A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics

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A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics

Sixth Edition

David Crystal

Contents

Preface to
the Sixth Edition

When I took the first survey of my undertaking, I found our speech copious without order, and energetick without rules: wherever I turned my view, there was perplexity to be disentangled, and confusion to be regulated; choice was to be made out of boundless variety, without any established principle of selection; adulterations were to be detected, without a settled test of purity; and modes of expression to be rejected or received, without the suffrages of any writers of classical reputation or acknowledged authority.

Samuel Johnson, 'Preface' to *A Dictionary of the English Language*

One sign of immaturity [in a science] is the endless flow of terminology. The critical reader begins to wonder if some strange naming taboo attaches to the terms that a linguist uses, whereby when he dies they must be buried with him.

Dwight Bolinger, *Aspects of Language*, p. 554

It is over twenty-five years since the first edition of this book, and the plaint with which I began the preface to that edition remains as valid as ever. What is needed, I said then, is a comprehensive lexicographical survey, on historical principles, of twentieth-century terminology in linguistics and phonetics. And I continued, in that and the subsequent four prefaces, in the following way.

We could use the techniques, well established, which have provided dictionaries of excellence, such as the *Oxford English Dictionary*. The painstaking scrutiny of texts from a range of contexts, the recording of new words and senses on slips, and the systematic correlation of these as a preliminary to representing patterns of usage: such steps are routine for major surveys of general vocabulary and could as readily be applied for a specialized vocabulary, such as the present undertaking. Needless to say, it would be a massive task – and one which, for linguistics and phonetics, has frequently been initiated, though without much progress. I am aware of several attempts to work along these lines, in Canada, Great Britain, Japan and the United States, sometimes by individuals, sometimes by committees. All seem to have foundered, presumably for a mixture of organizational and financial reasons. I tried to initiate such a project myself, twice, but failed both times, for the same reasons. The need for a proper linguistics

dictionary is thus as urgent now as it ever was; but to be fulfilled it requires a combination of academic expertise, time, physical resources and finance which so far have proved impossible to attain.

But how to cope, in the meantime, with the apparently 'endless flow of terminology' which Bolinger, among many others, laments? And how to deal with the enquiries from the *two* kinds of consumer of linguistic and phonetic terms? For this surely is the peculiar difficulty which linguists have always had to face – that their subject, despite its relative immaturity, carries immense popular as well as academic appeal. Not only, therefore, is terminology a problem for the academic linguist and phonetician; these days, such people are far outnumbered by those who, for private or professional reasons, have developed more than an incidental interest in the subject. It is of little use intimating that the interest of the outside world is premature, as has sometimes been suggested. The interest exists, in a genuine, responsible and critical form, and requires a comparably responsible academic reaction. The present dictionary is, in the first instance, an attempt to meet that popular demand for information about linguistic terms, pending the fuller, academic evaluation of the subject's terminology which one day may come.

The demand has come mainly from those for whom a conscious awareness of language is an integral part of the exercise of a profession, and upon whom the influence of linguistics has been making itself increasingly felt in recent years. This characterization includes two main groups: the range of teaching and remedial language professions, such as foreign-language teaching or speech and language therapy; and the range of academic fields which study language as part of their concerns, such as psychology, anthropology, sociology, literary criticism and philosophy. It also includes an increasing number of students of linguistics – especially those who are taking introductory courses in the subject at postgraduate or in-service levels. In addition, there are the many categories of first-year undergraduate students of linguistics and phonetics, and (especially since the early 1990s) a corresponding growth in the numbers studying the subject abroad. My aim, accordingly, is to provide a tool which will assist these groups in their initial coming to grips with linguistic terminology, and it is this which motivated the original title of the book in 1980: *A First Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics*. The publisher dropped the word *First* from later editions, on the grounds that it had little force, given that there was no 'advanced' dictionary for students to move on to; but, though my book has doubled in size during the intervening period, it still seems as far away from a comprehensive account as it did at the outset. Bolinger's comment still very much obtains.

Coverage

Once a decision about readership had been made, the problem of selecting items and senses for inclusion simplified considerably. It is not the case that the whole of linguistic terminology, and all schools of thought, have proved equally attractive or useful to the above groups. Some terms have been used (and abused) far more than others. For example, COMPETENCE, LEXIS, GENERATE, STRUCTURALISM, MORPHOLOGY and PROSODY are a handful which turn up so often in a student's early experience of the subject that their exclusion would have been unthinkable.

The terminology of phonetics, also, is so pervasive that it is a priority for special attention. On the other hand, there are many highly specialized terms which are unlikely to cause any problems for my intended readership, as they will not encounter them in their initial contact with linguistic ideas. The detailed terminology of, say, glossematics or stratificational grammar has not made much of an impact on the general consciousness of the above groups. While I have included several of the more important theoretical terms from these less widely encountered approaches, therefore, I have not presented their terminology in any detail. Likewise, some linguistic theories and descriptions have achieved far greater popularity than others – generative grammar, in all its incarnations, most obviously, and (in Great Britain) Hallidayan linguistics and the Quirk reference grammar, for example.

The biases of this dictionary, I hope, will be seen to be those already present in the applied and introductory literature – with a certain amount of systematization and filling-out in places, to avoid gaps in the presentation of a topic; for example, whereas many introductory texts selectively illustrate DISTINCTIVE FEATURES, this topic has been systematically covered in the present book. I devote a great deal of space to the many 'harmless-looking' terms which are used by linguists, where an apparently everyday word has developed a special sense, often after years of linguistic debate, such as FORM, FUNCTION, FEATURE, ACCENT, WORD and SENTENCE. These are terms which, perhaps on account of their less technical appearance, cause especial difficulty at an introductory level. Particular attention is paid to them in this dictionary, therefore, alongside the more obvious technical terms, such as PHONEME, BILABIAL, ADJUNCTION and HYPONYMY.

