

Unit 2

Theoretical introduction (2)

Phonetics, phonology, and writing

Slides for the session of

Phonetics with Listening Practice (British)

held on

6 / 8 brumaire, an CCXXVIII de la République (28 / 30 October 2019)

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Why do we need the
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phonetics and phonology

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different strata

Confronting phonetics with
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-etic vs. -emic: a difference of
perspective

Homework

Robert Spence
LangSciTech
Saarland University

English Phonetics: Unit 2:

[ˈɪŋ.gəlɪʃ fə.ˈnet.ɪks ˈjuː.n.ɪt̩ ˈtʰuː]

Theoretical Introduction (2)

[ˌθɪə.ˈɪet.ɪk.əl ˌɪntɹ̩.ə.ˈdɪk.ʃən ˈtʰuː]
[ˌθɪə.ˈɪet.ɪk.l̩ ˌɪntɹ̩.ə.ˈdɪk.ʃən ˈtʰuː]

Phonetics, phonology, and writing

[fə.ˈnet.ɪks fə(ʊ).ˈnɒl.ədʒ.i ʌn ˈɪaɪ.tɪŋ]

Robert Spence

[ˈrɒb.ət ˈspens]

based on material by William Barry and Ingmar Steiner

[ˈbeɪst ʌn mə.ˈtʰɪə.i.əl baɪ ˈwɪl.jəm ˈbæ.r.i ʌn ˈɪŋ.mɑː ˈstam.ɜː] [ən
ˈɪŋ.mæ ˈftaɪ.nə]

[si / ʉi bʁy.mɛːʁ | ã dø.sã.vɛt.set də la ʁe.py.blik] [ˈtwɛnt.i.ɛɪt̩θ /
ˈθɜːt.i.əθ ʌv ʌk.tʰəʊb.ə | ˈtwɛnt.i ˌnɑm.tʰiːn]

Why do we need the International Phonetic Alphabet?



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From the “spelling poem” (cf. Eckert and Barry p. 253)

I take it you already know
Of tough and bough and cough and dough?
Others may stumble but not you
On hiccough, thorough, lough, and through.
Well done! And now you wish perhaps,
To learn of less familiar traps?
Beware of heard, a dreadful word
That looks like beard but sounds like bird,
And dead –it's said like bed, not bead –
For goodness' sake don't call it deed!
Watch out for meat and great and threat
(They rhyme with suite and straight and debt).

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A moth is not a moth in mother
Nor both in bother, broth in brother,
And here is not a match for there
Nor dear and fear for bear and pear,
And then there's dose and rose and lose –
Just look them up –and loose and choose,
And cork and work and card and ward,
And font and front and word and sword,
And do and go and thwart and cart –
Come, come, I've hardly made a start!
A dreadful language? Man alive!
I'd mastered it when I was five!

... and you can find even longer versions of this poem if you google for the first line :-)

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Hearing *what's* said vs. listening to *how* it's said

- Primarily, we listen to someone to hear what he/she is saying.

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Hearing *what's* said vs. listening to *how* it's said

- Primarily, we listen to someone to hear what he/she is saying.
- What did the person say? [Click here to hear \[klɪk hɪə tə hɪə\]](#)

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- What did the person say? [Click here to hear \[klɪk hɪə tə hɪə\]](#)
 - “Ich bin in den Laden reingegangen...”?

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 - “Bin in den Laden reingegangen...”?

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- What did the person say? [Click here to hear \[klɪk hɪə tə hɪə\]](#)
 - “Ich bin in den Laden reingegangen...”?
 - “Bin in den Laden reingegangen...”?
 - “Bin in'n Laden reingegangen...”?

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- What did the person say? [Click here to hear \[klɪk hɪə tə hɪə\]](#)
 - “Ich bin in den Laden reingegangen...”?
 - “Bin in den Laden reingegangen...”?
 - “Bin in’n Laden reingegangen...”?
 - “Bin in’n Lad’n reingegang’ng...”?

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- What did the person say? [Click here to hear \[klɪk hɪə tə hɪə\]](#)
 - “Ich bin in den Laden reingegangen...”?
 - “Bin in den Laden reingegangen...”?
 - “Bin in’n Laden reingegangen...”?
 - “Bin in’n Lad’n reingegang’ng...”?
- Orthography is not very good at capturing the details of the pronunciation:

[bɪn ɪn̩ ˈlaːd̩n̩ raɪŋgəgəŋ]

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- Primarily, we listen to someone to hear what he/she is saying.
- What did the person say? [Click here to hear \[klɪk hɪə tə hɪə\]](#)
 - “Ich bin in den Laden reingegangen...”?
 - “Bin in den Laden reingegangen...”?
 - “Bin in’n Laden reingegangen...”?
 - “Bin in’n Lad’n reingegang’ng...”?
- Orthography is not very good at capturing the details of the pronunciation:

[bɪn ɪn̩ ˈlaːdɪn raɪŋgəgəŋ]
- But how much detail should we try to capture in our transcription of the sound?

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Remember that there are different LEVELS a.k.a. STRATA in language, as well as different MANIFESTATIONS (e.g. written and spoken).

