

Linguistic Anthropology Assignment

Part One: Phonemes and the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)

Phonemes are speech sounds that are joined together to create words. The International Phonetic Alphabet uses symbols to indicate the actual pronunciation of words in different languages and dialects. According to most sources, there are 42-44 phonemes in the English language, some of which are not used in every dialect. In this assignment, the 20 first words from the first complete paragraph on page 79 of the textbook have been transcribed using IPA and General American pronunciation.

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naʊ ðæt ðə spɛktækjʊləɹi ɑːrdi spɛsəmən hæz bɪn səfɪjəntli ɛnələɪzɪt baɪ ðə tɪm
 hudɪskʌvəɪd həɪ, pɛɪlɪʌt-ɛnθrɒpələdʒɪst dəbeɪt həɪ ɛgzɛəkt

Part Two: Morphemes

Morphemes are units of meaning in a language. The phonemes discussed above usually do not have meaning in themselves; they must be combined to form meaningful groups of sounds. Morphemes are sometimes confused with words or syllables, but they are different from both. A morpheme may be a whole word or a word may contain several morphemes (such as "paleontologists" below). Morphemes may be bound or free. A free morpheme can exist and have a similar meaning all by itself, while a bound morpheme cannot exist or have a related meaning by itself. The first 40 words of the first complete paragraph on page 79 have been marked according to the bound and free morphemes.

Now that the spectacular Ardi specimen has been sufficiently analyzed by the team who discovered her, paleoanthropologists debate her exact place on the human line. Because the other African apes share a body plan similar to one another, many paleoanthropologists