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Discussion Section A: Mondays 10:30–11:30 AM, 2 Arrow St Room 420
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Midterm Study Practice Answers
Ling 105, Spring 2023

(Q1)   Transcribe the following words using narrow transcription.

   a.   hollow: /ˈhɑloʊ/ > [ˈhɑloʊ]
   b.   rider: /ˈɹaɪdɚ/ > [ˈɹaɪɾɚ]
   c.   monstrous: /ˈmɑnstɹəs/ > [ˈmãnstʃɹ̩əs]
   d.   plight: /plaɪt/ > [pl̥aɪt]
   e.   fill: /fɪl/ > [fɪɫ]
   f.   miner: /ˈmaɪnɚ/ > [ˈmaɪɾ̃ɚ]
   g.   stomp: /ˈstɑmp/ > [ˈstãmp]
   h.   tomb: /ˈtum/ > [ˈtʰũm]
   i.   carbonation: /ˌkɑɹbəˈneɪʃn̩/ > [ˌkʰɑɹbəˈneɪʃn̩]
   j.   trickle: /ˈtɹɪkl̩/ > [ˈtʃɹɪkl̩]
   k.   cartography: /kɑɹˈtɑgɹəfi/ > [kʰɑɹˈtʰɑgɹəfi]

(Q2)   For each of the following descriptions, give a corresponding IPA symbol (or symbols, with diacritics if necessary)

   a.   voiceless bilabial fricative: [ɸ]
   b.   voiceless lateral click with uvular rear closure: [q‖]
   c.   voiceless palatal affricate: [cç]
   d.   voiced alveolar lateral fricative: [ɮ]
   e.   voiceless velar plosive: [k]
   f.   voiceless retroflex nasal: [ɳ̥]
   g.   high front tense unrounded vowel: [i]
   h.   nasal high back lax rounded vowel: [ʊ̃]
   i.   schwa: [ə]
   j.   long front mid lax unrounded vowel: [ɛː]
   k.   breathy high front tense rounded vowel: [y̤]

(Q3)   Labiovelars such as [w] use what two broad places of articulation?

   a.   ✗Labial and Velar
   b.   ✓Labial and Dorsal
   c.   ✗Bilabial and Velar
   d.   ✗Coronal and Dorsal

(Q4)   At which following place is the front closure of a click impossible?

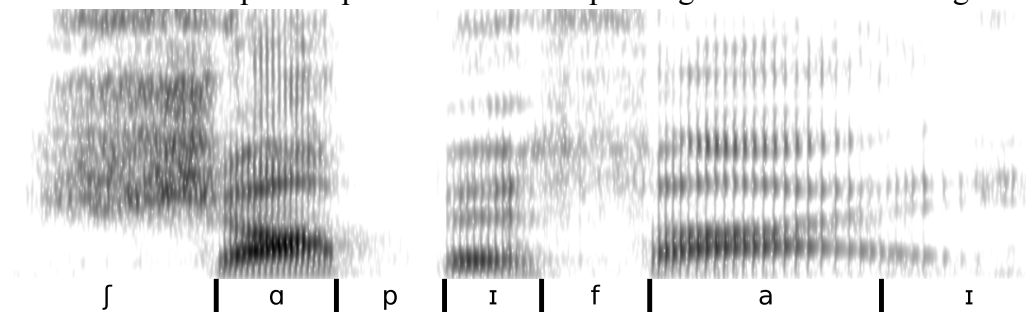   a.   ✗Bilabial

b. ✗Dental
c. ✓Velar
d. ✗Palato-alveolar

(Q5) Which of the following ejectives is the least common?

a. ✗p'
b. ✗t'
c. ✗k'
d. ✓s'

(Q6) If a sound has a frequency of 125 Hz, what is its corresponding wavelength (in ms)?

a. ✗50 ms
b. ✓8 ms
c. ✗0.008 ms
d. ✗0.05 ms

(Q7) The following spectrogram represents me saying "shopify". Please divide the spectrogram into sections representing each of the phones in the word "shopify", and label each section with its respective phone. Consider diphthongs as two different segments.

ʃ | ɑ | p | ɪ | f | a | ɪ

(Q8) Fijian is a language which has both voiced and voiceless plosives. In Fijian, voiced plosives tend to be pre-nasalized, meaning that they are nasalized at the beginning of the stop sound (represented like [^{n}d]).

a. Why might Fijian make the additional distinction of nasalizing voiced plosives? What principle is at play here?
By making voiced plosives pre-nasalized, Fijian speakers distinguish voiced and voiceless plosives across not only the dimension of voicing, but also the dimension of prenasalization. This is the principle of dispersion; languages tend to distinguish sounds across multiple dimensions to ensure that the sounds are distinct and their differences are easy to perceive.

b. Fijian is one of many languages that employ pre-nasalization in voiced plosives. There are no languages, however, for which voiceless plosives are pre-nasalized and voiced plosives are not. Why might that be?
Answer 1: Prenasalization of voiced plosives decreases VOT (voicing happens even earlier during the prenasal stage), which is what allows it to be considered perceptually further away from voiceless plosives than non-prenasalized voiced plosives. Having prenasalized voiceless plosives and non-prenasalized voiced plosives would be harder to tell apart, because both have some form of voicing.
Answer 2: Prenasalized voiceless consonants would require either a) a consonant to

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be voiced at the beginning and devoiced near the end, or b) devoiced prenasalization. In the former case, the consonant would have to devoice in the middle of the segment which requires quick devoicing and is marked. In the latter case, the nasalized portion would be voiceless which is difficult to percieve (voiceless sonorants are very quiet and hard to perceive).