LING390

Current Issues in Phonology

S2 Day 2019

Dept of Linguistics

Contents

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
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Credit points
3

Prerequisites
39cp at 100 level or above including LING217

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
Phonology is the study of sound patterns in language – which sounds are used by different languages, how they are organized, and how sounds are represented in the mind. In this unit we will examine phonological theory, phonological organisation of speech, acquisition of phonology and issues relevant to phonological disorders. Topics to be addressed include: variation in sound structure between languages (e.g., English and Indigenous Australian languages), the phonology of tone languages (such as Chinese), sound change, and prosody (stress and rhythm in language).

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Communicate an understanding of fundamental phonological concepts including feature, phoneme, syllable, gesture, rule, constraint, underlying representation and surface form
Explain and illustrate phonological processes, and their role in shaping language sounds
Analyse the phonological structure of a language from example data
Describe major trends in the history of phonological theory, including feature theory, generative phonology, articulatory phonology, feature geometry, and optimality theory
Analyse phonological phenomena, and explain how they can be described under different phonological frameworks

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Problem Set One	25%	No	Week 7
Problem Set Two	25%	No	Week 12
Quizzes	10%	No	Weeks 3, 5, 8, 10, 13
Final Exam	40%	No	Exam Period

Problem Set One

Due: **Week 7**
Weighting: **25%**

In a series of short answer responses, students will account for phonological phenomena in the dataset(s) provided. Problem Set One will assess the topics Features and Natural classes (weeks 2 and 3), Rules (weeks 4 and 5). The assessment will provide an opportunity to demonstrate insights into the sound structure of the language(s) being analysed, an understanding of phonological theory, and its application to the data.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Communicate an understanding of fundamental phonological concepts including feature, phoneme, syllable, gesture, rule, constraint, underlying representation and surface form
- Explain and illustrate phonological processes, and their role in shaping language sounds
- Analyse the phonological structure of a language from example data
- Analyse phonological phenomena, and explain how they can be described under different phonological frameworks

Problem Set Two

Due: **Week 12**
Weighting: **25%**

In a series of short answer responses, students will account for phonological phenomena in the dataset(s) provided. Problem Set Two will assess the topics Morphophonology and Rule Ordering (weeks 6 and 7) and Syllable, Prosody, and Stress (weeks 8 and 9). The assessment will provide an opportunity to demonstrate insights into the sound structure of the language(s) being analysed, an understanding of phonological theory, and its application to the data.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Communicate an understanding of fundamental phonological concepts including feature, phoneme, syllable, gesture, rule, constraint, underlying representation and surface form
- Explain and illustrate phonological processes, and their role in shaping language sounds
- Analyse the phonological structure of a language from example data
- Analyse phonological phenomena, and explain how they can be described under different phonological frameworks

Quizzes

Due: **Weeks 3, 5, 8, 10, 13**
Weighting: **10%**

In a total of 5 roughly fortnightly quizzes students will demonstrate their understanding of the prescribed reading material for each topic. Each quiz will comprise ten questions and will be automatically graded in iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Communicate an understanding of fundamental phonological concepts including feature, phoneme, syllable, gesture, rule, constraint, underlying representation and surface form
- Explain and illustrate phonological processes, and their role in shaping language sounds

Final Exam

Due: **Exam Period**
Weighting: **40%**

In a series of short answers and extended responses, students will demonstrate all aspects of their understanding of phonological concepts, analysis, historical developments, and theory.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Communicate an understanding of fundamental phonological concepts including feature,

phoneme, syllable, gesture, rule, constraint, underlying representation and surface form
- Explain and illustrate phonological processes, and their role in shaping language sounds
- Analyse the phonological structure of a language from example data
- Describe major trends in the history of phonological theory, including feature theory, generative phonology, articulatory phonology, feature geometry, and optimality theory
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Delivery and Resources

This unit is taught over 13 weeks. After a general introduction in week 1, topics are divided in five two-week blocks. Week one of each block presents the phonological concepts and theoretical background. Week two presents a rehearsal and further application of the theory/topic. The final two weeks are dedicated to child phonology, to illustrate the relevance and interrelation of all learned topics in early child development, and further practice phonological analysis skills on child language data.

Each week, students will attend both a lecture and a tutorial/workshop. Before attending each lecture, students will have read the set readings. After attending the lecture and before the tutorial, they revisit the set readings and prepare the solutions to the weekly assignments. They bring a copy to the workshop in order to discuss the solutions.

A proper understanding of phonology can only be gained by broad and attentive reading of the literature, and dedicated thinking about how these ideas apply to language data. *You will not be able to pass this unit by simply scanning the lecture notes each week.* If you read continuously, compile your own notes, take a thorough attempt at the weekly assignments, ask questions about the theory, and think about language structure, you should do well in this unit, and find it rewarding and relevant to your further studies and careers. If you do not prepare adequately for class and fail to take responsibility for your own learning, you will struggle.

