

Phonetics I

January 11, 2023

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

I

H

What is Linguistics?

Linguistics is the scientific study of language.

What are the 4 modules of Grammar?

Phonetics, Phonology, Morphology,
Syntax

We have speech organs.

They are a part of our _____ for language.

specialization

The answer to “What’s up?” is:

What’s up?

The subconscious knowledge of language (grammar) rules is called _____?

Linguistic competence

**How many tests and HW assignments are there
in this course?**

4 tests, 4 HW

Are you allowed to talk during class and disturb your classmates?

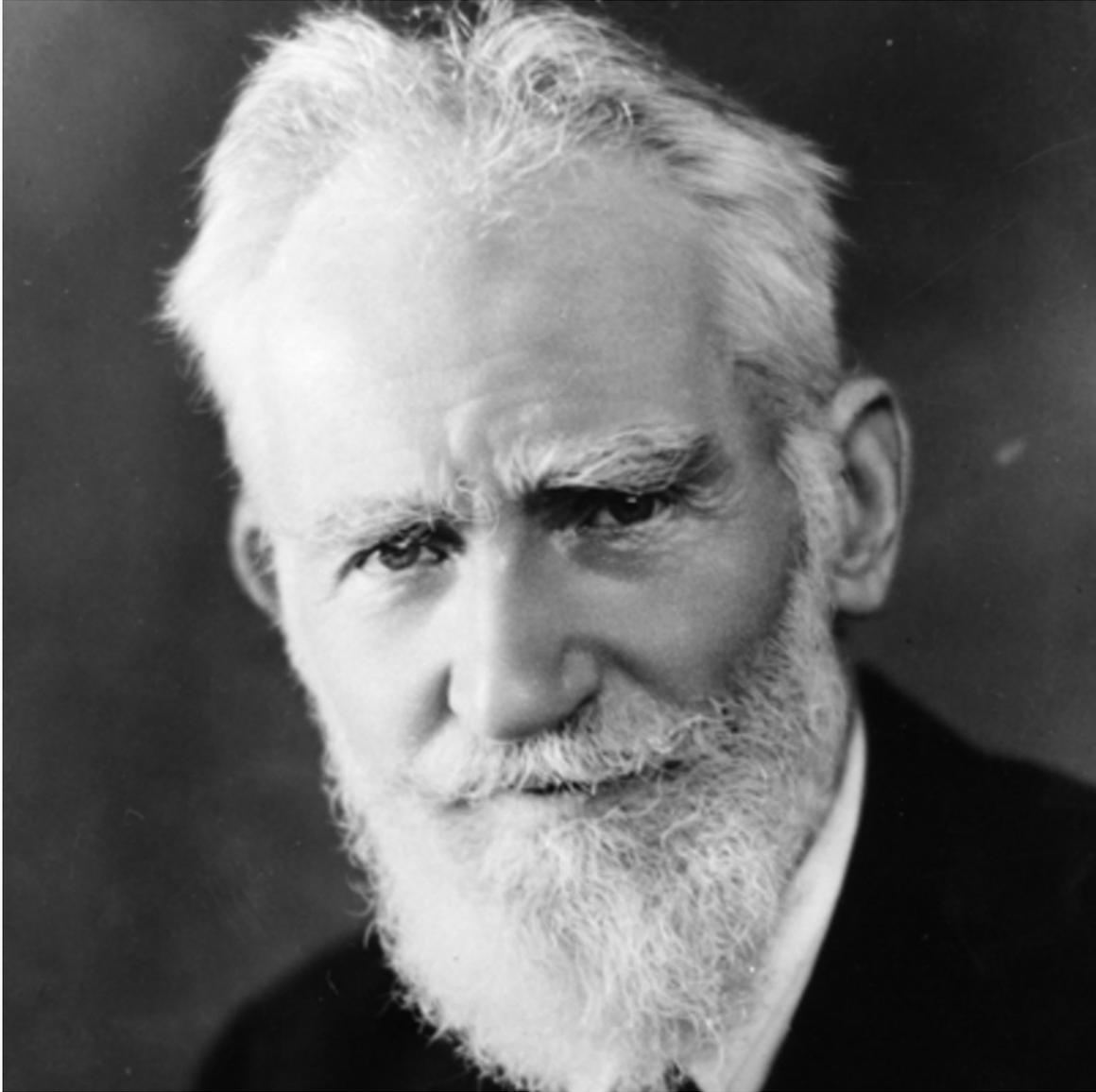
No!

**What is the meaning of the Latin word “sciens”
or “scientia” ?**

“having knowledge”

Can we be infinitely creative with language?

No!



George Bernard Shaw was an Irish playwright, critic, and political activist. He wrote more than sixty plays, including major works such as *Man and Superman* (1902), *Pygmalion* (1913) and *Saint Joan* (1923). Shaw was a leading dramatist of his generation, and in 1925 was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature

In his play *Pygmalion*, one of the characters was described as an “energetic phonetic enthusiast” (a description that could just as easily be applied to Shaw himself) (Coursebook, 2.1).

G.B.Shaw

”The English have no respect for their language, and will not teach their children to speak it. They cannot spell it because they have nothing to spell it with but an old foreign alphabet of which only the consonants – and not all of them – have any agreed speech value. Consequently no man can teach himself what it should sound like from reading it; and it is impossible for an Englishman to open his mouth without making some other Englishman despise him.”

Trouble with English

- Some letters represent more than one different sound

c: recall vs. receive gear vs. siege

- Some letters represent no sounds at all

receive use

- Sometimes two letters represent just one sound

recall phonetics

- Some letters represent two or more sounds at once

tax use cough women nation

- The same sound can be represented by many different letters

sh: shy, mission, machine, special, caution

Why so serious?

