

Chapter Seven: Phonology

1. PHONEME, PHONE, ALLOPHONE

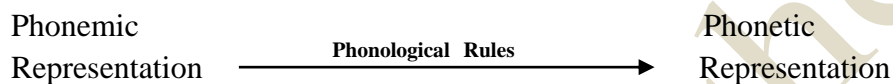
Phoneme → the smallest meaning-distinguishing sound unit

Phone → a particular realization (pronunciation) of a phoneme

Allophones → a group of several phones, all of which are versions of one phoneme

2. PHONOLOGICAL RULES

phonemic and phonetic representations are linked by phonological rules of three types: *Morphophonemic rules*, *Allophonic rules* and *Redundant rules*



2.1. Morphophonemic Rules

determine different allomorphs of a morpheme

2.2. Allophonic Rules

fill in qualities of pronunciation which are absent in the lexical forms of morphemes but are required by their circumstances in speech

- (a) A coronal nasal /n/ is dental before a dental fricative [θ, ð], e.g. *tenth* → [tɛnθ]
- (b) Syllable initial voiceless stops /p, t, k/ is aspirated, e.g. *plan* → [p^hlæn]; *tree* → [t^hri]; *cream* → [k^hrim]
- (c) Approximants /r, l, w, j/ are voiceless after a voiceless aspirated stop, e.g. *play* → [pl̥e]; *cry* → [k^hr̥aɪ]; *quick* → [kw̥ɪk]; *cute* → [kj̥ut]
- (d) Sometimes, there are syllables in which there is no vowel. In these syllables, instead of vowel, one of the sound segments /r, l, m, n, ŋ/ must appear to function as a vowel → **syllabic segments**.
- (e) Lateral liquid /l/ is *velarized* when it occurs word finally or before a final consonant, e.g., *told* → [tɔld̠]; *feel* → [fiɫ]
- (f) Coronal stops /t, d, n/ are tapped before an unstressed vowel, e.g. *water* → [wɑɾɚ]; *ladder* → [lɑɾɚ]
- (g) Vowels are nasalized before a nasal consonant, e.g. *soon* → [sū̃n]
- (h) Stressed vowels are longest in an open syllable, then in a syllable closed with a voiced single consonant and least in a syllable closed with a voiceless in its syllable

characteristics of allophones:

- Pronunciation change
- Complementary distribution
- Free variation

2.3. Redundant Rules

e.g. if a consonant is [+voice], then it is also [–tense]

3. DISTINCTIVE vs. NON-DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

Distinctive → a feature which distinguishes one phoneme from another

Non-distinctive → features which don't create new meaning and only result in new pronunciation

4. PHONOLOGICAL PROCESSES

4.1. Assimilation

a phonological process that changes feature values of segments to make them more similar to their neighboring phones

- local assimilation vs. long-distance assimilation
- homorganic nasal place assimilation
- directions of assimilation

progressive (or perseverative)

regressive (or anticipatory)

coalescent

4.2. Dissimilation

a phonological process that changes feature values of (neighboring) segments to make them less similar

4.3. Segment Deletion

entire segments are lost, in some or all environments, e.g., *lamb*

4.4. Elision

omission of a sound segment which would be present in the deliberately careful pronunciation of a word

- **Haplology** → omission of one or more sounds when they are next to a phonetically similar string, e.g., *library* → [laɪbrɪ]
- **Apocope** → deletion of the final element in a syllable, e.g., *and* → [ən] ; *friendship* → [frɪnʃɪp]
- **Syncope** → the omission of unstressed vowels within a word, e.g., *general* → [dʒɛnrəl]

4.5. Epenthesis

a segment is inserted into the phonemic string, e.g., *numer* → *number*

4.6. Prothesis

addition of a segment to the beginning of a string, e.g. *scholar* → *escuela*

4.7. Liaison

“linking” or “joining together” of sounds, e.g., *big apples* → [bɪ gæplz]

4.8. Metathesis

reordering sequences of phonemes, e.g., *ask* → [æks]

5. EXTRA POINTS

5.1. Diacritics

5.2. Transcription

- Narrow transcription
- Broad transcription

5.3. Minimal pairs

5.4. Phonotactic constraints

5.5. Co-articulation

5.6. Ease of articulation → *assimilation, dissimilation* and *elision*

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