

Linguistics 113
Homework 5
Due Thursday October 16, 2003

(1) Report on the set of phonemes you have found in the language you are investigating for the final paper. Put the phonemes in an IPA-like chart. Cite (near-)minimal pairs for as many pairs of similar phonemes as you can. I don't expect your set of phonemes to be complete -- this is work in progress. You can use the following example as a model. This is the phoneme set for my dialect (Californian) of American English.

Consonant Phonemes

| Place Manner | Bilabial | Labiodental | Interdental | Alveolar | Palato- alveolar | Palatal | Velar | Glottal |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|---------------------|---------|------------------|---------|
| Stop | p ^h b | | | t ^h d | | | k ^h g | |
| Fricative | | f v | θ ð | s z | ʃ ʒ | | | h |
| Affricate | | | | | tʃ dʒ | | | |
| Nasal | m | | | n | | | ŋ | |
| Lateral | | | | l | | | | |
| Approximant | | | | ɹ | | j | w | |

Vowel Phonemes

| | front | back | Additional diphthongs |
|-------------|-------|------|-----------------------|
| high, tense | i | u | aɪ |
| high, lax | ɪ | ʊ | aʊ |
| mid, tense | eɪ | oʊ | ɔɪ |
| mid, lax | ɛ | ʌ ɔ | |
| low | æ | ɑ | |

Minimal pairs contrasting voiced and voiceless stops:

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------|-----|-------|
| /p ^h / and /b/: | p ^h æt | 'pat' | bæt | 'bat' |
| /t ^h / and /d/: | t ^h ɪn | 'tin' | dɪn | 'din' |
| /k ^h / and /g/: | k ^h æp | 'cap' | gæp | 'gap' |

Minimal pairs contrasting nasals:

| | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-------|-----|--------|
| /m/ and /n/: | mi | 'me' | ni | 'knee' |
| /m/ and /ŋ/: | ræn | 'ran' | ræŋ | 'rang' |
| /n/ and /ŋ/: | sɪn | 'sin' | sɪŋ | 'sing' |

And so on...

(2) Describe each phoneme in terms of distinctive features. Use the minimum number of features necessary to describe the phonemic contrast in the language.

Example: /n/ [+nas, +cor]

I don't need to specify any more, because any [+nas] phoneme in English is also [-syl, +cons, +son, +vd, -cont]. There is only one [+cor] nasal so I don't need to specify [+ant, -dist].

(3) Problem 3.17 page 9-10 in the reader.