



English 227
Introduction to Language

Summer 2002
Prof. Shaaban



FINAL EXAMINATION (1 1/2 Hours)
August 23, 2002

Answer question six and four of the remaining five questions.

1. Comment briefly on three of the following statements, and provide examples.
(22 points)

- a. Euphemisms are terms that tend to be used in certain aspects of our lives more than in others as they are used to replace terms that are not to be used in "polite company."
- b. Feminists believe that language is a major tool used by the male-dominated establishment to "keep women in their place."
- c. The human child appears to be equipped from birth with the neural prerequisites for the acquisition and use of human language just as bees are biologically "predisposed" to learn the dances of their species.
- d. Dialectal diversity develops when people are separated from each other geographically and socially.

2. Define and give examples of seven of the following terms. (22 points)

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a. Lingua franca | f. Style |
| b. Creole | g. Politically correct language |
| c. Natural phonetic class | h. Obstruents |
| d. Closed class of words | i. Jargon |
| e. Approximants | j. Telegraphic speech |

3. a. Identify the stages in acquiring negation or interrogation (questions). Explain the implications of the existence of these stages to the process of language acquisition. (11 points)

b. Which theory of language acquisition do you believe provides the best explanation for how children learn their first language. Justify your answer. (11 points)

4. a. Transcribe the following words phonemically. (11 points)

M <u>i</u> ster	P <u>l</u> astic
Ph <u>y</u> sical	M <u>a</u> jo <u>r</u>
De <u>s</u> cribe	Inte <u>r</u> action
Ph <u>o</u> neme	M <u>o</u> rphology
Th <u>o</u> ugh	Cr <u>e</u> ature



b. Identify and describe the sounds of the underlined letters. (11 points)

Examples: remit [m] voiced bilabial nasal

Poor [u] high back tense rounded vowel

5. Explain the difference between members of the following pairs (6 out of 9).
(22 points)

- a. Phoneme and allophone;
- b. Systematic and accidental gaps;
- c. Voiced and voiceless sounds;
- d. Gradable and complementary opposites;
- e. Nasal and oral sounds;
- f. Fricatives and affricates;
- g. Metaphor and idiom;
- h. Nonsense and no-sense words; and
- i. Hyponym and metonym.

6. Write out in ordinary orthography the following transcribed words.
(12 points)

- a. [ðə kʌnəl wəz wɑːtʃɪŋ ðə nu rəkrut ʃæmpɪŋ]
- b. [[dʒæ kən ðə bɔːz ʃudəf pleɪd]
- c. [hau kʊdʒəlɪv əˈrælon]
- d. [dɪʒə rɪlɪ wənə no]
- e. [ædɒmpræktɪsənəf]
- f. [ðə ɪtæljənz kraɪd ən sol]
- g. [bəlɪv mɪ pæmlɪtʃu]

Good Luck

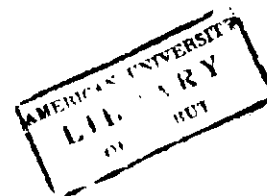


TABLE 6.4 Minimal Set of Phonetic Symbols for American English Consonants

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Interdental	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stop (oral)							
voiceless	p			t		k	
voiced	b			d		g	
Nasal (stop)	m			n		ŋ	
Fricative							
voiceless		f	θ	s	ʃ		h ¹
voiced		v	ð	z	ʒ		
Africate							
voiceless					tʃ		
voiced					dʒ		
Glide							
voiceless	ʍ					ʌ	h ¹
voiced	w ²				j	w ²	
Liquid				l r			

- [h] is sometimes classified as a fricative because of the hissing sound produced by air or noise at the glottis. It is also sometimes classified with the glides because in many languages it combines with other sounds the way that glides do.
- [w] is classified as both a bilabial because it is produced with both lips rounded and as a velar because the back of the tongue is raised toward the velum.

Examples of words in which these sounds (and their phonetic symbols) occur are given in Table 6.5.

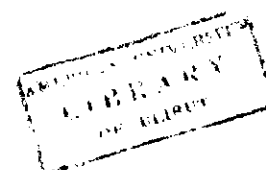


FIGURE 6-5 Classification of American English vowels

		Part of the Tongue Involved				
Tongue Height		FRONT	CENTRAL	BACK		
HIGH		i beet		boot	u	← ROUNDED
	↑			put	ʊ	
MID		e bait		boat	o	
		e bet	ə Rosa			
LOW	↓			Λ butt	ɔ	
		æ bat		bore	ɔ	
				bomb	a	

⁴ In fast colloquial speech some speakers drop the nasal consonant when it occurs before voiceless stops such as in *hint* or *camp*, leaving just the nasal vowel, but the words originate with nasal consonants.

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