

4 Phonology (I)

1 Phonetics vs. phonology

2 Two levels of description

<u>phonetic</u>		<u>phonological</u>
[...]	↔	/.../
“narrow” transcription	↔	“broad” transcription
sounds (phones, allophones)	↔	phonemes
predictable and unpredictable features	↔	only unpredictable features
redundant and distinctive features	↔	only distinctive features
surface representation (SR)	↔	underlying representation (UR)

3 The phonemes of English

4 Clear L vs. dark L

<i>bell</i>	<i>belt</i>	<i>live</i>
<i>fill</i>	<i>film</i>	<i>alive</i>
<i>feel</i>	<i>field</i>	<i>telling</i>
<i>goal</i>	<i>gold</i>	<i>tell us</i>

5 The velar nasal in English and in Hungarian

Hungarian	English
<i>inka</i> [ɪŋkɔ] ‘Inca’	Inca [ɪŋkə]
<i>tank</i> [tɒŋk] ‘tank’	tank [táŋk]
<i>bingo</i> [bɪŋgo:] ‘bingo’	bingo [bɪŋgəw]
<i>rang</i> [rɒŋg] ‘rank’	rang [ráŋ]

Terms to remember:

phonetics, phonology, phonemes, phones (speech sounds), allophones, minimal pairs, phonemic/broad transcription, phonetic/narrow transcription, complementary distribution, distinctive/contrastive features, predictable/redundant features, homophones

Exercises*

1 Minimal pairs

a. Find minimal pairs for the following pairs of consonants in English:

/p/–/b/, /l/–/r/, /s/–/θ/, /d/–/ð/, /ɪ/–/ε/, /ε/–/a/

b. Are the following pairs of words minimal pairs? Which pairs are homophones?

butter–better, good–could, no–know, Jim–gym, sink–think, think–thing, bush–but, heart–hard, build–killed, painting–pointing, form–farm, this–those, choice–voice, accident–incident, loud–load, load–lord, present_{noun}–present_{verb}

2 Consider the distribution of [r] and [l] in Korean in the following words.

rub i ‘ruby’	mul ‘water’
kir-i ‘road (nom.)’	pal ‘arm’
saram ‘person’	səul ‘Seoul’
irum-i ‘name (nom.)’	ilgop ‘seven’
ratio ‘radio’	ibalsa ‘barber’

Are [r] and [l] allophones of one or two phonemes?

- Are they in complementary distribution?
- Can they occur in any minimal pairs?
- In what environments does each occur?

3 Consider these data from a common German dialect ([x] is a velar fricative, [ç] is a palatal fricative).

nɪçt ‘not’	ba:x ‘Bach’
re:çən ‘rake’	la:xən ‘to laugh’
flɛçt ‘bad’	kɔxt ‘cooks’
ri:çən ‘to smell’	fɛrsu:xən ‘to try’
haɪmlɪç ‘sly’	ho:x ‘high’
rɛçts ‘rightward’	fluxt ‘canyon’
kri:çən ‘to crawl’	fɛrfluxt ‘accursed’

Are [x] and [ç] allophones of the same phoneme, or is each an allophone of a separate phoneme? Give your reasons.

* Exercises 2 and 3 are from Fromkin, Victoria, Robert Rodman, and Nina Hyams. 2011. An Introduction to Language. 9th edition. Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.