

MIKE DAVENPORT AND S.J. HANNAHS

INTRODUCING PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY

Fourth Edition

Introducing Phonetics and Phonology

'Davenport and Hannahs' introductory textbook achieves the impossible. In straightforward, accessible language it covers the full range of basic topics that inform modern phonological investigation, from the phonetic properties of speech sounds that are the basis for most feature systems to syllable structure and prosodic morphology. The fundamentals of phonemic analysis are clearly laid out, and different current theoretical approaches are both motivated and critiqued, giving beginning students a thought-provoking taste of the issues that drive modern research in phonology'.

Laura J. Downing, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

Intended for the absolute beginner, *Introducing Phonetics and Phonology* requires no previous background in linguistics, phonetics or phonology. Starting with a grounding in phonetics and phonological theory, the book provides a base from which more advanced treatments may be approached.

It begins with an examination of the foundations of articulatory and acoustic phonetics, moves on to the basic principles of phonology and ends with an outline of some further issues within contemporary phonology. Varieties of English, particularly Received Pronunciation and General American, form the focus of consideration, but aspects of the phonetics and phonology of other languages are discussed as well. This new edition includes revised exercises and examples; additional coverage of typology, autosegmental phonology and articulatory and acoustic phonetics; broader coverage of varieties that now features Australian English; and an extended Chapter 7 that includes more information on the relationship between phonetics and phonology.

Introducing Phonetics and Phonology, 4th Edition remains the essential introduction for any students studying this topic for the first time.

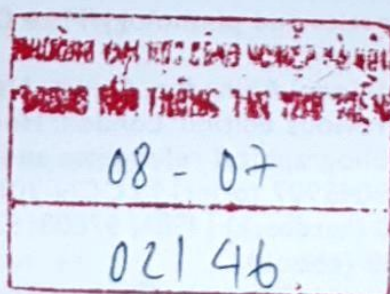
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Introducing Phonetics and Phonology

4th Edition

Mike Davenport and S.J. Hannahs



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Preface to the fourth edition

While this new edition has been updated in the light of recent theoretical research, particularly in the later chapters, it remains what we originally set out to write: an introduction to phonetics and phonology for students with no background in phonetics, phonology or linguistics in general. And we're pleased that it continues to be useful for such students, despite the technical nature of the field.

Over the years since the publication of the last edition we have continued to benefit from the comments of students and colleagues who have used the textbook, including Danielle Turton, Míša Hejná, Twana Hamid, Zana Abdulkareem, Adeline Charlton, Becky Musa, Tamader Hwaidi and numerous others. To them and to the generations of undergraduate students, thanks.

Mike Davenport & S.J. Hannahs
Durham, January 2020

Introduction

This book is about the sounds we use when we speak (as opposed to the sounds we make when we're doing other things). It's also about the various kinds of relationships that exist between the sounds we use. That is, it's about 'phonetics' – the physical description of the actual sounds used in human languages – and it's about 'phonology' – the way the sounds we use are organised into patterns and systems. As speakers of a particular language (English, say, or Hindi or Gaelic or Mohawk) we obviously 'know' about the *phonetics* and *phonology* of our language, since we use our language all the time, and unless we are tired or not concentrating (or drunk), we do so without making errors. Furthermore, we always recognise when someone else (for example a non-native speaker) pronounces something incorrectly. But, equally obviously, this knowledge is not something we are conscious of; we can't usually express the knowledge we have of our language. One of the aims of this book is to examine some ways in which we can begin to express what native speakers know about the sound system of their language.

1.1 Phonetics and phonology

Ask most speakers of English how many vowel sounds the language has, and what answer will you get? Typically, unless the person asked has taken a course in phonetics and phonology, the answer will be something like 'five: A, E, I, O and U'. With a little thought, however, it's easy to see that this can't be right. Consider the words 'hat', 'hate' and 'hart'; each of these is distinguished from the others in terms of the vowel sound between the 'h' and 't', yet each involves the vowel letter 'a'. When people answer that English has five vowels, they are thinking of English *spelling*, not the actual *sounds* of English. In fact, as we will see in Chapter 4, most kinds of English have between 16 and 20 different vowel sounds, but most speakers are completely unaware of this, despite constantly using them.

In a similar vein, consider the words 'tuck', 'stuck', 'cut' and 'duck'. The first three words each contain a sound represented in the spelling by the letter 't', and most speakers of English would say that this 't' sound is the same in each of these words. The last word begins with a 'd' sound, and in this case speakers would say that this was a quite different sound to the 't' sounds.