

L10A: PHONETIC TRANSCRIPTION

Phonetic transcription provides a record of speakers' pronunciation of their language

Advantages of phonetic transcription

1. It can be used as a description of one style of speaking versus another
 2. One accent versus another
 3. Normal versus disordered speech
 4. Helps to highlight patterns of pronunciation which would be difficult by listening to pinpoint by listening alone
 - A useful tool that phoneticians use in the description of speech
 - It is an economical tool for capturing speech sounds on paper
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1. They are concerned with the significant parts of the articulation rather than the role process of speech production
 2. Phoneticians do not rely on word spelling to transcribe words
 3. Phoneticians rely on auditory perception in most cases

TRANSCRIPTIONS OF STANDARD BRITISH ENGLISH, JAMAICAN ENGLISH AND JAMAICAN CREOLE ITEMS

SBE		SJE ¹		JC		Examples			GLOSS
Cons	Vowels	Cons	Vowels	Cons	Vowels	SBE	SJE	JC	
[p]	i:	[p]	i:	[p]	i:	bit	bit	bit	‘beat’
[t]	ɪ	[t]	ɪ	[t]	ɪ	bit	bit	bit	‘bit’
[k]	e	[k]	e	[k]	e	bet	bet	bet	‘bet’
[b]	æ	[b]	a	[b]	a	bæt	bæt	bat	‘bat’
[d]	ɑ:	[d]	ɑ:	[d]	ɑ:	bɑ:t	bɑ:t	bɑ:t	‘bart’
[g]	ɒ	[g]	o	[g]	o	bɒg	bon	bog	‘bog/bon’
[m]		[m]	ɔ	[m]	-	bɒg	bɔg	bog	‘bog’
	ɔ:		ɔ:			bɔ:n	bɔ:n	bon	‘born’
[n]	ʊ	[n]	ʊ	[n]	u	fʊt	fʊt	fut	‘foot’
[ŋ]	u:	[ŋ]	u:	[ŋ]	u:	fʊ:l	fʊ:l	fʊ:l	‘fool’
[f]	ə	[f]	a	[f]	-	ə!gəʊ	ago:	ago	‘ago’
[v]	ɜ:	[v]	ɜ:	[v]	-	bɜ:n	bɜ:n	ben	‘burn’
[θ]	ʌ	[θ]	-	[s]	-	mʌd	mɔd	‘mod	‘mud’
[ð]	eɪ	[ð]	e:	[z]	ia	beɪt	beɪt	biat	bait’
[s]	əʊ	[s]	o:	[ʃ]	ua	bəʊt	bo:t	‘buat’	‘boat’
[z]	aɪ	[z]	aɪ	[l]	aɪ	baɪt	baɪt	baɪt	‘bite’
[ʃ]	aʊ	[ʃ]	aʊ	[w]	aʊ	taʊn	taʊn	taʊn	‘town’
[ʒ]	ɔɪ	[ʒ]	ɔɪ	[r]	-	tɔɪl	tɔɪl	taɪl	‘toil’
[l]	ɪə	[l]	ɪə	[j]	-	hɪə	hɪə	(h)ɪa	‘hear’
[w]	ɛə	[w]	ɛə		-	fɛə	fɛə	fia	‘fare’
[r](ɹ)	aə	[ɹ]	-		-	haə	haə	(h)aia	‘hired’
[j](y)		[j]							
[h]		[h]		[h]		hɪm	hɪm	(h)ɪm	‘him’
[tʃ] (tʃ)		[tʃ]		[tʃ]		tʃɪt	tʃɪt	tʃɪt	‘chit’
dʒ		[dʒ]		[dʒ]		plɛʒə	plɛʒə	plɛdʒə	‘pleasure’

¹ The phonemic inventories for vowels and consonants for Jamaican English and Jamaican Creole are adapted from Devonish and Harry (2004: 444-450)