

Study Guide for the Midterm

Ling 151, Fall 08; Grant McGuire and Abby Kaplan

A note on the IPA chart: You may use an IPA chart on the exam. It may not have any notes on it, i.e. it should be a plain, basic IPA chart. Know how to use it! For those that are either desperate or brave, you may opt NOT to use this crutch. I will reward such bravery with extra credit (about 5% of the grade).

Basics

- Sounds, not letters!!!
- Orthography vs. transcription—they are very different
- Be able to translate transcription into English orthography

Vocal Tract Issues

- Know your vocal tract
- Know the active and passive articulators
- Know your places of articulation

Stops and Phonation

- Know what a stop/plosive is and isn't
- VOT:
 - What is it?
 - How does English use it?
 - How do other languages use it? (Think Hindi...)
- What are:
 - modal voicing
 - breathy voicing
 - creaky voicing
 - voicelessness
- How does an ejective work?
- How about an implosive?

Other Manners

- How you make a nasal stop? A nasal fricative? A nasal vowel? (Yes, there's a pattern)
- Fricatives—what's up with them? Why are they rarer than stops and harder for kids to master?
- What's the difference between a trill and a stop?
- Approximants and semi-vowels:
 - Lateral—the name says it all
 - English “r”: how is it different from [r]?
 - What's a glide?

Clicks

- What is a click?
- How the heck do you make one?

Vowels

- Know your three dimension of vowel articulation:
 - Height
 - Backness
 - Rounding

Data Collection

- What is subglottal pressure? Why should you care and how would you find it?
- What is a palatogram? Linguogram?

Acoustics

- Basics
 - Wavelength
 - Frequency
 - Their relationships
- What's F0?
- What's a harmonic?
- If I give you an F0, then be able to give me a few harmonics of that wave, or if you get two adjacent harmonics, give me the F0. (i.e. how do you calculate a harmonic?)
- Source/Filter
 - In a normal vowel, what's the source of the sound?
 - What's the filter?
 - What's the filter filtering, i.e. how do harmonics fit in?
- Know the rough and not-to-be-entirely-trusted relationship between F1 v. F2 and height v. backness
- What's the deal with resonance?
 - Can you calculate the F1, F2, and F3 of a tube?
 - What happens to resonance of a tube as its length increases or decreases?
- So, then what's a formant?
- What is a spectrum? What is a spectrogram? What do they show and how are they different?