

Linguistics 288b: Introductory General Linguistics

Problem Set 2

Due March 23, 2006

Name: _____

Student number: _____

I worked with: _____

1. Phonetic transcription

a. Identify in conventional spelling five two-syllable English words containing the consonant [dʒ] and provide a phonetic transcription of each, indicating which of the two syllables is stressed.

Indicate stress by placing the acute accent mark (´) over the nucleus of the stressed syllable.

No two words can be morphologically related (i.e. they must be formed from different roots).

At least two of the words must begin with this consonant and at least two must end with it.

If you are not a native speaker of English, you should ask a native speaker to pronounce the words you have selected. Follow the example provided, but the example cannot be one of your words.

Example: judgement [dʒʌdʒmənt]

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

b. Identify in conventional spelling two words illustrating the consonant [θ] between vowels and two different words illustrating the consonant [ð] in a similar position. (The surrounding vowels do not have to be identical.)

Provide a phonetic transcription of each, indicating which syllable is stressed.

If you are not a native speaker of English, you should ask a native speaker to pronounce the words you have selected.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

2. Southern Kongo

In Southern Kongo, a Bantu language spoken in Angola, the alveolar segments [t, s, z] are in complementary distribution with their alveopalatal counterparts [tʃ, ʃ, ʒ], as shown in the following words:

tobola	‘to bore a hole’	tʃina	‘to cut’
tanu	‘five’	tʃiba	‘banana’
kesoka	‘to be cut’	ŋkoʃi	‘lion’
kasu	‘emancipation’	nselele	‘termite’
kunezulu	‘heaven’	azimola	‘alms’
nzwetu	‘our’	lolonzi	‘to wash house’
zevo	‘then’	zeŋga	‘to cut’
ʒima	‘to stretch’		

a. State in words the distribution of each pair of segments. (Assume that the nonoccurrence of [t] before [e] is an accidental gap.)

b. Using considerations of simplicity, which phone should be used as the basic phoneme for each pair of alveolar and alveopalatal segments in Southern Kongo? Explain your answer.

c. State in your own words the **one** phonological rule that will derive all the phonetic segments from the phonemes. Do not state a separate rule for each phoneme; a general rule can be stated that will apply to all three phonemes you listed in b. Give a formal statement of your rule using features.

3. Paku

The following words are Paku, a language spoken by the Pakuni in the NBC television series *Land of the Lost* (a language created by V. Fromkin). \acute{V} = a stressed vowel

ótu	‘evil’ N	mpósa	‘hairless’
túsa	‘evil’ Adj	ãmpo	‘hairless one’
etógo	‘cactus’ N, sg	ãmõni	‘hairless ones’
etogõni	‘cactus’ N, pl	ãmi	‘mother’
Páku	‘Paku’ N, sg	ãmĩni	‘mothers’
Pakũni	‘Paku’ N, pl	áda	‘father’
épo	‘hair’ N	adãni	‘fathers’

a. Is stress predictable? If so, what is the rule?

b. Is nasalization a distinctive feature for vowels? Give the reasons for your answer.
