

## Phonemics Practice

Sayers, LIN 3201

**Angas:** Consider the phonemic status of the nasal sounds in Angas.  
How many nasal phonemes are there in this data?

- |    |         |                   |    |          |           |
|----|---------|-------------------|----|----------|-----------|
| 1. | [mut]   | to die            | 2. | [tam]    | bench     |
| 3. | [fwan]  | to rain           | 4. | [dondon] | yesterday |
| 5. | [nemje] | (name of village) | 6. | [ndarm]  | bark      |

## Kongo

For this next problem, coronal obstruents = sounds in the center of the mouth (alveolar, alveopalatal) that obstruct air (stops, fricatives, affricates).

Consider the voiceless alveolar stop, the voiced and voiceless alveolar fricatives, the voiceless alveopalatal affricate and the voiceless alveopalatal fricatives.

**Kongo:** Consider the phonemic status of the coronal obstruents in Kongo.  
How many phonemic distinctions are there? Which sounds are allophones of the same phoneme? How does this illustrate structural symmetry?

- |    |          |                |     |            |           |
|----|----------|----------------|-----|------------|-----------|
| 1. | [tobola] | to bore a hole | 8.  | [nselele]  | termite   |
| 2. | [tʃina]  | to cut         | 9.  | [lolonʒi]  | to wash   |
| 3. | [kesoka] | to be cut      | 10. | [zevo]     | then      |
| 4. | [nkoʃi]  | lion           | 11. | [aʒimola]  | alms      |
| 5. | [zenga]  | to cut         | 12. | [nzwetu]   | our house |
| 6. | [ʒima]   | to stretch     | 13. | [kunezulu] | to heaven |
| 7. | [kasu]   | emaciation     | 14. | [tanu]     | five      |

## French

Which vowels belong to different phonemes? How many vowel phonemes do you have? What phonetic characteristics are used distinctively in the French vowel system?

- |    |       |          |    |       |        |
|----|-------|----------|----|-------|--------|
| 1. | [vo]  | veal     | 2. | [vø]  | wishes |
| 3. | [vu]  | you (pl) | 4. | [vy]  | seen   |
| 5. | [li]  | bed      | 6. | [ly]  | read   |
| 7. | [ble] | wheat    | 8. | [blø] | blue   |

**Ganda:** Consider [l,r] in Ganda. Is the distinction between them phonemic?

- |    |             |                |     |             |              |
|----|-------------|----------------|-----|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | [kɔla]      | do             | 10. | [wulira]    | hear         |
| 2. | [lwana]     | fight          | 11. | [beera]     | help         |
| 3. | [buulira]   | tell           | 12. | [lya]       | eat          |
| 4. | [eryato]    | canoe          | 13. | [luula]     | sit          |
| 5. | [omuliro]   | fire           | 14. | [omugole]   | bride        |
| 6. | [effirimbi] | whistle        | 15. | [lumonde]   | sweet potato |
| 7. | [emmeeri]   | ship           | 16. | [eddwaliro] | hospital     |
| 8. | [eraddu]    | lightning      | 17. | [wawaabira] | accuse       |
| 9. | [oluganda]  | Ganda language | 18. | [olulimi]   | tongue       |

Consider the loanwords from English. How can you account for the treatments of [r] and [l]?

- |     |          |         |     |         |       |
|-----|----------|---------|-----|---------|-------|
| 19. | [leerwe] | railway | 20. | [luula] | ruler |
|-----|----------|---------|-----|---------|-------|