

Instructor: Stefano Canalis (stefano.canalis@boun.edu.tr)
Hours: Tue 3–5 pm, Thu 1–3 pm
Rooms: JF 321 (Seminar room)
Office Hours: Wednesday 10–12 am or by appointment, JF 312

Course description

The goal of this course is to provide a critical overview of the concept of phonological feature. We will discuss the motivations for and nature of phonological features, including some aspects of their relation with phonetics and the recent debate about their universality. Most of the material will be about classical *SPE* features and related theories adopting binary features, but we will also compare them to alternative proposals which use monovalent element/components instead of features, especially with regard to the representation of vowels. The closely related notions of phonological contrast, markedness, phonological inventories, feature geometry will be discussed too.

Course requirements

The obligatory reading material has to be read before the relevant class. Students will be evaluated on the basis of:

- participation (15% of course grade)
- two assignments. They will consist of phonological problem sets related to topics discussed in class. They are due not later than the Monday following the week they are assigned (15%)
- oral presentation of an article related to one of the topics discussed in class (20%)
- a *critical* summary of the article you presented orally, ca. 3 pages long and due one week after your oral presentation (15%)
- a final paper (7-10 pages excluding references) on a topic related to the content of the course. The final version of the paper has to be submitted by May 26; you may (and are encouraged to) submit a draft version (that I will not grade) for feedback and comments by May 19 (35%)

Course material

- Anderson, John & Colin Ewen. 1987. *Principles of Dependency Phonology*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press. Chs. 1, 3, 6.
- Backley, Phillip. 2011. *An Introduction to Element Theory*. Edinburgh, Edinburgh University Press. Chs. 1, 2.
- Chomsky, Noam & Morris Halle. 1965. 'Some controversial questions in phonological theory'. *Journal of Linguistics* 1(2): 97-138.
- Chomsky, Noam & Morris Halle 1968. *The Sound Pattern of English*. New York, Harper & Row. Ch. 7.
- Clements, G. N. 1985. 'The geometry of phonological features'. *Phonology Yearbook* 2: 225-252.
- Clements, G. N. 2009. 'The role of features in speech sound inventories'. In Eric Raimy & Charles Cairns (eds), *Contemporary Views on Architecture and Representations in Phonological Theory*. Cambridge (Mass), MIT Press: 19-67.

- Clements, G. N. & Pierre Hallé. 2010. “‘Phonetic bases of distinctive features’: Introduction”. *Journal of Phonetics* 38: 3-9.
- Clements, G. N. & Elizabeth Hume. 1995. ‘The internal organization of speech sounds’. In John Goldsmith (ed.), *Handbook of Phonological Theory*. Oxford, Basil Blackwell: 245-306.
- Cohn, Abigail C. 2011. ‘Features, segments, and the sources of phonological primitives’. In G. N. Clements & Rachid Ridouane (eds), *Where Do Phonological Features Come From?* Amsterdam/Philadelphia, John Benjamins: 15-41.
- Durand, Jacques. 2005. ‘Tense/lax, the vowel system of English and phonological theory’. In Philip Carr, Jacques Durand and Colin J. Ewen (eds), *Headhood, Elements, Specification and Contrastivity. Phonological papers in honour of John Anderson*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia, John Benjamins: 77-97.
- Dresher, B. Elan. 2009. *The Contrastive Hierarchy in Phonology*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press. Chs. 1, 2, 7.
- Hawkins, Sarah. 2010. ‘Phonological features, auditory objects, and illusions’. *Journal of Phonetics* 38: 60-89.
- Householder, Fred W. 1965. ‘On some recent claims in phonological theory’. *Journal of Linguistics* 1(1): 13-34.
- Hulst, Harry van der & Colin Ewen. 1991. ‘Major class and manner features’. In Paolo Bertinetto, Michael Kenstowicz & Michele Loporcaro (eds), *Certamen Phonologicum II*. Turin, Rosenberg & Sellier: 19-42.
- Ladefoged, Peter & Ian Maddieson. 1996. *The Sounds of the World's Languages*. Cambridge (Mass), Blackwell. Ch. 9.
- Mielke, Jeff. 2008. *The Emergence of Distinctive Features*. Oxford, Oxford University Press. Chs. 1, 2, 3.
- Moreton, Elliot. 2008. ‘Analytic bias and phonological typology’. *Phonology* 25(1): 83-127.
- Rice, Keren. 2007. ‘Markedness in phonology’. In Paul de Lacy (ed.), *The Cambridge Handbook of Phonology*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press: 79-97.
- Selkirk, Elisabeth. 1984. ‘On the Major Class Features and Syllable Theory’. In Mark Aronoff & Richard T. Oehrle (eds), *Language Sound Structure: Studies in Phonology Presented to Morris Halle by his Teacher and Students*. Cambridge (Mass), MIT Press: 107-113.
- Stevens, Kenneth N. 1989. ‘On the quantal nature of speech’. *Journal of Phonetics* 17: 3-46.
- Stevens, Kenneth N. & Samuel Jay Keyser. 2010. ‘Quantal theory, enhancement and overlap’. *Journal of Phonetics* 38: 10-19.

Background reading

- Hall, T. A. 2007. ‘Segmental features’. In Paul de Lacy (ed.), *The Cambridge Handbook of Phonology*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press: 311-334.
- Odden, David. 2013. *Introducing Phonology*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press. Ch. 3.

Schedule

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Content</i>	<i>Readings</i>	<i>Student presentation</i>
Wk 1	Feb, 7	Introduction and overview of the course	No obligatory readings. For a general brush up, you can read Hall (2007) or at least chapter 3 in Odden (2013)	
Wk 2	Feb, 12 Feb, 14	<i>SPE</i> and the current state of the art	Cohn 2011 Chomsky & Halle 1968	
Wk 3	Feb, 19 Feb, 21	Markedness	Rice 2007	Yes
Wk 4	Feb, 26 Feb, 28	Features and phonological inventories	Clements 2009	
Wk 5	Mar, 5 Mar, 7	Contrast	Dresher 2009	Yes
Wk 6	Mar, 12 Mar, 14	Feature geometry	Clements 1985 Clements & Hume 1995	Yes
Wk 7	Mar, 19 Mar, 21	Major class features	Selkirk 1984 van der Hulst & Ewen 1991	
Wk 8 Wk 9	Mar, 26 Mar, 28 Apr, 2 Apr, 4	The representation of vowels: phonetics of vowels, vowel height, tense, ATR, backness, rounding, acoustics Dependency/Government Phonology Processes: diphthongization, merger, vowel harmony, vowel neutralization	Ladefoged & Maddieson 1996 Durand 2005 Anderson & Ewen 1987 Buckley 2011	Yes (2 presentations)
Wk 10	Apr, 9 Apr, 11	Universality and innateness of features	Mielke 2008 Moreton 2008	Yes (2 presentations)
Wk 11	Apr, 16 Apr, 18	Quantal features	Stevens 1989 Stevens & Keyser 2010	
Wk 12	Apr, 30 May, 2	Phonetic bases of distinctive features	Clements & Hallé 2010 Hawkins 2010	Yes
Wk 13	May, 7 May, 9	A historiographical perspective on phonological features	Householder 1965 Chomsky & Halle 1965	
Wk 14	May, 14	Conclusion		