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Requirements for the Final Examination in Phonetics and Phonology

(updated: for the academic year 2022/2023)

Part A: classes in the autumn semester

1. Types of phonetics (articulatory, acoustic, auditory); sounds and letters; transcription.
2. Principles of transcription: sentence stress (Reszkiewicz), strong and weak forms.
3. The organs of speech and general classification of sounds according to 9 criteria:
position of the glottis, continuity, type of escape, direction of the airflow over the tongue, type of stricture, place of stricture, the role of resonators (here: sonorants vs. obstruents); vocalic vs. consonantal, functional criterion (vowel, semivowel, consonant, syllabic consonant).
4. Abbreviated criteria for the classification of consonants: manner and place of articulation, voiced - voiceless. Table of basic consonantal sounds (= phonemes) of English and Polish.
5. Cardinal vowels (primary and secondary); abbreviated criteria for the classification of vowels (height: high, mid, low; part of the tongue: front, central, back; lip position: rounded - nonrounded; action of the soft palate: nasal - oral); table of English and Polish vowel types (= phonemes: 9 in English, 6 in Polish).
6. Diphthongs (falling vs. rising).
7. Mentalistic definition of the phoneme (= what the speaker and the hearer regard as one and the same sound); types of distribution (contrastive, complementary, free variation).
8. Allophones of English consonants and vowels; allophonic transcription.

Part B: classes in the spring semester

1. Criteria for establishing underlying representations: alternations, predictability, phonostylistic evidence, phonological behaviour, distributions (=phonotactic behaviour), economy of inventory.
2. Phonological rules:
Polish: Final Devoicing, Voice Assimilation, Nasal Gliding and Surface Palatalization.
English: all allophonic rules for English vowels and consonants, Nasal Assimilation, Degemination, Complete Assimilation, Devoicing, Vowel Reduction, Palatalization, Spirantization, j-Deletion, Trisyllabic Shortening, CC-Shortening.

3. "Key words", that is, representative examples illustrating the most important processes (needless to say, the examination will not be limited to just these examples):

Polish: *chleb, chlebki, mózg, instytut, wqs.*

English: *morally*, negative prefix (e.g. *impartial, independent, illegal*, etc.), *attentive, descriptive, difficulty, camp, tent, bank, kept, nation, national, invasion* and the syllabification of *Atlantic* and *abstract*.

Note: you must know all the tiniest details of the analysis of these or similar examples and you must be able to discuss every step in constructing your argumentation.

4. Distinctive features: [\pm syll], [\pm cons], [\pm voice], [\pm sonor] / [\pm obstr], [\pm nas], [\pm later], [\pm contin], [\pm coron], [\pm anter], [\pm high], [\pm low], [\pm back], [\pm round]. Be able to use these features in order to define simple natural classes.

5. Elementary rules: $A \rightarrow B / _ X$, $A \rightarrow B / X _$, $A \rightarrow B / X _ Y$. You should be able to write simple examples of such rules and be able to "translate" into prose statements simple rules that are provided for you.

Part C: lectures in the spring semester

General policy: you are required to know in detail everything that has been discussed during the lectures.

Course outline:

1. Modern English and Polish dialects.
2. Underlying representations.
3. SSA.
4. Syllabification rules, constraints and suspensions: SSG, Stop-Nasal constraint, Alveolar Stop-Lateral Constraint, Stop-Fricative Constraint, Obstruent Suspension, s-Onset Suspension, and Dental Coda Suspension.
5. English SSA.
6. English-specific syllabification constraints (see my paper "English Syllabification"). Note: you must be able to divide English and Polish words into syllables and explain how you have arrived at your syllabification, that is, you must be able to cite the relevant rules and constraints.
8. Other issues that come up in answer to students' questions.

Readings that are particularly recommended:

1. P. Ladefoged, *A Course in Phonetics* (chapters 1, 6, 7 and 9)
2. D. Jones, *An Outline of English Phonetics*.
3. A.C. Gimson, *Introduction to the Pronunciation of English*.
4. A. Reszkiewicz, *Correct your English* (translated and revised by S. Sikora).
5. J. Rubach, *Analysis of Phonological Structures* (chapters 2 and 3).
6. J. Rubach, "The Concept of an Underlying Representation", *Biuletyn Polskiego Towarzystwa Językoznawczego* (1976), pp. 101-109.

7. J. Rubach, "The Sound System: Phonology", in A. Kaznowski (ed.) *Introduction to Linguistics*, pp. 57-75.
 8. J. Rubach, "English Syllabification", *Anglica* (1997), pp. 65-72.

Structure of the Final Examination

1. Transcriptions:

- (a) phonemic transcription of a text (approximately 50 words)
 (b) allophonic transcription of a sentence

2. English dialects (see point (1) in part C above)

3. Phonetics: descriptive questions (see part A above)

4. Phonology: theoretical questions (see parts B and C above)

5. Phonological problems: discovering underlying representations and rules in a data set taken from a language other than English or Polish.

Total number of points: 50

Extra credit points:

<i>Final grade in: Phonetics (autumn semester)</i>		<i>Phonology (spring semester)</i>
bdb	5 points	5 points
db+	4 points	4 points
db	3 points	3 points
dost+	1 point	1 point
dost	0 points	0 points

Note: extra credit points (for phonetics and phonology) are a reward for good progress. They will raise your final grade. The grade is calculated on the assumption that the total number of points for the written exam is 50. For example, if you get 25 points for the written exam itself (a terrible result: 50% achievement) but have 8 points of extra credit, then your actual score is 33, which means that you will pass the examination.

Penalty.

Cheating on the final exam: a failing grade (*ndst*) for the exam.

Outstanding students

Definition: a student who has been judged as outstanding by his or her section instructor. It is assumed that outstanding students have read *Potop* by Henryk Sienkiewicz. (This assumption is verified before the oral examination begins, see below.)

Outstanding students will have the privilege of taking an oral examination with me prior to the date of the exam for the other students. You cannot ask for the oral exam. The only way of getting there is to be delegated by your section instructor.

The customary rules for “termin zerowy” apply:

- you cannot fail this examination (but, needless to say, you can be chased out of my office, in which case you will need to take the written exam with the other students);
- the grade is negotiable: I will tell you what grade I can give you and you either accept the grade or take the written exam with the other students;
- the requirements at the oral exam are at least two times higher than at the written exam;
- the person who passes the oral exam can be assured that he or she belongs to the intellectual elite of the academia.

Exam prerequisites: (1) a passing grade from your section instructor in Phonetics (zaliczenie z Fonytyki w semestrze zimowym) and (2) a passing grade from your section instructor in Phonology (zaliczenie z Fonologii w semestrze letnim).