

Phonetics presentation

Due Tuesday, September 27th

Your name: Claire Moore-Cantwell (Comanche)

Please print out 15 copies for the class of these two pages. You'll have 3 minutes to present the information here in class. If you do hand-write your answers to the questions, make sure to write very clearly, so that everyone can read it even after it has been photocopied.

Syllable structure: What is the syllable structure of your language? You may need to find this out on your own by looking for relevant examples, or your grammar may explicitly tell you.

(a) Does your language require/allow/forbid onsets? If your language allows both onsets and onsetless syllables, give a word from your language that illustrates each. Otherwise, give one word that illustrates your language's requirement, and a made-up word that would be impossible in your language. Mark the impossible word with a *.

Comanche allows syllables with no onsets, such as [a:], "animal horn". It also allows syllables with onsets, such as [ki:], "corner"

(b) Does your language require/allow/forbid codas? If your language allows both codas and codaless syllables, give a word from your language that illustrates each. Otherwise, give one word that illustrates your language's requirement, and a made-up word that would be impossible in your language. Mark the impossible word with a *.

*Comanche allows syllables with no codas, such as in [ania], "mane". It also allows syllables with codas, such as [tso:ʔ], "great grandparent". However, only [ʔ] can be a coda; no other consonants can appear in coda position. For example, *[kap] would not be a possible word in Comanche.*

(c) What kinds of sounds can be syllable nuclei in your language? How can you tell? Give an example of each non-vowel sound that can be a syllable nucleus.

Only vowels can be nuclei in Comanche. The easiest way to tell this is that there are no words without any vowels.

(d) How big can onsets and codas be in your language? Provide the longest coda you can find, and the longest onset you can find.

The longest coda in Comanche is [ʔ] (illustrated above). No other codas are allowed. The longest onset in Comanche is a single consonant, for example: [pa:], "water", [kia], "perhaps".

Phonemes and Allophones:

Find two phonological rules in your language.

(a) For each rule you found, draw a phoneme diagram, indicating the relevant phoneme and its allophones. Try to find at least three words illustrating each allophone, but definitely give at least one.



a: [tu:kaʔ] "lamp", [araʔ] "uncle", [naboʔ] "marking"

a̤: [so:na̤] "quilt", [pitsipuha̤] "milk", [ka:sa̤] "wing"

p: [pika̤] "leather", [pai] "water", [pa:kə] "arrow"

β: [suβeʔ] "both", [wesiβa:pi] "curly hair", [woβi] "wood"

(b) For each allophone you found, describe its context in terms of features.

a: # __, C __ C, C __ V ; **a̤:** __ #

p: # __; **β:** V __ V

(c) For each rule you found, state which allophone is the 'elsewhere' allophone and why you decided on that one.

/a/: [a] is the elsewhere allophone because it occurs in a large variety of environments that cannot be neatly described with features.

/p/: [p] is the elsewhere allophone, although the choice does not matter.

(d) State each rule in English, e.g. "Stops become aspirated at the beginnings of words."

Vowels become voiceless at the ends of words. (NOTE: The pattern I've noted above for /a/ also occurs with i, u, ʊ, e, and o, so I'll state the rule more generally here)

Bilabial plosives become voiced bilabial fricatives in between vowels.

(e) State each rule in rule notation, e.g. $/p/ \rightarrow [p^h] / \# _$

$/+syllabic/ \rightarrow [-voice] / _ \#$

$/p/ \rightarrow [\beta] / V _ V$