

Lecture 1: Introduction

1. Types of phonological theory

TAXONOMIC-PHONEMIC

Jones, Pike; Bloch, Hockett, Gimson
c.1970

- classify utterance data
- assign allophones to phonemes
- minimal pairs are crucial
- morphological alternations largely ignored
- strictly language-specific
- relatively concrete
- segments 'monolithic'

GENERATIVIST (and subsequent)

Halle, Chomsky, all linguists since

- model the speaker's competence
- map underlying phonemes (etc.) onto segments by rule
- homophones may be underlyingly distinct
- morphological alternations furnish relevant evidence
- interest in universals
- may be very abstract
- feature-based

2. Phonology of the articles

Definite article: *the*

Strong form: usually **ði:**, sometimes **ðə**

Weak forms: **ðə** before a consonant

ði before a vowel

Note: **w, j, h** are phonologically consonants

Note also sometimes

ðə fɜ:st, ðə la:st

ði end, ði ʌðə, ði ənli

ðə weɪ, ðə jɑ:d, ðə hæp

ði ?end

ði: fɜ:st

Indefinite article: *a, an*

Both strong and weak forms are sensitive to the next segment.

Before a consonant **eɪ, ə**

ə bɔɪ, ə ɡɜ:l

Before a vowel **æn, ən**

ən eg, ən ɒks

Same behaviour of **w, j, h**

ə weɪ, ə jɑ:d, ə hæp

However

ən ?eg (not *ə ?eg)

Hard Attack (optional)

∅ → ? / # _ V

ði ?end, ən ?eg

Rule ordering: 1. articles; 2. hard attack.

to Strong form: usually **tu:**

Weak forms: **tə** before a consonant

tu before a vowel

But also

tə 'kʌm, tə 'gəʊ

tu 'eɪm, tu 'ɑ:sk, tu ə'ləʊ

tə 'eɪm, tə 'ɑ:sk, tə ?ə'ləʊ

Rule ordering: 1. articles; 2. hard attack; 3. weakening of *to*.