Bearing in mind the background of my primary readership has helped to simplify the selection of material for inclusion in a second way: the focus was primarily on those terms and senses which have arisen because of the influence of twentieth-century linguistics and phonetics. This dictionary is therefore in contrast with several others, where the aim seems to have been to cover the whole field of language, languages and communication, as well as linguistics and phonetics. My attitude here is readily summarized: I do not include terms whose sense any good general dictionary would routinely handle, such as *alphabet* and *aphorism*. As terms, they owe nothing to the development of ideas in linguistics. Similarly, while such terms as *runic* and *rhyme-scheme* are more obviously technical, their special ranges of application derive from conceptual frameworks other than linguistics. I have therefore not attempted to take on board the huge terminological apparatus of classical rhetoric and literary criticism (in its focus on language), or the similarly vast terminology of speech and language disorders. Nor have I gone down the encyclopedia road, adding names of people, languages and other 'proper names', apart from in the few cases where schools of thought have developed (CHOMSKYAN, BLOOMFIELDIAN, PRAGUE SCHOOL, etc.). Many of these terms form the subject-matter of my companion volume, *The Penguin Dictionary of Language* (1999), which is the second edition of a work that originally appeared as *An Encyclopedic Dictionary of Language and Languages* (Blackwell/Penguin, 1992).

In the first edition, to keep the focus sharp on the contemporary subject, I was quite rigorous about excluding several types of term, unless they had edged their way into modern linguistics: the terminology of traditional (pre-twentieth-century)

language study, comparative philology, applied language studies (such as language teaching and speech pathology) and related domains such as acoustics, information theory, audiology, logic and philosophy. However, reader feedback over the years has made it clear that a broader coverage is desirable. Although the definition of, say, *bandwidth* properly belongs outside of linguistics and phonetics, the frequency with which students encounter the term in their phonetics reading has motivated its inclusion now. A similar broadening of interest has taken place with reference to psychology (especially speech perception), computing and logic (especially in formal semantics). The first edition had already included the first tranche of terms arising out of the formalization of ideas initiated by Chomsky (such as AXIOM, ALGORITHM, PROPOSITION), the fifth edition greatly increased its coverage in this area, and the sixth has continued this process, with especial reference to the minimalist programme. Recent decades have also brought renewed interest in nineteenth-century philological studies and traditional grammar. The various editions of the book have steadily increased their coverage of these domains, accordingly (though falling well short of a comprehensive account), and this was a particular feature of the fifth edition.

The new edition is now not far short of a quarter of a million words. It contains over 5,100 terms, identified by items in boldface typography, grouped into over 3,000 entries. Several other locutions, derived from these headwords, are identified through the use of inverted commas.

Treatment

I remain doubtful even now whether the most appropriate title for this book is 'dictionary'. The definitional parts of the entries, by themselves, were less illuminating than one might have expected; consequently it proved necessary to introduce in addition a more discursive approach, with several illustrations, to capture the significance of a term. Most entries accordingly contain an element of encyclopedic information, often about such matters as the historical context in which a term was used, or the relationship between a term and others from associated fields. At times, owing to the absence of authoritative studies of terminological development in linguistics, I have had to introduce a personal interpretation in discussing a term; but usually I have obtained my information from standard expositions or (see below) specialists. A number of general reference works were listed as secondary sources for further reading in the early editions of this book, but this convention proved unwieldy to introduce for all entries, as the size of the database grew, and was dropped in the fourth edition.

My focus throughout has been on standard usage. Generative grammar, in particular, is full of idiosyncratic terminology devised by individual scholars to draw attention to particular problems; one could fill a whole dictionary with the hundreds of conditions and constraints that have been proposed over the years, many of which are now only of historical interest. If they attracted a great deal of attention in their day, they have been included; but I have not tried to maintain a historical record of origins, identifying the originators of terms, except in those cases where a whole class of terms had a single point of origin (as in the different distinctive-feature sets). However, an interesting feature of the sixth edition has been a developed historical perspective: many of the entries

originally written for the first edition (1980) have seriously dated over the past 25 years, and I have been struck by the number of cases where I have had to add 'early use', 'in the 1970s', and the like, to avoid giving the impression that the terms have current relevance.

I have tried to make the entries as self-contained as possible, and not relied on obligatory cross-references to other entries to complete the exposition of a sense. I have preferred to work on the principle that, as most dictionary-users open a dictionary with a *single* problematic term in mind, they should be given a satisfactory account of that term as immediately as possible. I therefore explain *competence* under COMPETENCE, *performance* under PERFORMANCE, and so on. As a consequence of the interdependence of these terms, however, this procedure means that there must be some repetition: at least the salient characteristics of the term *performance* must be incorporated into the entry for COMPETENCE, and vice versa. This repetition would be a weakness if the book were read from cover to cover; but a dictionary should not be used as a textbook.

As the book has grown in size, over its various editions, it has proved increasingly essential to identify major lexical variants as separate headwords, rather than leaving them 'buried' within an entry, so that readers can find the location of a term quickly. One of the problems with discursive encyclopedic treatments is that terms can get lost; and a difficulty in tracking terms down, especially within my larger entries, has been a persistent criticism of the book. I have lost count of the number of times someone has written to say that I should include X in the next edition, when X was already there – in a place which seemed a logical location to me, but evidently not to my correspondent. The biggest change between the fifth and earlier editions was to bite this bullet. That edition increased the number of 'X see Y' entries. All 'buried' terminology was extracted from within entries and introduced into the headword list.

Within an entry, the following conventions should be noted:

The main terms being defined are printed in boldface. In the fifth edition, I dropped the convention (which some readers found confusing) of including inflectional variants immediately after the headword; these are now included in bold within an entry, on their first mention.

