

HS 133: Introduction to Phonetics

September 12, 2024

Phonemes and Allophones

Examples from English and Hindi

English

Pull [p^hul]

Spool [spul]

Soup [suᵖ]

Hindi

पल [pəl]

फल [p^həl]

Complementary and Contrastive Distribution

Contrastive distribution: Minimal pairs/ sets possible

Allophones in contrastive distribution are separate **phonemes**

Phonemes and allophones

- Basic phonological unit
- Allophones are variations of the phoneme arising due to predictable effects
- One of the allophones, usually most unrestricted one is the representative phoneme

English

Pull	[p ^h ul]
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Spool	[spul]
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Soup	[su ^ɪ p]
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Korean Example

[mul]	'water'
[mal]	'horse'
[mulkama]	'place for water'
[malkama]	'place for horse'
[mure]	'at the water'
[mare]	'at the horse'

[pal]	'foot'
[pari]	'of the foot'
[səul]	'Seoul'
[rupi]	'ruby'
[ilkop]	'seven'
[ratio]	'radio'

Hint: syllabification

- Are [l] and [r] contrastive sounds?
- Do they have minimal pairs?
- Which one is more unrestricted?
- Which one is more restricted and why?
- Do you think they are they allophones of the same phoneme?