



SPAU 133

Lecture 11- Phonology

What is phonology?

- Is the study of how sounds are organized within a language and how they interact with each other.

- Phonetic inventory is the sounds produced as part of a certain language.
- Even if some languages have similar phonetic inventories, they still “sound different”.



- This is because of different rules governing which sound sequences are possible in a language and which sequences are not.

Phonotactic Constraints

- The restriction on possible sound combinations.

Phontactic Constraints in English

(2)	V	<i>a</i>	CV	<i>no</i>	CCV	<i>flew</i>	CCCV	<i>spree</i>
	VC	<i>at</i>	CVC	<i>not</i>	CCVC	<i>flute</i>	CCCVC	<i>spleen</i>
	VCC	<i>ask</i>	CVCC	<i>ramp</i>	CCVCC	<i>flutes</i>	CCCVCC	<i>strength</i>
	VCCC	<i>asked</i>	CVCCC	<i>ramps</i>	CCVCCC	<i>crafts</i>	CCCVCCC	<i>strengths</i>

(3)

Hawaiian	Indonesian	Hebrew
CV	CV	CV
V	V	CCV
	VC	CCVC
	CVC	CVC
		CVCC

What are minimal pairs?

- /bɒks/ - /fɒks/
- /pæt/ - /ræt/
- /sʌr/ - /nʌr/
- /mæt/ - /bæt/

English

- Written
- /rɪtn/
- /rɪʔn/

Arabic

- /kæɪ/
- /ʔæɪ/

- Sometimes the difference in one sound (in the minimal pair) reflects a difference in the meaning of a word.
- Other times, It only reflects two different representations of the same sound.
- If there is a difference in the meaning the the two sounds are two different phonemes.
- If the different sounds only represent different variations of the same sound, then we call them allophones.