

Introduction to Linguistics - I, IIIT Hyderabad

Assignment 2

Name: Abhinav S Menon
Roll No.: 2020909122

Problem Solutions

Problem 1 – Alphabet (UKLO '16)

Question 1.1 The completed table is as follows:

Greek Name	Roman Capital Shape
alpha	A
beta	B
gamma	C
delta	D
epsilon	E
zeta	Z
eta	H
theta	-
iota	I
kappa	K
lambda	L
mu	M
nu	N
ksi	-
omicron	O
pi	-
ro	P
sigma	S
tau	T
upsilon	Y
phi	-
chi	X
psi	-
omega	-

Question 1.2 Four Roman letters differing from their Greek ancestors are H (from eta), Y (from upsilon), X (from chi) and P (from ro).

Question 1.3 The corresponding English words are *alphabet*, *atom*, *theory* and *architect*.

Problem 2 – Running Speech

Question 4.1 The transcriptions of *would* in utterance 6 and *bread* in utterance 8 are [wʊd] and [bɪed] respectively.

Question 4.2 Three other examples of *bread* are:

1. [bɪed] (13)
2. [bɪeb] (13)
3. [bɪed] (19)

Four other examples of *would* are:

1. [wʊg] (2)
2. [wʊd] (3)
3. [wʊd] (7)
4. [wʊg] (11)

Question 4.3 The three examples of *one* are:

1. [wʌm] (5)
2. [wʌŋ] (12)
3. [wʌŋ] (14)

Question 4.4

- (a) Two instances of *second* are [sekənd] (16) and [sekəm] (20). On its own, it would be said as [sekənd].
- (b) Two instances of *mint/mints* are [mɪŋk] (18) and [mɪns] (18). On its own, it would be said as [mɪnt].
- (c) Two instances of *can't* are [kɑ:ŋk] (9) and [kɑ:ŋ] (15). On its own, it would be said as [kɑ:nt].
- (d) Two instances of *and* are [əm] (8) and [ənd] (18). On its own, it would be said as [ænd].

Question 4.5

- (a) *bread and butter*
- (b) *I wouldn't care*

Problem 3 – Visible Speech

E1 The words represent *peaks*, *boot*, *tap* and *cogs* in that order.

E2 The words represent *back*, *piece/peace*, *dog* and *peas* in that order.

adp

52 f D

3

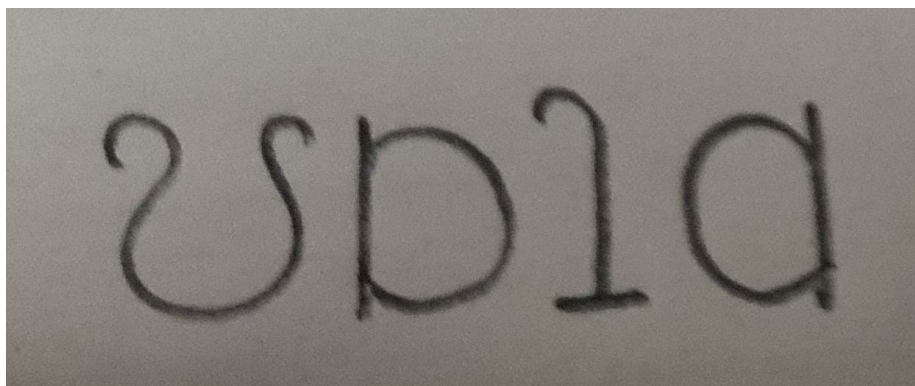


Figure 3: spook

Observations

1. (Problem 1) In question 1.3, the English words don't have the endings of the Greek words (-a, -os and -on in transcription), so maybe these endings are variable, i.e., the words don't always end with these letters depending on context.
2. (Problem 2) If a word ends in two consonants, and the next word starts with a consonant, the last consonant of the first word is frequently not pronounced. For example, *can't think* becomes [kɑ:ŋθŋk]. Further, the last remaining consonant's place of articulation changes to match that of the first consonant in the next word; for example, *one bike* is pronounced as [wʌmbaɪk].
3. (Problem 2) One peculiarity of the South British accent is the occurrence of [əʊ], where in Indian English [o:] occurs, and of [eɪ] where in Indian English [e:] occurs. Examples include *go* [gəʊ] and *cake* [keɪk].
4. (Problem 3) The system of Visible Speech is clearly phonetic and follows a one-one sound-symbol correspondence, and so could be said to illustrate the feature of duality of patterning. It is also of note that even though it is phonetic, it is structurally different from Indian language scripts, since the vowel symbols remain distinct from the consonant ones.