I also increased the amount of guidance about usage, especially relevant to readers for whom English is not a first language, by adding word-class identifiers for single-word headwords, and incorporating an illustration of usage into the body of an entry: for example, the entry on INESSIVE contains a sentence beginning 'The inessive case ('the inessive') is found in Finnish . . .' – a convention which illustrates that *inessive* can be used adjectivally as well as nominally.

Terms defined elsewhere in this dictionary are printed in SMALL CAPITALS within an entry (disregarding inflectional endings) – but only on their *first* appearance within an entry, and only where their technical status is important for an appreciation of the sense of the entry.

Acknowledgements

(for a second time), as well as John Field, Janet Fuller, Michael Kenstowicz, John Saeed, and Hidezaku Tanaka.

As always, I remain responsible for the use I have made of all this help, and continue to welcome comments from readers willing to draw my attention to areas where further progress might be made.

David Crystal
Holyhead, 2008

List of Abbreviations

Term	Gloss	Relevant entry
A	adjective	adjective
A	adverb(ial)	adverb
A	argument	argument
AAVE	African-American Vernacular English	vernacular
abl, ABL	ablative	ablative
abs, ABS	absolutive	absolutive
abstr	abstract	abstract (1)
acc, ACC	accusative	accusative
act, ACT	active	active
adj, ADJ	adjective	adjective
AdjP	adjective phrase	adjective
adv, ADV	adverb	adverb
AdvP	adverb(ial) phrase	adverb
AFF	affix	affix
AGR	agreement	agreement
AgrP	agreement phrase	agreement
AGT	agent(ive)	agentive
all, ALL	allative	allative
aor, AOR	aorist	aorist
AP	adjective phrase	adjective
appl	applicative	applicative
arg	argument	argument
art	article	article
ASL	American Sign Language	sign
asp	aspect	aspect
ASR	automatic speech recognition	speech recognition
ATB	across-the-board	across-the-board
ATN	augmented transition network	transition network grammar
ATR	advanced tongue root	root (2)

Term	Gloss	Relevant entry
augm	augmentative	augmentative
aux, AUX	auxiliary verb	auxiliary
B	base	anchor, base (1)
ben, BEN	benefactive	benefactive
BEV	Black English Vernacular	vernacular
BP	bijection principle	bijection principle
BSL	British Sign Language	sign
BT	baby-talk	child-directed speech
BVE	Black Vernacular English	vernacular
C	complementizer	complementizer
C	consonant	consonant
c	constituent	command (2), c-structure
CA	componential analysis	component
CA	contrastive analysis	contrastive analysis
CA	conversation analysis	conversation analysis
CAP	control agreement principle	control agreement principle
caus, CAUS	causative	causative
CD	communicative dynamism	communicative dynamism
CED	condition on extraction domains	condition on extraction domains
CF	context-free	context
cho	chômeur	chômeur
CL	classifier	classifier (1)
class	classifier	classifier (1)
cn	connective, connector	connective
Co	coda	coda
comp	compact	comp
comp	comparative	comparative
comp	complement	complement
comp, COMP	complementizer	complementizer
con	constraint	constraint
cond	conditional	conditional
conj	conjunction	conjunction
conn	connective, connector	connective
cons	consonantal	consonant
cont	continuant	continuant
coord	co-ordination, co-ordinator	co-ordination
cor, COR	coronal	coronal
CP	complementizer phrase	complementizer
cps	cycles per second	cycle (3)
CS	context-sensitive	context
CV	cardinal vowel	cardinal vowels
CV	consonant–vowel	CV phonology
D	deep	D-structure
D	determiner	determiner
D	diacritic feature	diacritic
DA	discourse analysis	discourse

DAF	delayed auditory feedback	feedback
dat, DAT	dative	dative
dB	decibel	loudness
DDG	daughter-dependency grammar	daughter-dependency grammar
def, DEF	definite	definite
DEL REL	delayed release	delayed
dem, DEM	demonstrative	demonstrative
det, DET	determiner	determiner
DF	distinctive feature	distinctiveness
DICE	discourse in common sense entailment	discourse in common sense entailment
diff, DIFF	diffuse	diffuse
dim, DIM	diminutive	diminutive
dist, DIST	distributive	distributive
DM	distributed morphology	distributed morphology
DO	direct object	direct (1)
DP	dependency phonology	dependency phonology
DP	determiner phrase	determiner
DR	default rule	default
DRS	discourse representation structure	discourse representation theory
DRT	discourse representation theory	discourse representation theory
DS	different subject	switch reference
DTC	derivational theory of complexity	correspondence hypothesis
DTE	designated terminal element	designated terminal element
du	dual	number
dur, DUR	durative	durative
e	empty category	gap
E	externalized	E-language
ECM	exceptional case marking	raising
ECP	empty category principle	empty category principle
-ed	past tense form	-ed form
EGG	electroglottogram, electroglottograph(y)	electroglottograph
elat, ELAT	elative	elative
ELG	electrolaryngogram, electrolaryngograph(y)	electrolaryngograph
EMG	electromyogram, electromyograph(y)	electromyograph
-en	past participle form	-en form
EPG	electropalatogram, electropalatograph(y)	electropalatograph
EPP	extended projection principle	projection
erg, ERG	ergative	ergative
EST	extended standard theory	extended standard theory
EVAL	evaluator component	evaluator