- Why is English alphabet (orthography) a “trouble”?
 - It’s irregular, difficult to predict pronunciation from spelling
 - Pronunciation changes over time
 - Difficult to examine differences in dialects within a given language.
 - E.g. [Boston dialect](#)
- So, we need an alphabet that will become a universal system of transcribing the sounds of speech.

Phonetic Transcription

Coursebook: 2.1

- Solution: use the **International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)**.
- In the IPA, sounds and symbols have a **one-to-one** relationship to each other:
 - Each symbol represents one sound
 - Each sound is represented by one symbol
- The use of an IPA (or any phonetic alphabet) to represent speech is called **phonetic transcription**.

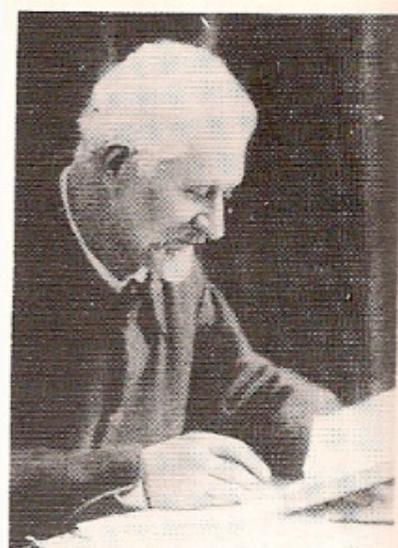
The IPA

- Presided over by the International Phonetic Association
- Created in 1886
- Still active and evolving today

ðə laɪst m.f.

əz membəz wɪl nəʊ, ðɪs ɪz ðə laɪst nʌmbər əv ðɪ m.f. ɪn ɪts preznt fə:m. ɑ: dʒɜ:nl wəz pʌblɪʃt fə ðə fɜ:st taɪm ɪn 1889, ðəʊ pri:vjəsli, frəm 1886, ɪt əd əpɪəd əz “ ðə fənetɪk tɪ:tʃə ”. ɪn 1889, ɑ:r əsəʊsɪeɪʃn hæd 321 membəz ɪn 18 kʌntrɪz, ðə mædʒɔ:rətɪ kʌmɪŋ frəm *swɪ:dn, *dʒɜ:məni ən *frɑ:ns. tædeɪ, wɪ: hæv mɔ: ðn 800 membəz ɪn əʊvə 40 kʌntrɪz, ðə greɪt mædʒɔ:rətɪ kʌmɪŋ frəm ðə *jʊnəɪtɪd steɪts ən *greɪt brɪtən.

nəʊ ðæt wɪ: əv dɪsəɪdɪd tə prɪnt ɑ: nju: *Journal* ɪn ɔ:θvɔ:grəfi, fə ðə fɜ:st taɪm ɪn dʒu:n 1971, ɪt ɪz həʊpt ðæt ðə rɪ:dəʃɪp wɪl bi ɪnkrɪ:dʒd ən ðæt kɒntrɪbjʊ:ʃnz wɪl bi rɪsɪ:vɪd frəm ə waɪdə sɜ:kl əv fəʊnɪtɪʃnz ən tɪ:tʃəz. məʊst əv ɑ: membəz hu: əv rɪpləɪd tə ðə sɜ:kjələr ɪn ðə laɪst m.f. hæv sɪgnɪfaɪd ðæt ðeɪ wɪʃ tə kəntɪnju: tə səbskraɪb tə ðə nju: *Journal*. ðəʊz hu: əv nɒt jet ɪnfə:md əs əv ðeər ɪntenʃnz ər ɜ:dʒd tə du: səʊ wɪðəʊt dɪleɪ, sɪns ɑ: fəɪnənsɪz wɪl nɒt ələʊ əs tə send ðə *Journal* tə fə:mə membəz hu:z səbskrɪpʃnz ə nɒt rɪnju:d.



Paul Passy, founder of the International Phonetic Association

What is Phonetics?

- The IPA represents speech in the form of:
 - **speech sounds** = called **phones** (from Greek *phōnē* ‘sound, voice’) or **segments**.
- Phonetics is the scientific study that explores how speech sounds are articulated, transmitted, and perceived:
 1. Articulatory phonetics
= how speech sounds are produced (by the tongue, lips, vocal folds, etc.)
 2. Acoustic phonetics
= how speech sounds are transmitted from producer to perceiver
 3. Perceptual phonetics
= how listeners understand which speech sounds are being produced

Phonetics

- Human languages have a wide variety of sounds
 - = called **phones** (from Greek *phōnē* ‘sound, voice’) or **speech sounds**.
 - A very wide range of sounds is found in human language (presumably 600 consonants and 200 vowels)
 - ...including the click (similar to the sound made to get a horse to move).
- Miriam Makeba: "[The Click Song](#)"

Some IPA Principles

- The purpose of the IPA is to represent these phones in writing.
 1. One symbol => one sound
 2. One sound => one symbol
 3. Symbols are enclosed in brackets [] to indicate that the transcription does not represent simple spelling
 4. Since symbols represent sounds, the same symbols are used in whatever language that sound is found
 - E.g. The sound spelled *th* in English *this* is transcribed as [ð] (the symbol is called *eth*, as in *weather*). The IPA uses this symbol to represent that sound in whichever language it is heard, whether it is English, Spanish, or Turkmen (a Turkic language spoken in Central Asia)

How to do phonetic transcription?

- Determine what segments are found in a word.
 - Start by counting the number of segments in a word.
 - Forget the spelling!
 - Focus on sounds => pronunciation
 - How many segments are there in:
 - “through”
 - ”sorry”
 - ”Sheila”
 - “knife”
 - “thumb”



MOUNT ROYAL
UNIVERSITY
1910