Homework 4 Answers

Question 1. AAVE

Examine the following set of data, and write a rule to describe the derivation of the phonetic forms in AAVE from the phonemic ones in SE. To do so, determine

(i) what sound or natural class of sounds is being altered voiced stops
(ii) what it’s being changed to voiceless stops
(iii) what is the environment in which this happens (in terms of sounds or natural classes of sounds)

at the end of a word after a vowel

In the speech of some AAVE speakers, examples like the following are found:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>bad</th>
<th>pig</th>
<th>gold</th>
<th>legal</th>
<th>goad</th>
<th>Bob</th>
<th>fib</th>
<th>dog</th>
<th>debris</th>
<th>fabulous</th>
<th>loaded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>[bæd]</td>
<td>[pig]</td>
<td>[gould]</td>
<td>[ligl]</td>
<td>[gou d]</td>
<td>[bab]</td>
<td>[fib]</td>
<td>[dag]</td>
<td>[dəbri]</td>
<td>[fæbjələs]</td>
<td>[lou'dəd]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAVE</td>
<td>[bæt]</td>
<td>[pik]</td>
<td>[gould]</td>
<td>[ligl]</td>
<td>[gou t]</td>
<td>[bap]</td>
<td>[fip]</td>
<td>[dak]</td>
<td>[dəbri]</td>
<td>[fæbjələs]</td>
<td>[lou'dat]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Question 2. Sindhi

Do exercise 24 (Sindhi) on page 139 of Language Files.

The sounds /p/, /ph/, and /b/ are separate phonemes. The evidence is the minimal triplet [pənu] 'leaf', [phənu] 'snakehood', and [bənu] 'forest'.

The relationship between /p/ and /b/ in Sindhi is the same as it is in English (they are separate phonemes).

The relationship between /p/ and /ph/ is not the same (in Sindhi they are separate phonemes and in English they are allophones of the same phoneme).

Question 3. Greek

Do exercise 38 (Greek) on page 144 of Language Files. Make sure you do all the parts of the exercise: “state the distribution of the allophones” means state exactly which environments condition each allophone.

The sounds [k] and [x] are contrastive, e.g., [kano] 'do' versus [xano] 'lose'.

The sounds [ç] and [c] are contrastive, e.g., [çino] 'pour' versus [cino] 'move'.

The sounds [k] and [ç] are in complementary distribution.
The palatal stop appears before front vowels [OR, depending on the table you consulted, non-low front vowels], whereas the velar stop appears elsewhere.

The sounds [ç] and [x] are in complementary distribution, patterning in a parallel fashion with the stops, i.e., palatal before front [OR non-low front] vowels, but velar elsewhere.
Question 4. Syllabification

a. Two pronunciations of the word “syllabification” are given in a link from course schedule.
   (i) transcribe one of the pronunciations
   \[ \text{sələbəfəkeI} \ OR \ \text{səlæbəfəkeI} \]
   (ii) break up your transcription the word into syllables
   \[ \text{sə-la-bə-fə-keI} \ OR \ \text{sə-læ-bə-fə-keI} \]
   (iii) for each syllable, draw the onset-rhyme/nucleus-coda tree structure

\[
\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccc}
\sigma & \sigma & \sigma & \sigma & \sigma & \sigma & \sigma & \sigma \\
/\ & /\ & /\ & /\ & /\ & /\ & /\ & /\ \\
\text{n} & \text{n} & \text{n} & \text{n} & \text{n} & \text{n} & \text{n} & \text{n} \\
\text{s} & \text{ə} & \text{l} & \text{ə} & \text{bə} & \text{fə} & \text{keI} & \text{I} \ OR \ \text{s} & \text{ə} & \text{læ} & \text{bə} & \text{fə} & \text{keI} & \text{I} \\
\end{array}
\]

b. Why does the word “kettle” have two syllables, and “Celt” just one? Use sonority diagrams with asterisks to justify your answer.

\[
\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccc}
* & * & * & * & * & * & * & * \\
\text{k} & \text{ɛ} & \text{t} & \text{l} & \text{t} \\
\text{2 peaks of sonority = 2 syllables} & \text{1 peak of sonority = 1 syllable}
\end{array}
\]