

## *Review Sample Answers*

*FSEM CORE S119: Language as Human Nature*

*Fall 2025*

*Prof. Forrest Davis*

*October 16 & 21, 2025*

### Warm-up

1. Discuss with your neighbor the highlight of your fall break

### Logistics

- Report 1 revisions due Oct. 21

### Learning Objectives

- Reviewing core material from the class

*Summary:* We review material from the class so far.

### Before Next Class

- Prep for the exam

## *Exam Overview*

- 5-6 questions
- Mostly short answer
- In class Thursday Oct. 23
- If you have accommodations, please reach out to me

## *Phonology*

### Key Terms and Skills

Phonemes	Allophones
Minimal Pairs	Manner of Articulation
Place of Articulation	Voicing
Nasality	Phonological Rules
Segments/Phones	Identifying Allophones

### Practice Problems

1. Consider the following Korean data. Are [s] and [ʃ] allophones of the same phoneme or different phonemes? If the sounds are allophones of the same phoneme, give the underlying phoneme and provide rules for the distribution of allophones.

IPA	Meaning
[ʃi]	'poem'
[miʃin]	'superstition'
[ʃinmun]	'newspaper'
[t <sup>h</sup> aksanʃige]	'table clock'
[ʃilsu]	'mistake'
[oʃip]	'fifty'
[paʃik]	'method'
[kanʃik]	'snack'
[kaʃi]	'thorn'
[sal]	'flesh'
[kasu]	'singer'
[sanmun]	'prose'
[kasəl]	'hypothesis'
[miso]	'smile'
[susek]	'search'
[tapsa]	'exploration'
[so]	'cow'

Table 1: Representative data from Korean

#### Answer

There are no minimal pairs, so [s] and [ʃ] are likely allophones of the same phoneme. In fact, [ʃ] occurs in a restricted environment, namely before the high front vowel [i], whereas [s] occurs in a broader environment. Give this, /s/ is a good candidate for the underlying form with a simple rule: /s/ → [ʃ] / \_\_ i

2. List all the nasals in English giving their place of articulation.

#### Answer

[m] bilabial nasal  
 [n] alveolar nasal  
 [ŋ] velar nasal

3. Consider the following data from Burmese, which is a Sino-Tibetan language spoken in Myanmar. It contains both voiced and voiceless nasals (like [m] and [m̥]). Are [m] and [m̥] allophones of the same phoneme or different phonemes? Similarly, for [n] and [n̥] and [ɲ] and [ɲ̥]? If they are allophones of the same phonemes, give a rule that captures the pattern. Note, Burmese is a tone language where a with high tone is [á], with low tone [à], and falling tone [â]. Vowels with no tone marking are mid-tone.

IPA	Meaning
[mí]	'fire'
[mwêɪ]	'to give birth'
[mjiʔ]	'river'
[mjâwn]	'ditch'
[mjín]	'to see'
[nê]	'small'
[njiʔ]	'dirty'
[nwè]	'to bend flexibly'
[hm̥jawʔ]	'to multiply'
[hn̥êɪ]	'to heat'
[hn̥jaʔ]	'to cut off (hair)'
[hn̥eʔ]	'bird'
[niè]	'fine, small'
[nwâ]	'cow'
[ɲâ]	'five'
[ɲouʔ]	'stump (of tree)'
[mín]	'old (people)'
[hm̥í]	'to lean against'
[hm̥wêɪ]	'fragrant'
[hm̥ja.jʔ]	'to cure (mean)'
[hm̥òwn]	'flour, powder'
[hn̥jiʔ]	'to wring, squeeze'
[hn̥jeɪʔ]	'to nod the head'
[hn̥â]	'to borrow'
[hín]	'curry'

Table 2: Representative data from Burmese

**Answer**

The voiceless nasals are not in contrastive distribution with the voiced nasals (i.e., there are no minimal pairs) and the voiceless nasals occur in a restricted environment, after [h]. The same pattern holds for all pairs of nasals, so we can posit a general rule:  
 /voiced nasal/ → [voiceless nasal] / h \_\_

*Morphology*

<b>Key Terms and Skills</b>	Morphemes	Allomorphs
	Morphological Structure	Affixes
	Morpheme Identification	Roots
	Bases	Morphological Rules

*Practice Problems*

- Consider the following data from the Lukunosh dialect of Mortlockese (a language of Micronesia) It is in orthography (not IPA). Note: INCL means inclusive (that the group includes the speaker and the addressee) and EXCL means exclusive (that the group includes the speaker and someone else but not the addressee).

