Ling 30101: Phonological Analysis 1

Instructor: Alan C. L. Yu
205F Rosenwald
aclyu@uchicago.edu
Time/Place: MW 1:30 - 2:50/RO 208.
Class website: http://chalk.uchicago.edu
Office hours: By appointment only.

Description of the Course

This course introduces cross-linguistic phonological phenomena and methods of analysis through an indepth examination of fundamental notions that transcend differences between theoretical approaches: contrast, neutralization, natural classes, distinctive features, and basic non-linear phonological processes (e.g., assimilation, harmony, dissimilation)

Readings

Readings are available in electronic form (PDF) on the Chalk (http://chalk.uchicago.edu/).

Evaluation

Homeworks 15%
Reviews 30%
Final project 35%
Participation 20%

Reviews You will write four reviews of works concerning the phonetics-phonology interface; each review involves a one page (single space) summary, at least two pages of critical analysis, and it ends by finding a suitable follow-up article that will address the problem identified in your review. The reviews are due on Wednesdays of Weeks 3, 5, 7, and 9. The relevant readings are available on Chalk.

Final project Must consist of description and analysis of speech from a live, intact, adult, native speaker (of the language targeted). In other words, the speaker may not be a child, a speaker with articulatory or neurologically-based speech disorders (e.g., cleft palate, dysarthria), a non-native speaker, nor may the speech samples be obtained exclusively from recordings.

Your term paper should be an analysis of the sound system – phonemes and their contextual variation – of a language not previously studied by the student. Time permitting, additional aspects of the sound system may be included: phonotactics, prosody, morphophonemics. The term paper should be accompanied by audio recordings of the examples listed in the project report, in the order that the examples occur in the report. The recordings should be submitted in a zip file e-mailed to the instructor or shared via some online repository.

In addition to the final paper, you also need to turn in a précis on the Wednesday of Week 4. A précis of the term paper gives a condensed version of the term paper: the basic (tentative) findings without the supporting evidence. If the paper is a description of the sound system of language, it might consist of the segment inventory of the language (vowels and consonants). In the rare cases where your paper is an in-depth analysis of part of a language, it might consist of some representative instrumental data (e.g., spectrograms or pitch traces) or graphs of things that have been measured (e.g., vowel duration).

A document detailing the organization of the report as well as steps to prepare for it is available on Chalk under Course Materials.
Participation This includes attendance, preparedness (doing the readings before each lecture), and active participation in class discussion.

You will also give presentations based on your reviews (at least one, maybe two if time permits); approximately 20 minutes long. A presentation should include a summary of the paper and explore one or two unexplored problems you have found.

Schedule (Subject to change)

See the References section for bibliographic details of the readings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1.     | **Background: First phonological toolbox**  
Natural class, rule formulation, basic feature set  
*Required*: Odden 2005: Chapters 3, 4, 6  
| 2.     | **Allophonic relations**  
What is the unit of phonological analysis?  
| 3.     | **Contrasts**  
Contrast and neutralization.  
| 4.     | **Action at a distance**  
Transparency and opacity effects  
| 5.     | **Phonotactics and probabilistic phonology**  
What do people know about the distribution of sound sequences?  
| 6.     | **Phonological alternation**  
Underlying representation and allomorphy.  
*Required*: Odden 2005: Chs. 4 and 5; Kager 1996; Paster 2009. |
| 7.     | **Phonology-morphology interface I**  
Reduplication and infixation.  
| 8.     | **Phonology-morphology interface II**  
Derived environment effects; lexical exceptions.  
*Required*: Kiparsky 1993; Anttila 2009. |
| 9.     | **Phonology-morphology interface III**  
Lexical phonology and output-output effects.  
References