Term	Gloss	Relevant entry
excl	exclusive	exclusive (1)
f	functional	f-structure
f, F	feminine	gender
F	feature	contour (2), edge
F	formant	formant
F_0	fundamental frequency	fundamental frequency
FCR	feature-co-occurrence restriction	feature
fem, FEM	feminine	gender
foc	focus	focus
freq	frequentative	frequentative
FSG	finite-state grammar	finite-state grammar
FSL	finite-state language	finite-state grammar
FSP	functional sentence perspective	functional sentence perspective
Ft	foot	foot (1)
fut, FUT	future	future tense
fv, FV	final vowel	final
GA	General American	General American
GB	government-(and-)binding theory	government-binding theory
GEN	generator component	generator
gen, GEN	genitive	genitive
GF	grammatical function	function (1)
GLOW	Generative Linguists of the Old World	Generative Linguists of the Old World
GP	generative phonology	phonology
GPSG	generalized phrase-structure grammar	generalized phrase-structure grammar
G^2PSG	generalized generalized phrase-structure grammar	generalized phrase-structure grammar
H	head	modification (1)
H	heavy syllable	weight
H	high tone	tone
H	high variety	diglossia
hab	habitual	habitual
HMC	head movement constraint	head movement constraint
HP	head phrase	head
HPSG	head-driven phrase-structure grammar	head-driven phrase-structure grammar
Hz	hertz	cycle (3)
I	inflection	inflection (2)
I	internalized	I-language
IA	item and arrangement	item and arrangement
IC	immediate constituent	constituent
ID	immediate dominance	immediate dominance (2)
IDENT	identity	identity

IE	Indo-European	family
iff	if and only if	logical consequence
imp	imperative	imperative
imp	imperfect	imperfect tense
imper, IMPER	imperative	imperative
imperf	imperfect	imperfect tense
impf, IMPF	imperfect	imperfect tense
inc	incorporation	incorporation
incep, INCEP	inceptive	inceptive
inch, INCH	inchoative	inceptive
incl	inclusive	inclusion (3)
indef	indefinite	indefinite
indic, INDIC	indicative	indicative
inf, INF	infinitive	infinitive
-ing	-ing form of English verb	-ing form
inst, INST	instrumental	instrumental
inter(rog)	interrogative	interrogative
intr(ans)	intransitive	transitivity
IO	indirect object	indirect (1)
IP	inflection phrase	inflection (2)
IP	item and process	item and process
IPA	International Phonetic Alphabet	International Phonetic Association
IPA	International Phonetic Association	International Phonetic Association
irr	irrealis	realis
KAL	knowledge about language	knowledge about language
l	lexical category	l-marking
L	light syllable	weight
L	low tone	tone
L	low variety	diglossia
LAD	language acquisition device	language acquisition device
LF	logical form	logical form
LFG	lexical-functional grammar	lexical-functional grammar
LIPOC	language-independent preferred order of constituents	LIPOC
loc, LOC	locative	locative
LOT	language of thought	mentalese
LP	lexical phonology	lexical phonology
LP	linear precedence	linear precedence rule
LPC	linear prediction coefficient	linear prediction
m	masculine	gender
m	maximal	command (2)
M	modal verb	modal
M	modification	modification (1)
M	morphophonemic (level)	harmonic phonology
M	mot	mot
masc, MASC	masculine	gender

Term	Gloss	Relevant entry
MAX	maximality	maximality
MDP	minimal-distance principle	minimal-distance principle
med	medial	medial
MIT	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	MIT
MLU	mean length of utterance	mean length of utterance
MP	metrical phonology	metrical phonology
MP	minimalist program(me)	minimalist program(me)
MP	morphophonemic	phonology
MS	morphological structure	distributed morphology
n	neuter	gender
n, N	noun	noun
N	nasal	nasal
N	nucleus	nucleus
nas	nasal	nasal
NCC	no-crossing constraint	no-crossing constraint
neg, NEG	negative, negation	negation
neut, NEUT	neuter	gender
NGP	natural generative phonology	natural generative phonology
NLP	natural language processing	natural language processing
NM	natural morphology	morphology
nom, NOM	nominal(ization), nominalizer	nominal
nom, NOM	nominative case	nominative
NP	natural phonology	phonology
NP	noun phrase	noun
NSR	nuclear stress rule	nucleus (1)
NUM	number	number
NVC	non-verbal communication	communication
O	object	object
O	onset	onset (1)
Obj, OBJ	object	object
obl, OBL	oblique	oblique
OCP	obligatory contour principle	obligatory contour principle
OFOM	one form–one meaning	form (1)
OM	object marker	object
OT	optimality theory	optimality theory
p	prosodic	prosody
P	participle	participle
P	patient	patient
P	phonetic (level)	harmonic phonology
P	phonological	phonology
P	phrase	phrase
P	postposition	postposition
P	predicate, predicator	predicate
P	preposition	preposition
part, PART	participle	participle

part, PART	particle	particle (1)
part, PART	partitive	partitive
pass, PASS	passive	passive
PCF	phonetically consistent form	phonetically consistent form
per, PER	person	person
perf, PERF	perfect(ive)	perfect
PF	perfect	perfect
PF	phonetic form, phonological form	phonetic form
PIE	Proto-Indo-European	family
pl, PL	plural	number
PL	place	place
PM	phrase-marker	phrase-marker
pos(s), POS(S)	possessive, possessor	pronoun
PP	postpositional phrase	postposition
PP	prepositional phrase	preposition
P&P	principles and parameters	principle
PPT	principles and parameters theory	principle
pr	preposition	preposition
pred	predicate	predicate
prep, PREP	preposition	preposition
pres, PRES	present	tense (1)
pro, PRO	pronoun	pronoun
prog	progressive	progressive (1)
pron	pronoun	pronoun
Prt, PRT	particle	particle (1)
PS	phrase structure	phrase-structure grammar
PSG	phrase-structure grammar	phrase-structure grammar
punct	punctual	punctual
Q	qualification	qualification
Q	quantifier	quantifier
Q	question	question
R	reduplicant	anchor, reduplication
R	referring	R-expression
R	root	root (3)
recip	reciprocal	reciprocal (2)
red	reduplication	reduplication
redup	reduplication	reduplication
refl, REFL	reflexive	reflexive
reflex	reflexive	reflexive
rel, REL	relative	relative (1)
REST	revised extended standard theory	revised extended standard theory
RG	relational grammar	relational grammar
RNR	right node raising	right node raising
RP	received pronunciation	received pronunciation
RRG	role and reference grammar	role and reference grammar
RTN	recursive transition network	transition network grammar

