

Homework 1. Due September 13, 2007 at the beginning of class.

Part 1: Your background (1 point). Answer the following questions about yourself:

- a) Where did you grow up?
- b) What language(s) did you learn at home between birth and age 5?
- c) What language(s) have you learned since then, and in what context (school instruction, living in another linguistic community, etc.)?
- d) Have you studied linguistics or cognitive science previously? If so, list the relevant courses, books, etc.
- e) If there are any particular topics or questions that you'd like to learn about in this class, please indicate those as well.

Part 2: Linguistic observations (3 points). Over the next few days, make an effort to start paying more attention to the language you hear around you in your everyday life. Collect at least 6 examples of utterances that are either clearly ungrammatical (*), questionable (?), or grammatical in another dialect but not your own (%). For each example:

- Write down the utterance exactly as you heard it, and mark it with one of the diacritics above.
- Provide basic information about the context of the utterance (class lecture, informal conversation, business meeting, etc) and the speaker (sex, ethnicity, approximate age).
- Briefly explain, to the best of your ability, what exactly made the utterance less than grammatical. What might be the descriptive rule that was violated?

If you're not a native speaker of English, you can either (a) ask a native English speaker to confirm your judgments; or (b) collect data on your native language. If you go for option (b), please provide a word-by-word English translation for each example.

Part 3: Exercises

1. Pick any sentence from today's class handout that contains at least 5 words, and transcribe it on a separate piece of paper using the IPA. At the beginning of next week's class you'll write it on the board and the rest of the class will convert it back to English orthography. (1 point)
2. As you'll see in this week's readings, many prescriptive rules are based on **misconceptions** about language, which have at least two sources:
 - people lack the technical knowledge that is needed to identify and talk about the linguistic phenomena they are observing
 - people's perceptions of the language are influenced by their attitudes towards the speakers of that language, or towards the notion of language change itself

One stigmatized feature of certain dialects/styles of English is commonly referred to as 'g-dropping' in words like *making*, *liking*, etc., represented in the orthography by substituting an apostrophe for the 'g' (*makin'*, *likin'*). (a) Transcribe *making* and *makin'* in the IPA, and (b) explain what is actually involved in 'g-dropping' in terms of place and/or manner of articulation. (1 point)

3. Circle the consonant that doesn't belong, and identify the feature that distinguishes it (2 pts):
- a) m, w, p, z
 - b) p, s, k, t
 - c) t, s, f, z, n
 - d) d, z, v, θ
4. Compared to most other languages, **Hawaiian** has very few consonant phonemes – only 8.

<u>Consonants</u>	<u>Labial</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Stop</u>	p		k	ʔ
<u>Fricative</u>				h
<u>Nasal</u>	m	n		
<u>Lateral</u>		l		
<u>Approximant</u>	w			

When two languages come into contact, they often adopt words from each other; such words are called **loanwords** (although, as Aitchison points out, the borrowing metaphor isn't really appropriate here because linguistic borrowing is usually permanent). Relatively recent borrowings into English include *spaghetti, fajitas, sushi, garage, rottweiler, bazaar, Michigan, ginseng...* In all of these cases, the usual (unpretentious!) English pronunciation is different from the pronunciation in the source language in at least some respects. This is because part of the borrowing process involves **altering the word to fit the phonology of the borrowing language**. Consider the following loanwords from English into Hawaiian, and answer the following questions (2 pts):

Source (English) word	Hawaiian word
diamond	kaimana
ticket	kikiki
diphtheria	kipikelia
soap	kopa
brush	palaki
zodiac	kokiaka
pitcher	pika
croquet	koloke
Gilbert	Kilipaki
Peter	pika
king	kin

- a. What English consonants does the Hawaiian /k/ correspond to?
- b. What other consonant substitutions do you see in the data? Are the consonants substituted randomly, or is there a reason why one particular Hawaiian consonant is chosen? (try to explain this in terms of place/manner of articulation)