

Linguistics - Assignment 6 - 2022/12/27

Are the following pairs minimal pairs? Explain. (Remember to relate to **pronunciation**, not spelling)

Example: *share* and *dare* are **not** a minimal pair. There is difference of one consonant, but there is a difference of more than one feature:

(i) Place of articulation: *ʃ* is palatal and *d* is alveolar

(ii) Manner of articulation: *ʃ* is fricative and *d* is stop

(iii) Voicing: *ʃ* is voiceless and *d* is voiced

1. bat – mat
2. bake – cake
3. pink – sink
4. right - write
5. pray – stay
6. main - male

1. bat - mat

[bat] - [mat] are a minimal pair. There is a difference of one consonant, with only one feature being different.

(i) Place of articulation - both *b* and *m* are bilabial

(ii) Manner of articulation - *b* is a stop and *m* is a fricative

(iii) Voicing - both *b* and *m* are voiced

2. bake - cake

[beɪk] - [keɪk] are not a minimal pair. There is a difference in one consonant, but in more than one feature.

(i) Place of articulation - *b* is bilabial and *k* is velar

(ii) Manner of articulation - both *b* and *k* are stops

(iii) Voicing - *b* is voiced and *k* is voiceless

3. pink – sink

[pɪŋk] - [sɪŋk] are not a minimal pair. There is a difference in one consonant, but in more than one feature.

(i) Place of articulation - *p* is bilabial and *s* is alveolar

(ii) Manner of articulation - *p* is a stop and *s* is a fricative

(iii) Voicing - both *p* and *s* are voiceless

4. right - write

[rait] - [rait] are not a minimal pair, since there is no difference in phonemes. They are the same word.

5. pray - stay

[prei] - [stei] are not a minimal pair. There is a difference in more than one consonant. (p → s and r → t)

6. main - male

[mein] - [mal] are not a minimal pair. There is a difference in both a vowel and a consonant.