

Home assignment

4. Vowel categories and R-influence

1. *Answer the following questions.*

- a. We have talked of short vowels, long vowels and diphthongs on a phonetic basis. How can we justify almost the same categorization phonologically?
- b. How have some of the R-vowels developed from short vowels? Which R-vowels are they specifically?
- c. How have some of the R-vowels developed from diphthongs? Which R-vowels are they specifically?
- d. What does the term *first NURSE merger* refer to?
- e. How can we divide the R-vowels into three subgroups (broad, smooth and schwa) phonologically? That is, in what way do they behave differently?

2. *Transcribe the following words.*

Cate	care	cat	car
we	we're	confess	confer
Iceland	Ireland	film	firm
explode	explored	pot	port
June	sure	fun	fur
south	sour		
boy	coir		

3. *Which word is the odd one out in each row? Explain your choice.*

- a. pub, bunny, touch, thunder, not, love, one, butter, something, country
- b. pass, car, bath, harm, ask, palm, answer, start, after, park, want, dark
- c. lot, odd, locked, want, quality, son, hot, shop, stop, body, boss, what

4. *The following sentences include facts about the world's languages. Read them aloud carefully; then retranscribe them into ordinary English spelling. (Pay attention to the weak forms of function words, e.g. and /and → ən/ or to /tʌw → təl/.)*

|| ékspə:ts bilíjv ðə nʌmbər əv lánɣwɪdʒɪz spéwken ɔn é:θ tədɛj ɪz slmws:
bitwíjn síks ən sévn θawznd ||

|| əkó:diŋ tʌw éstíméjfnz ɪf nʌθɪŋ ɪz dl̩n há:f əv ðɪz lánɣwɪdʒɪz mej dísepí:
baɪ ðɪj énd əv ðɪs séntʃərɪj || nʌwədɛjz wʌn lánɣwɪdʒ bɪklmz ɪkstíŋkt évrɪj tʌw
wíjks ||

|| ə lánɣwɪdʒ ɪn méksɪkəw ɪz ɪn déjndzər əv dáɪŋ awt súwn sɪns ðə rɪméjɪŋ
təw spíjkeɪz rɪfjúwz tə tó:k tə ɪtʃ l̩ðə ||