TIN STEP LETDOWN		lexicogrammatical
<t>	/t/	{graph phon}emic
τ † t̥	[t ^h][t][t ^ʰ]	{graph phon}etic
photons	sound waves	physical reality

Note the conventions: <t> /t/ [t] see E&B p. 289

What should we include in the transcription?

- ⟨Ich bin in den Laden reingegangen.⟩

— standard orthography

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What should we include in the transcription?

- ⟨Ich bin in den Laden reingegangen.⟩
— standard orthography
- /ɪç bɪn ɪn de:n 'la:dən 'ʁaŋgə,ɡaŋən/
— a phonemic transcription

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What should we include in the transcription?

- <Ich bin in den Laden reingegangen.>
— standard orthography
- /ʔɪç bɪn ɪn de:n 'la:dən 'ʁaɪŋə'ɡaŋən/
— a phonemic transcription
- [bɪn ɪn ɪ 'la:dɪ 'ʁaɪŋə'ɡaŋ]
— a phonetic transcription with word breaks

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— a phonetic transcription with word breaks
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— a phonetic transcription without word breaks

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- [bɪn ɪn ɪ 'la:dɪ 'ʁaɪŋə'gəŋ]
— a phonetic transcription with word breaks
- ['bɪnɪnɪ 'la:dɪ'ʁaɪŋə'gəŋ]
— a phonetic transcription without word breaks
- ['bɪn.ɪn.ɪ.'la:.dɪ.'ʁaɪŋ.gə.'gəŋ]
— a phonetic transcription with syllable breaks

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Consonants and vowels: phonetics and phonology

- Phonetically: vowels involve merely a “shaping” of the airflow from the lungs

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Consonants and vowels: phonetics and phonology

- Phonetically: vowels involve merely a “shaping” of the airflow from the lungs
- Phonetically: consonants involve more of a restriction or obstruction of the airflow

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- Phonetically: vowels involve merely a “shaping” of the airflow from the lungs
- Phonetically: consonants involve more of a restriction or obstruction of the airflow
- Phonologically: a vowel typically functions as the Nucleus of a syllable

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- Phonetically: consonants involve more of a restriction or obstruction of the airflow
- Phonologically: a vowel typically functions as the Nucleus of a syllable
- Phonologically: a consonant typically functions as the Onset (Initial) or Coda (Final) element in the structure of a syllable

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- Phonologically: a vowel typically functions as the Nucleus of a syllable
- Phonologically: a consonant typically functions as the Onset (Initial) or Coda (Final) element in the structure of a syllable
- And don't confuse vowel/consonant “letters” (⟨ ⟩) with vowel/consonant “sounds” (/ / and []); the above is about “sounds”.

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- Phonologically: a consonant typically functions as the Onset (Initial) or Coda (Final) element in the structure of a syllable
- And don't confuse vowel/consonant “letters” (⟨ ⟩) with vowel/consonant “sounds” (/ / and []); the above is about “sounds”.
- The “vowel letters” in the English spelling system are ⟨a⟩, ⟨e⟩, ⟨i⟩, ⟨o⟩, ⟨u⟩, and (sometimes:) ⟨y⟩

- Page 40 of the course notes: official full IPA chart

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- Page 40 of the course notes: official full IPA chart
- Page 39 of the course notes: list of English phonemes

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- Page 40 of the course notes: official full IPA chart
- Page 39 of the course notes: list of English phonemes
- What differences do you notice between the two pages?

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-etic vs -emic: a difference of perspective

- An -etic description is made from the perspective of an “outsider”:

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-etic vs -emic: a difference of perspective

- An -etic description is made from the perspective of an “outsider”:
- — “what gestures / shapes / sounds can I in fact observe?”

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-etic vs -emic: a difference of perspective

- An -etic description is made from the perspective of an “outsider”:
- — “what gestures / shapes / sounds can I in fact observe?”
- An -emic description is made from the perspective of an “insider”

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-etic vs -emic: a difference of perspective

- An -etic description is made from the perspective of an “outsider”:
- — “what gestures / shapes / sounds can I in fact observe?”
- An -emic description is made from the perspective of an “insider”
- — which *differences* between gestures / shapes / sounds are likely to **stand for a difference in MEANING** within one particular language?

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Homework

- Consult the diagram on page 49 of the course notes, which shows the **places of articulation** in the human vocal tract.

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Homework

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- Each of these places of articulation has a technical name (usually borrowed from Latin) and an associated adjective. This applies both to the 'active' articulator (typically: a part of the tongue) and the 'passive' articulator (typically: a part of the roof of the mouth). Follow the link to the original Wikipedia file from which the diagram is taken and **learn the adjectives**. (In addition to the English terms, you can also find the German and Spanish terms there.)

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- Familiarize yourselves with the **IPA symbols** used for phonemic transcriptions of English words (page 39 of the course notes). But beware! When learning the 'meaning' of IPA symbols you should always start with the full IPA table on page 40! (In transcribing English, we are often a bit sloppy in the way we use symbols like /r/ /ʌ/ /i:/ /e/ /u:/ /ʊ/ /ɔ:/ and a few others.)