

Introduction to Linguistics 1

Assignment 2

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Task 1

1. Are nasal vowels in _____ phonemic? Are they predictable?

No. Nasal vowels in the given language are not phonemic. However, they are predictable as they always occur before a nasal sound (nasal consonants eg. n,m,ŋ etc).

Eg.

In /okobomi/, /anopi/, /anemeri/ etc.

2. Is the phonemic representation of the morpheme meaning “garden” /demeり/?

Yes. The phonemic representation of garden is /demeり/. Since the [d] sound is a voiced plosive, it disappears when it appears before a nasal sound. But the actual morpheme for garden will have its phonemic representation as /demeり/.

3. What is the phonemic representation of the morpheme meaning “kayak”?

The phonemic representation of the morpheme meaning ‘kayak’ is /otи/.

4. Are [p] and [b] allophones of one phoneme?

No. They are not allophones of the same phoneme, as in the given data, there's no example of them being used interchangeably in order to impart the same meaning to a given word. Also, nasal consonants behave differently depending upon whether they precede a voiced (b) or voiceless (p) sound.

5. If /om/ represents a bound prefix morpheme in _____, can you conclude that [~omd~onil] is a possible phonetic form for a word in this language starting with this prefix?

No. We can conclude that there is probably NO word in the language which has the given phonetic form. This is because the language consistently follows the homorganic nasal rule. Hence, if there is a nasal before an alveolar sound (d), it should morph into an alveolar nasal (n) instead of a bilabial nasal (m).

6. Is there a homorganic nasal rule in _____?

Yes. There is a homorganic nasal rule in the given language. This is because nasal sounds morph depending upon the place of articulation of the following consonant.

Eg.

1. In [~ampepel], we have a bilabial nasal (m) before a bilabial plosive (p).
2. In [~aŋkɔ:so], we have a velar nasal (ŋ) before a velar plosive (k).

7. If the phonetic representation of the word meaning “small boy” is [okopi:ba], give the phonemic and phonetic representations for “a boy.”

The phonemic representation of ‘a boy’ is /ampiba/.

The phonetic representation is [~ampi:ba].

8. Which of the following forms is the phonemic representation for the prefix meaning “a” or “an”? (a) /an/ (b) /~an/ (c) /~am/ (d) /am/ (e) /a:/

a) /an/ is the phonemic representation of the prefix ‘a’ or ‘an’. There’s no need to write a nasalized a (~ a) as nasal vowels in the language are not phonemic.

9. What is the phonetic representation of the word meaning “a branch”?

The phonetic representation of ‘a branch’ is [~antobe].

10. What is the phonemic representation of the word meaning “small stranger”?

The phonemic representation of ‘small stranger’ is /okobgane/.

11. State the three phonological rules revealed by_____.

The three phonological rules revealed by the language are:

I. It follows the homorganic nasal rule:

i.e. The nasal sounds in the language morph depending upon the place of articulation of the following consonant.

Eg.

1. In [~ampepel], an alveolar nasal [n] morphs into a bilabial nasal [m] as it's before a bilabial plosive [p].
2. In [~aŋkɔ:so], an alveolar nasal [n] morphs into a velar nasal [ŋ] before a velar plosive [k].

II. If there is a voiced consonant following a nasal consonant, the voiced consonant disappears and the nasal consonant is lengthened.

Eg.

1. In [~am:~o:m:i], the /b/ of [b~o:m:i], meaning peg, is removed and the m sound is lengthened.
2. The same happens to /g/ and /d/ in [~an:~i:m:a] and [~an:~eme:ri] respectively.

III. Vowels occurring before a nasal consonant are nasalized.

Eg.

1. The /a/ and /o/ before the /m/ in [~am:~o:m:i] are nasalized.
2. The same happens to /a/ and /i/ in [~an:~i:m:a] and to /a/ and /e/ in [~an:~eme:ri].

We can also note that:

If a vowel sound appears in continuation for more than once, then it undergoes certain changes to ease the pronunciation.

Eg.