Term	Gloss	Relevant entry
RTR	retracted tongue root	root (2)
RU	radical underspecification	underspecification
s	strong	metrical phonology
S	sentence	initial symbol
S	shallow	S-structure
S	subject	subject
S	surface	S-structure
S′	clause introduced by subordinator	S′
SAAD	simple active affirmative declarative	SAAD
SC	small clause	small clause
SC	structural change	structural change
SCC	strict cycle condition	cycle (1)
SD	structural description	structural description
SFH	semantic-feature hypothesis	semantics
sg, SG	singular	number
SIL	Summer Institute of Linguistics	Summer Institute of Linguistics
sing	singular	number
SM	subject marker	subject
son	sonorant	sonorant
SPE	Sound Pattern of English	Chomskyan
spec, Spec	specifier	specifier
SS	same subject	switch reference
stat, STAT	stative	stative
Sub, SUB	subject	subject
Subj, SUBJ	subject	subject
subj, SUBJ	subjunctive	subjunctive
subord	subordination, subordinator	subordination
SUFF	suffix	suffix
syll	syllable	syllable
t	trace	trace
T	transformation	transformation
T	tu (etc.)	T forms
TAG	tree-adjoining grammar	tree-adjoining grammar
TG	transformational grammar	transformation
TGG	transformational generative grammar	transformation
TMA	tense–mood–aspect	TMA
tns, TNS	tense	tense
TP	tense phrase	tense
tr(ans)	transitive	transitivity
TTR	type/token ratio	lexical density
UC	ultimate constituent	constituent
UG	universal grammar	universal
UR	underlying representation	underlying

UTAH	uniformity of theta-role assignment hypothesis	uniformity of theta-role assignment hypothesis
v	little v	little v
v, V	verb	verb
V	vous (etc.)	T forms
V	vowel	consonant
V2	verb second	verb second
VBE	Vernacular Black English	vernacular
voc	vocalic	vocalic
VOT	voice-onset time	voice-onset time
VP	verb phrase	verb
w	weak	metrical phonology
W	word (level)	harmonic phonology
WFR	word-formation rule	word formation
WG	word grammar	word grammar
wh-	what, who (etc.)	wh-
WP	word and paradigm	word and paradigm
y/n	yes/no	*yes–no* question

List of Symbols

Alphabetization is on the basis of the name of the symbol, as shown in the second column. The list does not include arbitrary symbols (such as category A, B) or numerical subscripts or superscripts (e.g. NP_1).

For phonetic symbols, see p. xxv.

Term	Name	Gloss	Relevant entry
´	acute	indicates a particular consonant pronunciation	diacritic
´	acute	rising tone	nucleus (1)
´	acute	stressed foot	foot (1)
α	alpha	variable value	alpha notation
<	angle bracket, left	must precede	precedence
>>	angle bracket, right double	ranks higher than	ranking
↔	arrow, bidirectional	reversible relationship	biuniqueness
⌣	arrow, curved	arc	arc
⇒	arrow, double level	(for transformations) becomes, rewrite as	rule
↓	arrow, falling	terminal juncture	juncture (1)
→	arrow, level	becomes, rewrite as	rewrite rule
→	arrow, level	sustained juncture	juncture (1)
↗	arrow, rising	rising juncture	juncture (1)
↗	arrow, rising	tonal spreading	spreading (3)
*	asterisk; Kleene star	zero or more matching instances	Kleene star
*	asterisk; star	unacceptable, ungrammatical	acceptability, asterisk (1)
*	asterisk; star	multiple instances	asterisk (2)
*	asterisk; star	reconstructed form	asterisk (4)
*	asterisk; star	segment with priority association	asterisk (5)
*	asterisk; star	boundary tone on stressed syllable	asterisk (5)

*	asterisk; star	constraint violation	asterisk (6)
–	bar	type of phrasal category	bar
[ ]	bracket notation	enclose elements to be horizontally matched	bracketing (c)
< >	brackets, angle	enclose graphemes	allo-
< >	brackets, angle	interdependency between optional features	bracketing (d)
{ }	brackets, curly; braces	enclose alternative elements	bracketing (b), conjunctive
{ }	brackets, curly; braces	enclose morphemes	morpheme
{ }	brackets, curly; braces	enclose morphophonemes	morphophoneme
( )	brackets, round; parentheses	enclose optional elements	bracketing (2a)
/ /	brackets, slash; slashes	enclose phonemes	bracketing (3)
[ ]	brackets, square	enclose distinctive features	bracketing (3)
[ ]	brackets, square	enclose phonetic segments	bracketing (3)
[ ]	brackets, square	enclose structural units in a string	bracketing (1)
[ ]	brackets, square	enclose syntactic features	bracketing (4)
[ ]	brackets, square	enclose semantic features	bracketing (4)
˘	breve	unstressed foot	foot (1)
O	circle [round a segment]	not associated	association line
°	circle, subscript	devoicing, voicelessness	voice
^	circumflex	rising-falling	nucleus (1)
ː	colon	long consonant	length
x	cross	grid placeholder	metrical grid
×	cross	deletion	association line
×	cross	unspecified segment	skeletal tier
—	dash	location of element in a string	context (1)
Δ	delta	empty element	delta
=	double bar	type of phrasal category	bar
=	double line	deletion	association line
!	exclamation mark	non-optimal candidate	tableau
`	grave	indicates a particular consonant pronunciation	diacritic
`	grave	falling tone	nucleus (1)
ˇ	hacek	indicates a particular consonant pronunciation	diacritic
ˇ	hacek	falling-rising tone	nucleus (1)
☞	hand	optimal candidate	tableau
#	hash; double cross	string boundary	boundary-symbol
#	hash; double cross	terminal juncture	juncture (1)
λ	lambda	wavelength	lambda (2)
λ	lambda	type of logical operator	lambda (1)

