

Russian 607
Feature Quiz
Feb 9, 2007

I. Brief answers and identifications.

Please identify the groups of phonemes defined by the following feature bundles. Give a general name, if there is one, and then some possible examples. E.g.

- voc, + cons + compact - grave

Palatoalveolar consonants. *ʃ ʧ ʒ tʃ*

1. + voc + cons
2. + voc – cons – compact - grave
3. – voc + cons – compact + grave + voice
4. – voc + cons – compact
5. – voc + cons + compact + grave + nasal
6. – voc + cons – compact – grave – voice + abrupt – palatalized + strident

II. Short Essay Answer. 7. You notice that the features are introduced in a hierarchical order; the same four features appear first and in the same order (I have omitted *nasal* above which is of course an early feature too.). Talk about the hierarchy of feature development in child language. What do the features mean and how are they implemented in Jakobson's theory?

III. Short Essay Choice. Answer any one of the following, briefly.

8. Why is *s* the first fricative?
9. How does Jakobson apply the polar axes of selection and combination to literature and art?
10. In broad outline, what is Jakobson's theory about aphasia?

Russian 607
Quiz: *Fundamentals of Language*
Feb 9, 2007

Please answer question (1) and then any three others. Spend about 10-15 minutes on each. If you are a Russianist, consider answering (4); you will receive extra credit if your answer is very good (you are not obliged to answer (4) in any case.).

1. 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?

2. Compact C's are diverted from the optimal diffuse, hence are marked. What are the compact C's? Diffuse V's are diverted from the optimal compact, hence they are also marked. What are some diffuse V's?

Why is it that the development of the diffuse V precedes the development of the compact C in the child?

3. Comment on the photocopied remarks by Jakobson on C ~ V. Note that the acoustic definition of C in *Fundamentals* seems different here. How?

How does this argument support the primacy of nasality and tonality in C's over V development in child language? Do you yourself agree with these remarks?

4. 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*? What is the difference between *palatal* and *palatalized*?

5. Discuss: “Poetry projects the principle of equivalence from the axis of selection to the axis of combination.”

6. Discuss similarity disorder and contiguity disorder. Then please give examples of metonymy in verbal and visual art.

7. Discuss *stridency* and how it may be implemented in a language with strident stops and mellow fricatives.

-- Thank you for your patience with this material!! — GMC

