In Class Exercises

Lecture Date: 10 June 2015

Minimal Pairs: Minimal pairs are two words (a pair) which differ by only one sound. This means that the words are identical, except for one sound in each. For example, the word [nit] *neat* is a minimal pair with [mit] *meat*. The two words are nearly identical; they both have a high front unrounded tense vowel and a voiceless alveolar stop [it]. The two words only differ by the first segment in the words: [n] and [m] respectively. Near minimal pairs are two words which differ by just slightly more than one segment/phone. They are nearly identical except for not only the target sound, but something else. It is often the case that the near minimal pairs are in the same immediate environment (the sounds adjacent to the target phones are the same in both words) but more non-local segments are different (e.g. the sounds not adjacent the target phones are different). For example, the near minimal pairs, [ɹitʃɨz] *reaches* and [litʃt] *leached* differ by more than just the target phone [ɹ] and [l]. The word *reaches* ends in [-ɨz] and the word *leached* end in [-t]. The difference between these two words in non-local (not next to the target phones) so if we were to have no actual minimal pairs for these two sounds in the language, we would use these near minimal pairs as a second-best example of the contrast.

Minimal pairs are how we know that two sounds are contrastive in a language. When we change one sound and we get a new word, then that means that both sounds are meaningful in the language. That is the say, the contrast makes a difference. It is important in the language.

For the data sets below, list the *minimal pairs* for the segments indicated. Also list the *near minimal pairs*, where possible, for the segments indicated below.

1. Arabic [h ʔ]
   a. [ʔuru:b]   wars
   b. [fahm]   understanding
   c. [habba]   gust, squall
   d. [ha:l]   cardamom
   e. [huru:b]   flight
   f. [faʔm]   coal
   g. [ʔabba]   grain, seed
   h. [ʔa:l]   condition

2. Scottish English [ʍ w] – (Hannahs & Davenport)
   a. [ʍaˑe]   why
   b. [ʍɪtʃ]   which
   c. [ʍʌɪt]   white
   d. [ʍeɫz]   whales
   e. [ʍɪp]   whip
   f. [əʍʌɪɫ]   awhile

    g. [ʍɛðʌɾ]   whether
    h. [weː]   way
    i. [wɛðʌɾ]   weather
    j. [wɔnt]   want
    k. [wɪtʃ]   witch
    l. [wʌɪp]   wipe
    m. [weɫz]   Wales
    n. [əwɔʃ]   awash

Transcriptions

Look at the broad transcriptions of some ==common== English words below. Sound out the transcription of these words and write the English orthographic representation of the word. For example, /ðə mɪndi pɹɑd͡ʒɛkt/ *The Mindy Project.*

1. /paɪnɪŋ/   pining
2. /t͡ʃip/   cheap
3. /ɹeɪnboʊ/   rainbow
4. /ɹəʃt/   rushed
5. /ælfəbɛt/   alphabet
6. /kɹuzd/   cruised
7. /jənaɪɾɪd/   united
8. /plɛʒəɹ/   pleasure
9. /tɑməs/   Thomas
10. /hoʊ/   hoe, ho
11. /ɑɪəɹn/   iron
12. /saɪkɑləd͡ʒi/   psychology
13. /ɛkstɹə/   extra
14. /kænəɾə/   Canada
15. /meɪpəl/   maple
16. /skənɛktəɾi/   schenectady
17. /æmt͡ʃɹæk/   Amtrak
18. /kɹɑsɪŋ/   crossing
19. /mɛksɪkoʊ/   Mexico
20. /ɪɾəli/   Italy
21. /vænkuvəɹ/   Vancouver

22. /putin/ _____poutine_____

23. /kɛbɛkwɑ/ _____Quebecois_____

24. /aɹɪæk/ _____Iraq_____

25. /ɑɹ si ɛm pi/ _____R.C.M.P._____

Transcriptions
Transcribe the following words as you would say them in casual (not slow and careful) speech.
Use the IPA to correctly transcribe. For example, 'The Big Bang Theory' [ðə bɪɡ bæŋ θɹɹi]

1. looky-loo   [   ]
2. Montreal   [   ]
3. Quebec   [   ]
4. Adirondack   [   ]