics and provide examples.
 - f. rhotic vowels: Define and provide examples.
17. Primary cardinal vowels: how are these vowels plotted in the vowel chart? Discuss the principle relevant here and list the eight primary cardinal vowels.
18. What is the difference between primary and secondary cardinal vowels? List all secondary cardinal vowels introduced in class.
19. List the possible places of stop articulation. Describe the closures by naming the speech organs in question and specify the part and position of the tongue used for creating the closure. Identify the corresponding phonetic symbols.
20. List the possible places of nasal articulation. Describe the closures by naming the speech organs in question and specify the part and position of the tongue used for creating the closure. Refer to the state of the velum. Identify the corresponding phonetic symbols.
21. List the possible places of fricative articulations. Name the speech organs in question and specify the part and position of the tongue. Identify the corresponding phonetic symbols.

D. PRACTICAL EXERCISES:

- a. Give the appropriate articulatory description for each of these phonetic symbols.

Example: [b] **bilabial voiced stop**

- b. Give the appropriate phonetic symbol for each of the following articulations.

Example: bilabial voiced stop [b]

- c. Transcribe these words as you may pronounce them. Observe all possible articulations as indicated in the *Guide to Transcription Practices* handout.

Example: cat [k^hæt]

READINGS:

- a. Hayes, Chapter 1, pp. 1-15, 16-17.
- b. Lecture notes (together with the handouts)