

French Phonemic Pattern

an early version of the theory

complex = both + and – (so liquids are + and - in respect to voc/con); these features are later split into two independent features

saturated means compact

Unity of compact consonants. Velar if stop (k, g), palatal if nasal (n as in onion), alveolar-palatal if fricative (š ž).

The French mid vowels are compact and diffuse together: o, e, tense and lax, while a is compact.

tense – lax. the long are tense, the short are lax. Diffuse vowels i u, ü tense vs. the lax j w and (upside down h – a glidal ü as in *huit*). Vowels present tense – lax only in certain positions. In word final, only minus grave have this: a, e, i.

abrupt vs. continuous: these latter are fricatives if not liquids.

Zero phoneme. may be # or shwa. no distinctive features and no pronunciation, if #, shwa is opposed to #. In initial position this is “h aspirated”, The vocalic version is “e caduc”, which is alternation of presence and absence of the shwa.

Rules.

1. tense/lax incompatible with nasal. That is, nasal vowels may be trivially tense, but this is not implemented. If oral, then tense-lax has to be specified.
2. abrupt: not with nasal, and implies consonantal
3. diffuse and grave/acute imply each other (that is, have to be specified). Pure compactness (not double feature) excludes gravity. That is the velar compact are naturally grave, the palatal, naturally acute, and this is not specified.
4. vocalic-cons implies abrupt only (that is, only r is abrupt, l continuous)
5. nasal/ oral and voc/ con imply each other.
6. Double features only if + voc. (vowels and liquids).

See fig 1, p. 432.

For the features, see fig 2 and 3.

A total of six features are need for the whole set.

Xerox pp. 432-433 and 434.