Term	Name	Gloss	Relevant entry
ˆ	ligature, high	is concatenated with	concatenation
ˇ	ligature, low	coarticulation	coarticulation
——	line	existing association	association line
------	line, broken	structural change	association line
–	macron	level tone	nucleus (1)
–	macron	bar	binding
–	minus	negative binary feature	binary feature
μ	mu	moraic level	mora
%	percentage	tone associates with edge syllable of a phrase	percentage symbol (1)
%	percentage	variation in acceptability	percentage symbol (2)
+	plus	element boundary	boundary-symbol
+	plus	positive binary feature	binary feature
+	plus	plus juncture	juncture (1)
′	prime	single-bar category	bar
″	prime, double	double-bar category	bar
?	question mark	marginally acceptable, marginally grammatical	acceptability
Σ	sigma, capital	superfoot	superfoot
Σ	sigma, capital	sentence	initial symbol
σ	sigma, small	foot, syllable	head
/	slash, forward	in the context of	context (1)
/	slash, forward	single-bar juncture	juncture (1)
//	slash, forward double	double-bar juncture	juncture (1)
~	tilde	contrasts in one dialect	dia-
~	tilde	links alternants	alternation
~	tilde [above symbol]	nasalization	nasal
~	tilde [through symbol]	pharyngealization	pharyngeal
≈	tilde, double	contrasts in more than one dialect	dia-
Ø	zero	zero morph	morpheme

The International Phonetic Alphabet

revised 2005

CONSONANTS (PULMONIC)

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	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Plosive	p b			t d		ʈ ɖ	c ɟ	k ɡ	q ɢ		ʔ
Nasal	m	ɱ		n		ɳ	ɲ	ŋ	N		
Trill	ʙ			r					R		
Tap or Flap		ⱱ		ɾ		ɽ					
Fricative	ɸ β	f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ	ʂ ʐ	ç ʝ	x ɣ	χ ʁ	ħ ʕ	h ɦ
Lateral fricative				ɬ ɮ							
Approximant		ʋ		ɹ		ɻ	j	ɰ			
Lateral approximant				l		ɭ	ʎ	ʟ			

Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a voiced consonant. Shaded areas denote articulations judged impossible.

CONSONANTS (NON-PULMONIC)

Clicks		Voiced implosives		Ejectives	
ʘ	Bilabial	ɓ	Bilabial	ʼ	Examples:
ǀ	Dental	ɗ	Dental/alveolar	pʼ	Bilabial
ǃ	(Post)alveolar	ʄ	Palatal	tʼ	Dental/alveolar
ǂ	Palatoalveolar	ɠ	Velar	kʼ	Velar
ǁ	Alveolar lateral	ʛ	Uvular	sʼ	Alveolar fricative

OTHER SYMBOLS

ʍ Voiceless labial-velar fricative

w Voiced labial-velar approximant

ɥ Voiced labial-palatal approximant

ʜ Voiceless epiglottal fricative

ʢ Voiced epiglottal fricative

ʡ Epiglottal plosive

ɕ ʑ Alveolo-palatal fricatives

ɺ Voiced alveolar lateral flap

ɧ Simultaneous ʃ and x

Affricates and double articulations can be represented by two symbols joined by a tie bar if necessary.

k͡p t͡s
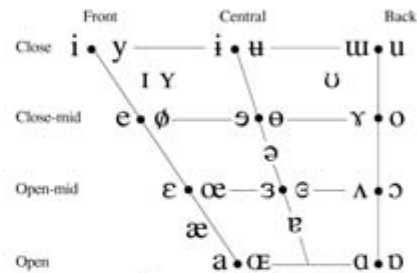
VOWELS

Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a rounded vowel.

SUPRASEGMENTALS

ˈ Primary stress

ˌ Secondary stress ˌfoʊnəˈtɪʃən

ː Long eː

ˑ Half-long eˑ

˘ Extra-short ĕ

| Minor (foot) group

‖ Major (intonation) group

. Syllable break ɹi.ækt

‿ Linking (absence of a break)

DIACRITICS

Diacritics may be placed above a symbol with a descender, e.g. ŋ̊

̥	Voiceless	n̥ d̥	̤	Breathy voiced	b̤ a̤	̪	Dental	t̪ d̪
̬	Voiced	s̬ t̬	̰	Creaky voiced	b̰ a̰	̺	Apical	t̺ d̺
ʰ	Aspirated	tʰ dʰ	̼	Linguolabial	t̼ d̼	̻	Laminal	t̻ d̻
̹	More rounded	ɔ̹	ʷ	Labialized	tʷ dʷ	̃	Nasalized	ẽ
̜	Less rounded	ɔ̜	ʲ	Palatalized	tʲ dʲ	ⁿ	Nasal release	dⁿ
̟	Advanced	u̟	ˠ	Velarized	tˠ dˠ	ˡ	Lateral release	dˡ
̠	Retracted	e̠	ˤ	Pharyngealized	tˤ dˤ	̚	No audible release	d̚
̈	Centralized	ë	̴	Velarized or pharyngealized	ɫ			
̽	Mid-centralized	e̽	̝	Raised	e̝	(ɹ̝ = voiced alveolar fricative)		
̩	Syllabic	n̩	̞	Lowered	e̞	(β̞ = voiced bilabial approximant)		
̯	Non-syllabic	e̯	̘	Advanced Tongue Root	e̘			
˞	Rhoticity	ɚ a˞	̙	Retracted Tongue Root	e̙			