IPA	Meaning
ngiij	'my tooth'
ngiimw	'your (SG) tooth'
ngiin	'his/her/its tooth'
ngiish	'our (INCL) tooth'
ngiimam	'our (EXCL) tooth'
ngiimi	'your (PL) tooth'
ngiir	'their tooth'

The Lukunosh data was attributed to Emerson Lopez Odango and the Irarutu data to Jason Jackson in Contemporary Linguistics.

Table 3: Representative data from Lukunosh

- Identify the morpheme corresponding to each of the following:

tooth	_____	our (INCL)	_____
my	_____	our (EXCL)	_____
your (SG)	_____	your (PL)	_____
his/her/its	_____	their	_____

## Answer

tooth	<u>ngii</u>	our (INCL)	<u>sh</u>
my	<u>j</u>	our (EXCL)	<u>mam</u>
your (SG)	<u>mw</u>	your (PL)	<u>mi</u>
his/her/its	<u>n</u>	their	<u>r</u>

- Given that the word for 'leg/foot' in Mortlockese is *peshe*, how would you say each of the following?

your (SG) leg/foot \_\_\_\_\_  
 his/her/its leg/foot \_\_\_\_\_  
 our (EXCL) leg/foot \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer

your (SG) leg/foot peshemw  
 his/her/its leg/foot peshe  
 our (EXCL) leg/foot peshemam

- Consider the following data from Irarutu (an Austronesian language spoken in West Papua, Indonesia). Data are in orthography.

Word	Meaning	Word	Meaning
adena	'my mother'	ifra	'his/her hand'
odena	'your mother'	atgrag	'my ear'
idena	'his/her mother'	otgram	'your ear'
ambamba	'my elder brother'	itgra	'his/her ear'
ombamba	'your elder brother'	aftag	'my stomach'
imbamba	'his/her elder brother'	oftam	'your stomach'
afrag	'my hand'	ifta	'his/her stomach'
ofram	'your hand'		

Table 4: Representative data from Irarutu

- Irarutu has different strategies for expressing possession in the case of kinship and possession in the case of body parts. Based on the data above, identify the morphemes used to express each type of possession.

## Answer

kinship possession is a prefix, a- (for my), o- (for your), i- (for his/her)

body possession is an additional suffix either -g (my) -m (your), -Ø (i.e., nothing; his/her) applied after the prefix

- Given that *mce* means 'eye' and that *nfut* means 'younger sibling', how would you say each of the following in Irarutu?

his/her younger sibling \_\_\_\_\_

my eye \_\_\_\_\_

his/her eye \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer

his/her younger sibling infut \_\_\_\_\_

my eye amceg \_\_\_\_\_

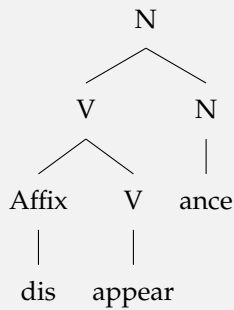
his/her eye imce \_\_\_\_\_

- Draw the morphological structure for the following words.

- disappearance
- unaffordable
- manliness
- oversimplification
- mismanagement

## Answer

Here is one sample, please review older handouts, the reading, and then touch base with me if you have questions on the others.

*Syntax*

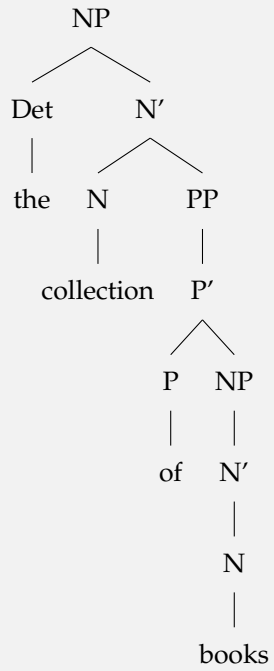
**Key Terms and Skills**    Phrases            X'-Scheme  
    Complements    Specifier  
    Drawing Trees    Heads

1. Draw a tree for the phrase 'the collection of books'. Identify the words serving as heads, complements, and specifier.

## Answer

The heads are 'collection' (N), 'of' (P), and 'books' (N). The complements are 'books' (to P) and 'of books' (to N). The specifier is 'the' (to N')

## Answer



2. Draw trees for the following sentences:

- The cat will sleep
- I wished that the week would stop for the cats
- Will you patiently swim



## Answer

Here is one sample, please review older handouts, the reading, and then touch base with me if you have questions on the others.

