

Fundamentals of Language  
notes (2002 reprint)  
see separate handout for phonetic symbols

5) note remark at bottom and top 6.

13) grave consonants are labials (p b m f v etc) and velars (kg x etc). This is a pitch opposition with acute. Grave – low, acute high. Grave vowels are back or rounded, acute vowels are front. i and e are acute, u and o are grave. Russ **ы** is grave.

16) note distinction explicit and slurred speech. intervocalic American /t/ and /d/ are both a dental flap

19) motor – how the sound is produced by the speech organs; acoustic – the physical pattern produced by the sound wave – auditory – perception in the wide sense, what is heard

20) redundant features. English *pens* has a long nasal, *pence* a short nasal; they help to identify the following cons. Fr *bis*, *pisse*

lenis – b, d, g series, fortis – p, t, k series

French has tense-lax, Russ, voiceless-voiced

whisper in Russian and tense-lax takes over; try it

21) **пылил, палил, пулял** are the words here. See symbol table. This first vowel in the first example is an unrounded high mid or back vowel, often transcribed [y]

narrow – or closed or high

wide – or open or low

stress mark in Russ notes place of dynamic stress

**кругом пылил, из помпы лил**

the ‘clearer’ y in the second word above is a configurative feature: no word boundary follows

velar quality of y signals plain p preceding; redundant feature (velar is back, soft palate, back of mouth)

lengthened vowel signals emotion

22) distinctive features have no content meaning; they signal otherness

23) search for invariance in variation

25) cf. *ping* and *pong* and their associative nuances, as worked up by Fred Koenig of Tulane.

palatal vowels -- low or open, a-like

26) compact – relative concentration of energy in center of spectrum, diffuse – spread of energy. compact vowels are a, etc; e is in the middle

how do you like these chickens

*signans* ~ *signatum*. The manifestation of the sign, its outer appearance, and its meaning. The basic Jakobsonian dichotomy.

27) writing is a late, cultural, parasitic ability. Graphic signs stand for phonemes or allophones or random culturally conditioned combinations thereof, phonemes are bundles of distinctive features.

28) cf. music and notes

29) **донос, да нос, погорели, по горе ли**

the second word has a schwa; the fourth has a higher variant of e than the sixth

**30) ехида, их Ида**

the first word has a palatized velar fricative, the second, non-palatalized, and the vowel in the third word is Russian **ы**. Like **Иван и Мария**.