

VOT + Fricatives Transcription Exercise

Linguistics 341

due: Friday, April 1st, 2022 by 11:59 p.m.

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1 Bengali Examples

Bengali is an Indo-European language which is spoken by about 180 million people worldwide. It is the official language of Bangladesh and is spoken by about 70 million people in India.

Note: Bengali has a four-way distinction between voiced unaspirated, voiced aspirated, voiceless unaspirated and voiceless aspirated stops. Normally the aspiration in voiced aspiration stops in Bengali involves breathy voice. However, this speaker generally produces voiced aspirated stops with normal (voiceless) aspiration. Bengali also contains a voiced retroflex flap ([ɽ]).

Listen to the Bengali examples first, and then transcribe the speech samples in the exercise below.

1. [paʈa] 'leaves'
2. [baṭṭhi] 'bowl'
3. [bʰaṭṭ] 'cooked rice'
4. [ṭʰamūn] 'stop (imp.)'
5. [ḍam] 'price'
6. [ḍʰama] 'basket'
7. [aṭṭa] 'glue'
8. [aʈa] 'custard apple'
9. [aḍuṛ] 'affection, respect'
10. [aḍṭaṛ] 'in the darkness'
11. [kʰɔṛak] 'expense'
12. [kɔṛa] 'making'

13. [gɔɾa] 'root'
14. [g^hɔɾa] 'horse'

2 Bengali Exercises

1. [] 'to speak'
2. [] 'forgetting'
3. [] 'road'
4. [] 'cheek'
5. [] 'canal'
6. [] 'tomorrow'
7. [] 'bottom'
8. [] 'heavy rain'
9. [] 'group'
10. [] 'bag'
11. [] 'taste'
12. [] 'seven'
13. [] 'with'
14. [] 'desire'

3 Arabic Examples

Arabic is a Semitic language which is spoken by about 200 million people throughout North Africa and the Middle East. There are many different regional varieties (dialects) of Arabic; the speaker of these samples comes from Gaza, in Palestine.

Arabic is chock full of fricatives. In these speech samples, watch out for: pharyngeal fricatives ([ħ] and [ʕ]), glottal stops ([ʔ]), and uvular fricatives ([χ] and [ʁ]). Note that Arabic also contrasts long and short vowels.

1. [χɛd̪^h] ‘a cheek’
2. [ʁɛd̪^h] ‘tomorrow’
3. [ħæd̪^h] ‘a limit’
4. [k^hɛt̪^hãm] ‘he held the secret’
5. [χɛt̪^hãm] ‘he sealed’
6. [sæ:ħ] ‘he roamed’
7. [sæ:χ] ‘it melted’
8. [baħar] ‘a sea’
9. [baʕar] ‘dung’
10. [ħæ:miɖ̪^h] a male name
11. [χæ:miɖ̪^h] another male name
12. [ʕasi:r̪] ‘difficult’
13. [ʔesi:r̪] ‘a war captive’
14. [ʕasal] ‘honey’
15. [ʁɛsɛl] ‘wash’

4 Arabic Exercises

1. [] 'pregnant'
2. [] 'tramp'
3. [] 'lazy'
4. [] 'a worker'
5. [] 'he lives'
6. [] 'it becomes hot'
7. [] 'a bed'
8. [] 'below, under'
9. [] 'he informed'
10. [] 'more dusty'
11. [] 'stupidity'
12. [] 'dates'
13. [] 'he asked'
14. [] 'he coughed'
15. [] 'he sought refuge'
16. [] 'stranger'