TONES AND WORD ACCENTS

LEVEL			CONTOUR		
e̋ or ꜛ	Extra high		ě or ꜜ	Rising	
é ˦	High		ê ꜔	Falling	
ē ˧	Mid		e᷄ ꜕	High rising	
è ˨	Low		e᷅ ꜖	Low rising	
ȅ ˩	Extra low		e᷈	Rising-falling	
ꜜ Downstep			↗ Global rise		
ꜛ Upstep			↘ Global fall		

A

A An abbreviation for **argument** in GOVERNMENT-BINDING THEORY. **A-position** is a position in D-STRUCTURE to which an ARGUMENT (or THETA ROLE) can be assigned, such as SUBJECT and OBJECT; also called an **argument-position**. It contrasts with **A-bar-position** (or **A′-position**), also called a **non-argument position**, which does not allow the assignment of a theta role, such as the position occupied by an initial WH-item (e.g. *who* in *Who did she ask?*). The distinction does not have a clear status within the VP-INTERNAL SUBJECT HYPOTHESIS. A binding relation where the ANTECEDENT is in an A-position is said to be **A-bound** (otherwise, **A-free**); one to an A-bar-position is **A-bar-bound** (otherwise, **A-bar-free**). MOVEMENT to these positions is handled by **A-movement** and **A-bar-movement**, respectively. See also CHAIN (2).

abbreviated clause   see REDUCE (3)

abbreviation (*n.*)   The everyday sense of this term has been refined in LINGUISTICS as part of the study of WORD-FORMATION, distinguishing several ways in which words can be shortened. **Initialisms** or **alphabetisms** reflect the separate pronunciation of the initial letters of the constituent words (*TV*, *COD*); **acronyms** are pronounced as single words (*NATO*, *laser*); **clipped forms** or **clippings** are reductions of longer forms, usually removing the end of the word (*ad* from *advertisement*), but sometimes the beginning (*plane*), or both beginning and ending together (*flu*); and **blends** combine parts of two words (*sitcom*, *motel*).

abbreviatory (*adj.*)   A term, derived from **abbreviation**, which appears within LINGUISTICS and PHONETICS as part of the phrase **abbreviatory convention** – any device used in a formal analysis which allows rules that share common elements to be combined (see BRACKETING (2)), thus permitting greater economy of statement.

abducted (*adj.*)   see VOCAL FOLDS

abessive (*adj./n.*)   A term used in GRAMMATICAL DESCRIPTION to refer to a type of INFLECTION which expresses the meaning of absence, such as would be expressed in English by the PREPOSITION 'without'. The abessive CASE ('the

abessive') is found in Finnish, for example, along with ADESSIVE, INESSIVE and several other cases expressing 'local' temporal and spatial meanings.

A-binding (*n.*)   see BINDING THEORY, BOUND (2)

ablative (*adj./n.*) (**abl, ABL**)   In languages which express GRAMMATICAL relationships by means of INFLECTIONS, a term referring to the FORM taken by a NOUN PHRASE (often a single NOUN or PRONOUN), typically used in the expression of a range of LOCATIVE or INSTRUMENTAL meanings. English does not have an 'ablative CASE' ('an ablative'), as did Latin, but uses other means (the PREPOSITIONS *with*, *from* and *by* in particular) to express these notions, e.g. *He did it **with** his hands*.

ablaut (*n.*)   see GRADATION (2)

A-bound (*adj.*)   see BOUND (2)

abrupt (*adj.*)   A term sometimes used in the DISTINCTIVE FEATURE theory of PHONOLOGY, as part of the phrase **abrupt release**: it refers to a sound RELEASED suddenly, without the acoustic turbulence of a FRICATIVE, as in PLOSIVE CONSONANTS. Its opposite is DELAYED release, used to characterize AFFRICATES.

absolute (*adj.*) (1)   A term used in TRADITIONAL GRAMMATICAL DESCRIPTION, and occasionally in LINGUISTICS, to refer to a SENTENCE CONSTITUENT which is isolated from or abnormally connected to the rest of the sentence. English displays an absolute use of ADVERBS and ADJECTIVES in sentence-INITIAL position, e.g. ***However, he arrived later***; ***Happy, she went to sleep***. In Latin, there are such EXOCENTRIC constructions as the 'ABLATIVE absolute', as in *hoc facto* (= 'this having been done').
(2)   In linguistic theory, the term refers to a type of UNIVERSAL. An **absolute universal** is one which characterizes all languages, without exception; it contrasts with RELATIVE universal.
(3)   See RELATIVE (3).

absolutive (*adj./n.*) (**abs, ABS**)   A term used in the GRAMMATICAL DESCRIPTION of some languages, such as Inuktitut and Georgian, where there is an ERGATIVE system. In this system, there is a FORMAL parallel between the OBJECT of a TRANSITIVE VERB and the SUBJECT of an intransitive one (i.e. they display the same CASE), and these are referred to as 'absolutive': the subject of the transitive verb is then referred to as 'ergative'.

absorption (*n.*) (1)   A term used in GENERATIVE GRAMMAR for a process in which an ELEMENT incorporates a SYNTACTIC FEATURE that it does not normally possess. An example would be a CASE feature on a VERB, normally assigned to an NP OBJECT, which is absorbed by a PASSIVE PARTICIPLE.
(2)   In PHONOLOGY, an **absorption** process is seen especially in some TONE languages, where a sequence of tones at the same level is conflated. For example, a

falling (high-to-low) CONTOUR tone might be followed by a low tone, yielding a possible high–low–low sequence; one low tone would then absorb the other, resulting in a high–low sequence. See also OBLIGATORY CONTOUR PRINCIPLE, SPREADING (3).