1. As ‘opi’ means house and ‘oko’ is used as a prefix for small, Instead of ‘oko-opi’, standing for a small house, we just lengthen the existing o in ‘oko’.
Thus, a small house is [oko:pil].
2. As ‘oti’ means kayak and ‘oko’ is used as a prefix for small, Instead of ‘oko-oti’, standing for a small kayak, we add an alveolar trill [r] before the voiceless alveolar plosive [t].
Thus, a small kayak is [okorti].

Task 2

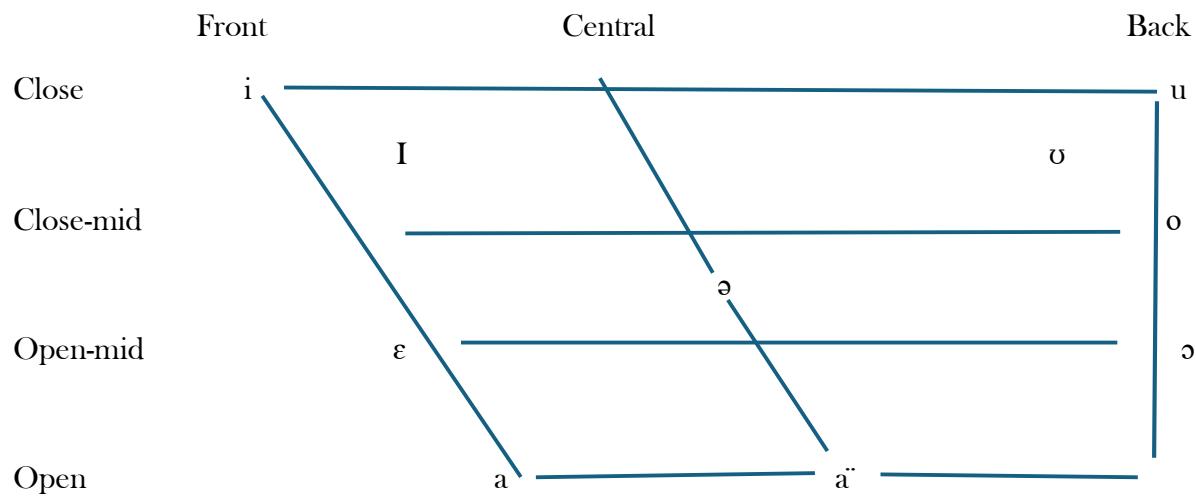
Language 1

IPA CHART

Pulmonic Consonants

| | Bi-labial | Labio-dental | Dental | Alveolar | Post alveolar | Retroflex | Palatal | Velar | Uvular | Pharyngeal | Glottal |
|---------------------|-----------|--------------|--------|----------|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|--------|------------|---------|
| Plosive | p b | | | t | | t | | k g | | | |
| Nasal | m | | | n | | ɳ | ɲ | ŋ | | | |
| Trill | | | | r | | | | | | | |
| Tap or Flap | | v | | | | t | | | | | |
| Fricative | ɸ | f v | s z | ʃ | | | | x | χ | | h |
| Lateral Fricative | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Approximant | | | | | | | j | | | | |
| Lateral Approximant | | | | l | | | | | | | |

Vowel Triangle



Language 2

IPA CHART

Pulmonic Consonants

| | Bi-labial | Labio-dental | Dental | Alveolar | Post-alveolar | Retroflex | Palatal | Velar | Uvular | Pharyngeal | Glottal |
|---------------------|-----------|--------------|--------|----------|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|--------|------------|---------|
| Plosive | p | | | t d | | | | k g | q g | | |
| Nasal | | m | | | n | | | | ŋ | | |
| Trill | | | | r | | | | | | | |
| Tap or Flap | | | v | | | | | | | | |
| Fricative | ɸ β | f v | | z | ʃ ʒ | ʂ ʐ | j | x | χ | | |
| Lateral Fricative | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Approximant | | | | ɹ | | | j | wl | | | |
| Lateral Approximant | | | | l | | | | | | | |

Vowel Triangle