We strongly encourage note-taking with pen-and blank paper rather than on laptops or other electronic devices. Pen-and-paper note taking facilitates the non-linear thinking strategies required for phonological analysis.

Lectures

Lectures are designed to summarize and reinforce the key ideas that you have already encountered in your own reading of the literature, not to introduce you to material for the first time.

Tutorials

The weekly tutorial assignment invite you to apply the learned phonological concepts to real language data or formulate your own stance regarding a theoretical issue. Students will be invited to share their solutions during the tutorial. **Preparation of the tutorial assignments constitutes exam preparation; the discussion of the assignments during the tutorials constitutes feedback on your current understanding and analysis skills.**

The tutorial/workshop sessions are designed to further consolidate the phonological concepts, discuss and further illustrate the application to real language data. Attendance at and participation in tutorials will contribute to learning how to communicate, explain, and illustrate phonological concepts and processes (learning outcomes 1 and 2). Tutorials will provide extensive practice in analysing phonological data and explaining them under different phonological frameworks (learning outcomes 4 and 5).

Tutorial Attendance

Attendance at and participation in tutorials is expected and class rolls will be taken. No recordings will be available for the interactive and problem-based weekly tutorial classes. **Students are, therefore, strongly encouraged to attend all tutorials during semester.**

Workload

3 credit points, amounting to 10 hours per week or 135 hours in total.

26 hours lectures	13 lectures; 2 hours per week
19.5 hours workshops/labs/tutorials	13 tutorials; 1.5 hours per week
50 hours assessment tasks	4 assessment tasks; 10-15 hours each
39 hours class preparation	3 hours, for example 1.5 hours reading lecture materials 1.5 hour preparing tutorial assignment

Extension Requests and Lateness Policy

Late submissions without an extension will receive a penalty of 3% of the total mark available for the assessment task per day including weekend days (i.e. this is 3% of the total marks possible for the task – NOT 3% of the marks the student received. For example, if the assessment task is worth 100 marks and the student is two days late their mark for the task is reduced by 6 marks.) Late submission of an assessment task without an extension will not be accepted at all after the date on which marked assessment tasks have been released to the rest of the class. Any

student with unsubmitted work at this date will receive a mark of 0 for the assessment task. Extensions will only be given in special circumstances, and can be requested by completing the Special Consideration request at ask.mq.edu.au and providing the requisite supporting documentation. Extensions that will result in submissions after the assessment task has been returned to the class will require a separate assessment task to be completed at the unit convenor's discretion. For more information on Special Consideration, see the university website https://students.mq.edu.au/study/my-study-program/special-consideration\ If a student fails the unit due to non-submission of an assignment or non-attendance at an exam, an FA grade will be applied in accordance with the University's Assessment Policy.

Required and recommended texts and/or materials

The required text for this unit is:

- Hayes (1999). *Introductory Phonology*. Oxford, UK: Wiley-Blackwell.

Secondary (recommended) texts are:

- Kennedy (2016) *Phonology: A Coursebook*. Cambridge University Press.
- Gussenhoven & Jacobs (1999) *Understanding Phonology (3rd ed)*. UK: Hodder Education.
- Kager (1999) *Optimality Theory*. Utrecht, The Netherlands: Cambridge University Press.

See the unit website for details of other required readings and assessment exercises.

Technologies used and required

Word processing and conversion to pdf file format is needed for completing both Problem Sets One and Two; internet access is needed for downloading lecture and tutorial materials and for uploading assignments.

No other technologies.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- Academic Appeals Policy
- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Progression Policy
- Assessment Policy

- Fitness to Practice Procedure
- Grade Appeal Policy
- Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public
- Special Consideration Policy *(**Note:** The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.)*

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the Student Policy Gateway (https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/student-conduct

Results

Results published on platform other than eStudent, (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Communicate an understanding of fundamental phonological concepts including feature, phoneme, syllable, gesture, rule, constraint, underlying representation and surface form
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- Analyse phonological phenomena, and explain how they can be described under different phonological frameworks

Assessment tasks

- Problem Set One
- Problem Set Two
- Quizzes
- Final Exam

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and

systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Analyse the phonological structure of a language from example data
- Describe major trends in the history of phonological theory, including feature theory, generative phonology, articulatory phonology, feature geometry, and optimality theory
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Assessment tasks

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Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Analyse the phonological structure of a language from example data
- Analyse phonological phenomena, and explain how they can be described under different phonological frameworks

Assessment tasks

- Problem Set One
- Problem Set Two
- Final Exam