

STUDY QUESTIONS FOR THE MID-TERM EXAM (October 24, 2006)

1. PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY

- a. What is the relationship between phonetics and phonology? Discuss and provide examples to illustrate your statements.
- b. List the evidence presented in class for the recognizing of individual segments in the flow of speech.
- c. What is the basic assumption of phonology? Discuss and provide examples.

2. BASIC PHONOLOGICAL CONCEPTS

Define the following basic phonological concepts. Illustrate your discussion with examples.

- a. phonemes
- b. allophones
- c. complementary distribution
- d. free variation
- e. phonetic similarity
- f. minimal pairs
- g. patterns and symmetry
- h. wider distribution

3. DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

- a. Are segments indivisible, or can they be viewed as entities composed of sets of properties? Discuss and provide examples to illustrate your explanation.
- b. Binary and univalent features: Discuss and provide examples to illustrate your explanation.
- c. Group and define *all* distinctive features. (You will be asked to define a group of features, a sub-group of features or, individual features and must provide examples).
- d. What are the functions of distinctive features? Discuss and provide examples.
- e. What are the criteria for choosing distinctive features? Discuss and provide examples.
- f. Natural classes: define and illustrate your explanation with examples.
- g. When are redundant features relevant? Provide an example.
- h. Underspecification Theory:
 - i. Should redundant features be included in the underlying representation? Discuss.
 - ii. Contrastive underspecification: Discuss this concept by referring to the dissimilation case in Latin.
- i. Language specific and universal redundancies: discuss and provide examples.

4. PHONOLOGICAL PROCESSES

- a. What are the major phonological processes? Define, and provide examples.
- b. Be prepared to discuss the following phonological processes. Illustrate your discussion with examples.
 - i. palatalization
 - ii. labialization
 - iii. vowel harmony
 - iv. umlaut
 - v. deletion
 - vi. epenthesis
 - vii. coalescence
 - viii. metathesis
 - ix. syncope
 - x. apocope
 - xi. lenition

5. NEUTRALIZATION

Define the concept of neutralization. Discuss the types of neutralization presented in class. Illustrate your discussion with examples.

6. PRACTICAL EXERCISES

- a. Minimal pairs: you will be presented with a list of words and will be asked to identify minimal pairs included in that list.
- b. One phonological problem: you will be asked to determine the status of segments in terms of identifying them as either separate phonemes or allophones of the same phonemes. You will be asked (i) to state the complementary distribution if the segments are allophones, and (ii) to state the contrasts if they are phonemes. If (i), identify the phonological process. You must provide arguments for your solution along the lines practiced in class.
- c. Distinctive features: you will be asked to provide answers to the following questions as practiced in class.
 - i. For each of these segments, if you change the value of the feature indicated, what segment will be derived?

Example:

Old segment:	Feature to be changed:	New segment:
[t]	[voice]	[d]

- ii. Name the single feature that distinguishes between the following pairs of sounds.

Example:

u, o,	[high]	u	[+high]
		o	[-high]

- iii. For each group, eliminate the segment which does not belong. Explain your choice.

Example:

p, k, ʒ, b, g [ʒ], because it is a [coronal] segment.