

Russian 607

Prep for Quiz 14.2.02: *Fundamentals of Language*

1. Give some examples of redundant features.
2. What's the difference between configurational features and distinctive features?
3. What's the difference between *letters* and *phonemes*?
4. Discuss the prosodic features of tone, stress, length.
5. Give the key acoustic and motor or articulatory definitions:
  - a. vocalic – non-vocalic
  - b. consonantal – non-consonantal
  - c. compact – diffuse
  - d. grave - acute

How are vowels, consonants, liquids and glides then defined?

The optimal C is diffuse, lax, and voiceless. What is this?

Compact C's are diverted from the optimal diffuse, hence are marked. What are the compact C's?

Nasality from the C closer to the V. In vowels, it damps the vowel, deflects the formants, and diverts from the optimal V.

Constrictives (fricatives: s z x f v sh zh) have more energy, thus they attenuate consonantal low energy. Liquids (r l) have the formant structure of a V, but the low energy of a consonant.

Strident consonants are maximally non-vocalic as they have no formant structure (cf. s in the spectrogram).

The emancipation of *discontinuous* (stops) and *strident* (fricatives) implies the presence of liquids, with + V, + C.

The strident stops (ch dzh ts) attenuate the consonantal low energy.

*Strident – mellow* attenuates non-vocalic (mellow th has a sort of formant structure).

Thus the interchange of liquids and affricates in Manchu-Tungus.

6. Compare protensity and voicing in consonants.
7. Discuss the French consonantal system.
8. Compare the two French restaurants Crepe Nanou and Café Degas.

E.g. if + compact, it is velar if a stop, palatal if nasal, and post-alveolar if fricative.  
If – compact, gravity needed.

9. Explain the hierarchy chart on p. 41. (!!)

10. What features distinguish velar, palatal, dental, labial?

11. What's the difference between sonority and tonality features?

12. What seem to be the features chosen by most languages?

13. For Russianists: discuss palatalization in some detail. What are the palatalized consonants in Russian? Which fricatives and affricates are palatalized? What role do the velars play? What are the characteristics of *sharp – plain*?

14. What is *flat*?

15. Discuss similarity disorder and contiguity disorder.

16. Give examples of metonymy in verbal and visual art.

17. Which aphasia is it: a) can't name things b) says 'table' for 'lamp', 'dead' for 'black'  
c) if you point to an object, the name is erased d) telegraph style e) can say *café* but not  
the nonsense word *feka* f) Ronald Reagan's 'trees' for 'books'

18. Nym or phor: a) hut...is a poor little house b) hut...burnt out c) hut...palace d)  
hut...poverty e) filmic lap dissolve f) close up g) Freud's displacement and condensation  
h) Freud's identification and symbolism

19. Poetry focuses on the \_\_\_\_, while prose focuses on the \_\_\_\_.

20. Assign gravity: ü i o u ä e t c k č j p.

21. Play association and assign nym – phor.

- a. father
- b. bedtime
- c. Zulu
- d. President Cowen
- e. Mother Teresa
- f. Walter Cronkite
- g. chicken
- h. happiness
- i. love

