



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2019/2020

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION AND BACHELOR OF ARTS

AEN 200: INTRODUCTION TO PHONETICS & PHONOLOGY

DATE: Friday, 13th December 2019

TIME: 8.00a.m-10.00p.m

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer question 1 and any other two

1) Use the data below drawn from hypothetical language X to answer the questions that follow:

2)

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|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) [gutaka] "to scream" | b) [kipik] "to run" |
| c) [eβende] "bone" | d) [lapá] "courtyard" |
| e) [leket] "mountain" | f) [rerútá] "we teach" |
| g) [á rúte] "he should praise" | h) [amaka] "bird" |
| i) [amakog] "line" | j) [amarok] "fly" |
| k) [bóna] "to see" | l) [guta:ka] "to decorate" |
| m) [kipig] "horse" | n) [lapa] "become tired" |
| o) [eyende] let it go | p) [réru'tá] "while we teach" |
| q) [monem] "angel" | r) [a rúte] "he praises habitually" |
| r) [boná] "they" | s) [kipit] "hole" |
| t) [adua] "village" | u) [adie] "spinister" |

- (a) Identify at least ten minimal pairs in the data set above (10marks)
- (b) Highlight the phonemes in the minimal pairs you have identified in (a) above (5marks)
- (c) In addition to minimal pair tests, linguistics also use complementary distribution and free variation to identify phonemes in a language. Citing examples to illustrate your answers, describe what you understand by free variation and complementary distribution (6 marks)
- (d) Based on the parameters of consonant and vowel production explain how the following are produced: (9 marks)
- (i) Consonants-/s/
- (ii) Approximants-/j/

2.(a) Briefly explain the difference between phones, phonemes and allophones and give an example of each (6marks)

(b) Describe the following sounds according to the specifications given (10marks)

- (i) [e] Horizontal and vertical position of the tongue
- (ii) [p'] Place of articulation and airstream mechanism
- (iii) [r] Stricture type
- (iv) [n] State of the glottis
- (v) [e] Shape of the lips
- (vi) (b) manner of articulation and phonation
- (vii) [w] Place of articulation

(c) Draw the syllable structure of the following words (4marks)

- (i) I
- (ii) Fire

3. (a) Explain the difference between broad and narrow transcription and give an example of each to illustrate your answers. (8marks)

(b) With the aid of examples from any language explain the major differences between vowels and consonants (8 marks)

(c) Briefly discuss any two types of airstream mechanisms involved in the production of sounds in the human vocal tract. (4marks)

4. Describe any 5 secondary articulation processes that may be found in world languages. Give examples from any language, other than English. To illustrate your answer. (20marks)

5. (a) Describe the following vowels based on four parameters of vowel production/description (10mark)

- (i) /u:/
- (ii) /ʌ/
- (iii) /I/
- (iv) /o/
- (v) /ae/

(b) Explain the role of the following articulators

(i) Speech production

(ii) Glottis

(iii) Velum