Lecture No. 1

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Allophones

Phonemes and **allophones** are two basic concepts in phonology and phonetics.

A phoneme is the smallest sound that can make a difference in meaning. For example, the word car changes to far if you change the phoneme /k/ to /f/. There are forty-four phonemes in standard British English. Some of them may be realized differently or have a variety of allophones.

An allophone is any of the various phonetic realizations of a phoneme, which do not contribute to distinctions of meaning. For example, p/ in pin/ is aspirated [p^h] and p in spin is unaspirated. The first one is an allophone of the phoneme p/.

Phonemic Transcription

Phonemic is a transcription showing the pronunciation of words using a simple set of symbols representing phonemes. It is a transcription usually found in the dictionary and used between slashes / prəˈpəuzl/

Phonetic Transcription

Phonetic transcription is a transcription with more details about the pronunciation of words, used between two square brakets. In this kind of transcription allophones are represented. For example, in the word [$\rho r \vartheta ' \rho^h \vartheta uz!$], [p^h] is **aspirated** and [!] is **syllabic**.

Definition of aspiration: Aspiration is when the production of p, t, k is followed by an audible plosion (burst of noise) in the post release phase, producing a sound like h.

[1] is syllabic because it forms a syllable without a yowel

[!] is syllabic because it forms a syllable without a vowel.

Examples of allophones

- **1. Plosives:** Fortis plosives p, t, k are aspirated when initial in a stressed syllable. party $/ \cdot \rho^h \alpha$: t $/ \cdot \rho^h \alpha$: table $/ \cdot \rho^h \alpha$: concert $/ \cdot \rho^h \alpha$: appear $/ \cdot \rho^h \alpha$:
- 2. The English lateral phoneme /l/, only one alveolar has three main allophones:

a. Clear [1], with a relatively front resonance before vowels and j

lead [l1:d]	follow / ˈfɔləu/	lose [lu:z]	sailor /ˈseɪlə/			
or when it is intervo	ocalic					
b. Dark [ł] with a	relatively back vo	wel resonance, fi	nal after a vowel (1),			
before a consonant	preceded by a vow	el (2) and as a syl	labic sound followed	by a		
consonant (3).						
1. feel, canal,pearl, c	all	2. help, salt, cold, milk, film elbow 3.				
apple, middle, eagle	, table,					
C. Voiceless [] the vaccented /p, k/	oiced phoneme /l	/ becomes voicele	ess when preceded by			
Place [pleis]	[kļa:s	1	[ˈpl̥eʒə]			
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Plosives

Exercise: Transcribe phonetically and phonemically the following words

Words	Phonemic	Phonetic transcription	Words	Phonemic transcription	Phonetic transcription
Pile	Thonemic	transcription	Question	transcription	transcription
Pearl			Keen		
Penalty			Queen		
Pursue			Knight		
Prepare			Knee		
Purchase			Kingdom		
pure			scape		
Council			Tension		
Kangaroo			Towards		
Kitten			Tyranny		
Kettle			Today		
Knowledg			tertiary		
e					
Ouestion					