

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE  
FINAL EXAMINATION  
MAY 2018

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY

COURSE NUMBER: ALL103/IDE-ALL103

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

- INSTRUCTIONS:
1. ANSWER THREE (3) QUESTIONS IN ALL.
  2. CHOOSE ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION.
  3. MARKS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR UNTIDY WORK, WRONG SPELLING AND UNGRAMMATICAL SENTENCES.
  4. ALL EXAMPLES SHOULD BE GLOSSED.

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.

**SECTION A**  
*(Answer Question One)*

**Question 1**

a) Write the IPA symbols representing the following phonetic descriptions, and illustrate each of the sounds with a word in a language that contains the sound:

- i) A voiced interdental fricative;
- ii) A voiced glottal fricative;
- iii) A voiceless labiodental fricative;
- iv) A low back vowel;
- v) A voiced bilabial fricative;
- vi) A voiceless alveolar lateral fricative;
- vii) A voiceless alveopalatal ejective affricate;
- viii) A voiced coarticulated labiovelar stop;
- ix) A voiced alveolar implosive;
- x) A voiceless alveopalatal fricative;
- xi) A voiced velar nasal;
- xii) A voiced lateral liquid;
- xiii) A voiced lateral fricative;
- xiv) A voiced palatal approximant;
- xv) A schwa;
- xvi) A voiceless bilabial fricative;
- xvii) A voiceless glottal stop;
- xviii) A low central vowel;
- xix) A high back lax vowel;
- xx) A voiceless velar fricative;
- xxi) A voiced rhotic liquid;
- xxii) A voiced alveolar affricate
- xxiii) A mid tense front vowel;
- xxiv) A low-high back diphthong;
- xxv) A voiceless alveolar retroflex fricative;
- xxvi) A voiceless interdental fricative;
- xxvii) A voiceless glottal fricative;
- xxviii) A voiced labiodental fricative;
- xxix) A voiced bilabial fricative;
- xxx) A voiceless coarticulated labiovelar stop;
- xxxi) A voiced bilabial implosive;
- xxxii) A voiced alveopalatal fricative;
- xxxiii) A voiced uvular fricative;
- xxxiv) A voiced uvular nasal;
- xxxv) A voiceless velar aspirated stop;
- xxxvi) A mid tense back vowel;
- xxxvii) A voiceless alveolar retroflex stop;
- xxxviii) A low-high front diphthong;

(42 marks)

- xxxix) A voiceless nasalised dental click;  
xl) A voiced lateral click  
xli) A voiceless labialised alveopalatal click;  
xlii) A voiced uvular stop;
- b) Discuss three disadvantages of using orthography/spelling instead of using phonetic symbols  
(6 marks)  
**[50 MARKS]**

**SECTION B**  
*(Choose one Question from this section)*

**Question 2**

- a) Distinguish between the following linguistic terms and concepts. Give for each concept an example from any language:
- i) oral and nasal speech sound;
  - ii) voiced and voiceless speech sound;
  - iii) velaric and glottalic airstream mechanism (12 marks)
- (b) Using distinctive features, formalize the following phonological rules:
- (i) A voiceless alveolar stop becomes a voiceless alveolar fricative when preceding the vowel [i]. (4 marks)
  - ii) Voiced stops are phonetically realized as voiceless segments in word-final position. (3 marks)
  - iii) The sequence /a/ /u/ becomes the vowel [o] when a morpheme boundary intervenes between the vowels. (6marks)
- [25 MARKS]**

**Question 3**

- a) Consider the following data from LuGanda, a language spoken in Uganda, and do the tasks which follow:
- |           |          |
|-----------|----------|
| kola      | 'do'     |
| wawaabira | 'accuse' |
| lwana     | 'fight'  |
| buulira   | 'tell'   |
| lya       | 'eat'    |
| omugole   | 'bride'  |



effirimbi	'whistle'
olulimi	'tongue'
wulira	'hear'
omuliro	'fire'
eddwaliro	'hospital'
jjukira	'remember'

- (i) Are the liquids [l] and [r] allophones of the same phoneme in LuGanda or do they belong to separate phonemes? (2marks)
- (ii) If you believe they belong to separate phonemes, give evidence from the data. If you believe they are allophones of the same phoneme, list the conditioning environments. (5 marks)
- b) In Japanese the sounds [s] and [ʃ] are in complementary distribution.

kesa	'this morning'
aʃita	'tomorrow'
osoi	'slow, late'
ʃimasu	'(I will) do it'
kusaru	'to rot'
mufi	'insect'
ase	'sweat'
miso	'soy bean paste'
tofi	'year'

- i) Account for this distribution. (4 marks)
- ii) Which one these complementary sounds, ([s] or [ʃ]) is at the underlying level? Support your response. (5 marks)
- iii) Provide a phonemic/underlying representation of all the Japanese phonetic forms represented in the data above. (9 marks)

**[25 MARKS]**

### SECTION C

*(Choose One Question from this section)*

#### Question 4

- a) Discuss two advantages of describing speech sounds acoustically. (4 marks)
- b) What distinguishes the following sets of sounds in terms of formant structure:
- i) Vowels from nasals;

- ii) Nasals from laterals; (12 marks)
- iii) Voiced sounds from voiceless sounds;
- iv) Fricatives from stops.

c) Discuss the following terms in relation to acoustic phonetics:

- i) Sound waves;
- ii) Frequency; (9 marks)
- iii) Pitch.

### Question 5

a) The following words are all regular plural forms of English nouns:

pots  
wishes  
languages  
pegs  
taps  
books  
stitches  
terms  
pads

- (i) List the allomorphs of the plural morpheme in English. (3marks)
- (ii) Which allomorph makes the best underlying form? Why? (4 marks)
- (iii) State in words the conditioning factors that account for the presence of the different allomorphs of the English plural morpheme. (6 marks)

b) Using the phonetic alphabet, transcribe the following English words as you pronounce them in casual speech:

- i) choice
- ii) accept
- iii) horse
- iv) took
- v) coughs
- vi) through
- vii) often
- viii) filed (12 marks)
- ix) field
- x) syntax
- xi) exams
- xii) psalms

[25 MARKS]