abstract (*adj.*) (1) (**abstr**)   A term used in PHONOLOGY to describe any analytical approach which relies on unobservable elements, such as UNDERLYING forms; opposed to **concrete** or **natural**. Theories vary in the amount of abstractness they permit, and this is sometimes reflected in the title of an individual approach, such as in NATURAL GENERATIVE PHONOLOGY.
(2)   A traditional term used in GRAMMAR to describe NOUNS which lack observable REFERENCE, such as *thought*, *mystery* and *principle*; opposed to **concrete**, where the nouns have physical attributes, such as *tree*, *box* and *dog*. The distinction is treated with caution in LINGUISTICS because of the difficulty of deciding which category many nouns belong to, especially when dealing with all aspects of perception and behaviour. *Music* and *happiness*, for example, have been called abstract nouns, though the first is perceptible to the senses, and the second can be related to observable behaviour. Linguistically oriented grammars prefer to operate with such FORMAL distinctions as COUNTABILITY.

accent (*n.*) (1)   The cumulative auditory effect of those features of pronunciation which identify where a person is from, regionally or socially. The LINGUISTICS literature emphasizes that the term refers to pronunciation only, and is thus distinct from DIALECT, which refers to GRAMMAR and VOCABULARY as well. The investigation of the ways in which accents differ from each other is sometimes called **accent studies**. **Regional accents** can relate to any locale, including both rural and urban communities within a country (e.g. 'West Country', 'Liverpool') as well as national groups speaking the same language (e.g. 'American', 'Australian'), and our impression of other languages ('foreign accent', 'Slavic accent'). **Social accents** relate to the cultural and educational background of the speaker. Countries with a well-defined traditional social-class system, such as India and Japan, reflect these divisions in language, and accent is often a marker of class. In Britain, the best example of a social accent is the regionally neutral accent associated with a public-school education, and with the related professional domains, such as the Civil Service, the law courts, the Court and the BBC – hence the labels 'Queen's English', 'BBC English', and the like. RECEIVED PRONUNCIATION (RP) is the name given to this accent, and because of its regional neutrality RP speakers are sometimes thought of as having 'no accent'. This is a misleading way of putting it, however: linguistics stresses that everyone must have an accent, though it may not indicate regional origin. The popular label 'broad accent' refers to those accents that are markedly different from RP.
(2)   The emphasis which makes a particular WORD or SYLLABLE stand out in a stream of speech – one talks especially of an **accented** sound/word/syllable, or the **accent(ual) pattern** of a PHRASE/SENTENCE. The term is usually found in a discussion of metre (METRICS), where it refers to the 'beats' in a line of poetry – the accented syllables, as opposed to the **unaccented** ones. But any style of spoken language could be described with reference to the relative weight (**accentuation**)

of its syllables: one might talk of the 'strongly accented' speech of a politician, for instance. Technically, accent is not solely a matter of LOUDNESS but also of PITCH and DURATION, especially pitch: comparing the VERB *record* (as in *I'm going to record the tune*) and the NOUN (*I've got a record*), the contrast in **word accent** between *record* and *record* is made by the syllables differing in loudness, length and pitch movement. The notion of **pitch accent** has also been used in the PHONOLOGICAL analysis of these languages, referring to cases where there is a restricted distribution of tone within words (as in Japanese). A similar use of these variables is found in the notion of **sentence accent** (also called 'contrastive accent'). This is an important aspect of linguistic analysis, especially of INTONATION, because it can affect the ACCEPTABILITY, the MEANING, or the PRESUPPOSITIONS of a sentence, e.g. *He was wearing a red **hat*** could be heard as a response to *Was he wearing a red coat*?, whereas *He was wearing a **red** hat* would respond to *Was he wearing a green hat*? The term STRESS, however, is often used for contrasts of this kind (as in the phrases 'word stress' and 'contrastive stress'). An analysis in terms of pitch accent is also possible (see PITCH). The total SYSTEM of accents in a language is sometimes called the **accentual system**, and would be part of the study of PHONOLOGY. The coinage **accentology** for the study of accents is sometimes found in European linguistics.

(3)   In GRAPHOLOGY, an **accent** is a mark placed above a letter, showing how that letter is to be pronounced. French accents, for example, include a distinction between *é*, *è* and *ê*. Accents are a type of DIACRITIC.

accentology, accentuation (*n.*)   see ACCENT (2)

acceptability (*n.*)   The extent to which linguistic DATA would be judged by NATIVE-SPEAKERS to be possible in their language. An **acceptable** UTTERANCE is one whose use would be considered permissible or normal. In practice, deciding on the acceptability of an utterance may be full of difficulties. Native-speakers often disagree as to whether an utterance is normal, or even possible. One reason for this is that INTUITIONS differ because of variations in regional and social backgrounds, age, personal preferences, and so on. An utterance may be normal in one DIALECT, but **unacceptable** in another, e.g. *I ain't, I be, I am*. Much also depends on the extent to which people have been brought up to believe that certain forms of LANGUAGE are 'correct' and others are 'wrong': many do not accept as desirable those sentences which the PRESCRIPTIVE approach to GRAMMAR would criticize, such as *I will go tomorrow* (for *I shall go . . .*), or *This is the man I spoke to* (for *. . . to whom I spoke*). To a LINGUIST, all such utterances are acceptable, in so far as a section of the community uses them consistently in speech or writing. The analytic problem is to determine which sections of the community use which utterances on which occasions. Within a DIALECT, an utterance may be acceptable in one CONTEXT but unacceptable in another.

   Linguistics has devised several techniques for investigating the acceptability of linguistic data. These usually take the form of experiments in which native-speakers are asked to evaluate sets of utterances containing those language features over whose acceptability there is some doubt (**acceptability tests**). It is necessary to have some such agreed techniques for judging acceptability