

LINGUISTICS 221

Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology

STUDY GUIDE FOR THE FINAL EXAM (April 13, 2011)

A. PHONETICS

1. SUPRASEGMENTALS

Explain the concept of "suprasegmentals". Prepare to discuss the suprasegmental features listed below and illustrate your discussion with examples.

- a. stress
- b. intonation
- c. tone
- d. duration

2. AIRSTREAM MECHANISMS

Define the four types of airstream mechanisms. Provide the appropriate IPA symbol.

- a. pulmonic egressive airstream mechanism
- b. glottalic egressive airstream mechanism
- c. glottalic ingressive airstream mechanism
- d. velaric ingressive airstream mechanism

B. PHONOLOGY

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. 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*).
- c. Natural classes: define and illustrate your explanation with an example.

4. PHONOLOGICAL ALTERNATIONS (=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. syncope
 - viii. apocope
 - ix. lenition
 - x. fortition
- c. Neutralization:
 - i. Define the concept of neutralization. Illustrate your discussion with an example.
 - ii. Describe the difference between *dynamic* and *static* neutralization. Illustrate your discussion with examples.

5. PHONOLOGICAL RULES

- a. Define the following concepts relating to rule formalization. Provide examples.
 - i. input/output
 - ii. structural description/structural change
 - iii. zero subscript

- iv. brace notation
 - v. parenthesis notation
 - vi. rules with multiple variables
- b. Define the following concepts relating to rule application. Provide examples.
- i. free rule application
 - ii. ordered rule applications: feeding order, bleeding order, counterfeeding order, counterbleeding order.

6. MORPHOPHONEMIC ANALYSIS

- a. Define the concept of “morphophonemics”.
- b. What is the underlying representation of the English Plural allomorph? List all three allomorphs and provide an argument for selecting one of them for the underlying morpheme.
- c. Identify and formulate the rules relevant to the derivation of the phonetic representations. Is the ordering of the rules relevant here? Explain.
- d. Provide derivations for the English Plural allomorphs.

C. PRACTICAL EXERCISES

- 1. Transcribe these words as you may pronounce them. Observe all possible articulations as indicated in the *Guide to Transcription Practices* handouts. Mark the primary stress.
- 2. Minimal pairs: you will be presented with a list of words and will be asked to identify minimal pairs included in that list.
- 3. 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 and formulate a maximally general rule. You must provide arguments for your solution along the lines practiced in class.
- 4. Distinctive features: you will be asked to provide answers to the following questions as practiced in class and in the last assignment.
 - a. 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:
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[t]

[voice]

[d]

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

Example:

[i], [I]	[tense]	[i]	[+tense]
		[I]	[-tense]

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

Example:

[p] [k] [t] [b] [g]	[t] does not belong	[+coronal]
	[p] [k] [b] [g]	[-coronal]

Readings:

- Lecture notes;
- Text book: chapters/pages/ figures as indicated in the *Syllabus* and referred to in the lecture notes.