AMERICAN UNIVERSITY of BEIRUT ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Name: _____

English 228 Phonetics Final Exam

-The principal suprasegmental features are stress, length, tone, and intonation. They are dependent on the categories required for describing segmental features which involve airstream mechanisms, states of the glottis, formant frequencies....

-Differences in the permitted syllable structures affect the rhythm of a language. In French, for example, the vowels all have a fairly similar length whereas in English there are short vowels interspersed with long ones.

-Movement of the body of air in the mouth is called a glottalic airstream mechanism such as the click that is symbolized by /!/ found in the Zulu language.

-In Arabic, there are pharyngeal fricatives symbolized by / / and / /.

-In some languages spoken in India, murmured sounds are indicated by placing ______ below the symbol.

-Estonian, Arabic, and Japanese make considerable use of length contrasts.

-Many different kinds of information can be conveyed by variation in pitch such as the personal characteristics of the speaker: gender, age...; the emotional state: anger, happiness.... Therefore, the pitch changes conveying this sort of information are universal.

-The sonority of a sound is its loudness relative to that of other sounds with the same length, stress, and pitch. For example, the voiced stops and all the voiceless sounds have

-All English sounds are initiated by the action of lung air going outward; other languages may use additional ways of producing an airstream. In these languages there is said to be a glottalic airstream mechanism.

-Each vowel has three formants, three overtone pitches. The first can be heard most easily when the vowels are produced with a ______; the second can be heard when the vowels are ______; the third adds to quality distinctions.

-The apparent point of origin of the formant for each place of articulation is called the voice bar of that place of articulation.

-Spectrograms of a person's voice are sometimes called "voice-prints".

-Explain why: People agree on the number of syllables in the majority of words.

-In French, a voiced uvular fricative is the common form of *r* in words such as *rouge* and *rose*.

-English and German have fixed word stress, Czech and Polish have variable word stress, and French has fixed phrase stress.

-Synthetic speech often sounds unnatural because the intonation is too stereotyped.

-Pitch variations that affect the meaning of a word are called stresses.

-In Ewe in West Africa, bilabial fricatives contrast with labiodental fricatives like in the English language.

-Japanese is between a tone language and a stress language.

-There is a number of features observable on spectrograms that indicate a speaker's speech habits that are not language dependent. For example, there is a great deal of individuality in the length and type of aspiration that occurs after initial voiceless stops. Individuals vary considerably in their mean pitch and in the range of fundamental frequencies that they use.

-To get the correct pitch changes, one must know the speaker's

_____ and _____.

-In a spectrogram time, frequency, and intensity are shown. It is a display that shows ______ for each of the groups of overtone pitches in a sound.

-Speakers of English often find it hard to consider the tone as an important, meaningful part of a word. But for speakers of a tone language, a difference in tone is just as significant as a difference in consonant or vowel quality.

-Stops made with a glottalic egressive airstream mechanism are called ejectives for example / / found in such languages as African languages.

-The ______ of the sentence depends not only on all the segmental influences but also on the particular emphasis that the speaker wishes to convey at that moment.

-German has fricatives in which the bilabial stop is released into a labiodental fricative.

-English makes far more use of differences in stress than do most of the languages of the world.

-Stop sounds quality is not affected by the adjacent vowel.

-Chinese is a stress language.

-Stops made with an ingressive glottalic airstream mechanism are called implosives as in German.