

Phonology

This practical and accessibly written textbook provides a thoughtfully ordered introduction to a wide range of phonological phenomena. It contains many exercises combining classic data sets with newly compiled problems. These help the student learn to discover sound patterns nested in complex linguistic data, beginning with concrete introductory examples and stepping through a series of progressively more complex phonological phenomena. It covers alternation, vowel harmony, phonemic analysis, natural classes and distinctive features, abstractness and opacity, syllable structure, tone, stress, prosodic morphology, feature geometry, and Optimality Theory. Essential reading for students of linguistics around the world.

- Begins with familiar and concrete patterns to aid student understanding.
- All data are translated into IPA, allowing students to observe trends across languages.
- Ideas are organized thematically by phenomena, allowing students to gain a wider understanding of what phonology encompasses.

ROBERT KENNEDY has taught phonology, phonetics, linguistic analysis, and dialects of English for over fifteen years. As a specialist in reduplicative phonology and morphology, accent portrayal, nickname formation, and the linguistics of team sports, he has published in *Phonology*, *American Speech*, and *Linguistic Inquiry*. He is also a widely sought media presence, cited in the *Boston Globe*, *New York Times*, *Baltimore Sun*, *Chicago Tribune*, *USA Today*, and on *BBC Sportshour*. A two-time *Jeopardy!* champion and prolific internet humorist (through his page, *lolPhonology*), he is always interested in new ways to make linguistics engaging and accessible to a broad audience.

Phonology: A Coursebook

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PREFACE

This textbook is an introduction to the basic methodology of phonological analysis, covering segmental alternations, phonemic analysis, features and natural classes, and suprasegmental concepts such as syllables, stress, and tone. It also includes multiple perspectives on phonological representation, including distinctive feature theory, serial rule ordering, feature geometry, and optimality theory.

The aim of this book is to make a number of abstract concepts concrete: the reader first encounters phonemes and underlying representations in readily observable patterns of alternation, and the concept then expands to include scenarios of allophony, and later to elements beyond the segment. The exposition is data-driven, which illustrates how the many tools of phonological analysis are motivated in real language phenomena, and is organized topically by types of phonological processes. It combines data from the canon of traditional phonological problem sets with other data sets which help underscore many of the same pedagogical points, and with refreshing new typological spread.

Beginning and intermediate students may both benefit from this textbook – beginners are taken on a thoughtfully ordered journey through a range of examples of phonological patterns, while intermediate students have the opportunity to learn new links among the data and theories they have encountered in their study of phonology.

This book can be used as the primary source for an introductory undergraduate or graduate course on phonology, and can also supplement other materials at the instructor's choosing. It is written so that each chapter leads students through example analyses, with problems divided into smaller, manageable chunks, interspersed with clarifying exposition. In addition, since each chapter is largely self-contained, instructors who prefer to order phonemic analysis (Chapter 5) or feature theory (Chapter 6) ahead of alternation (Chapters 2–4) may readily do so.

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