

Seminar 17312

Introduction to Linguistics

Institute for English Philology
Winter Semester 2020/2021

Academic Instructor: Magdalena Borowik
Session 2: Speech & writing

Speech & writing

Definition of writing

- Writing can be understood as: ‘penmanship’ or writing systems;
- ”the use of graphic marks to represent specific linguistic utterances” (Rogers 2005: 2);
- is not language but represents it (ibid.);
- Coulmas (2003: 23) distinguishes six definitions of writing:
 1. ”a system of recording language by means of visible and tactile marks”;
 2. ”the activity of putting such a system to use”;
 3. ”the result of such activity, a text”;
 4. ”the particular form of such a result (...)”;
 5. ”artistic composition”;
 6. ”a professional occupation”

Differences between speech and writing

speech

continuous

bound to utterance time

contextual

evanescent

audible

produced by voice

writing

discrete

timeless

autonomous

permanent

visible

produced by hand

Coulmas (2003: 11)

Grapheme

- Grapheme: "a contrastive unit in a language system, parallel to phoneme or morpheme" (Rogers 2005: 10);
- The collection of graphemes = the **ALPHABET** (ibid.);
- Allographs: different realisations of graphemes: for instance, upper- and lower-case, different typefaces (Helvetica, Times New Roman);
- Upper- and lower-case are in complementary distribution;
- There are **FREE** <t>, <s> and **BOUND** graphemes (diacritics). Diacritics do not occur on their own <é>;
- **LIGATURES**: two symbols joint together <æ> in Danish (ibid., p. 9-13);
- Graphemes can consist of one (**single-letter graphemes**), two (**digraphs**), three (**trigraphs**) and four letters (**four-letter graphemes**) (Brooks 2015: 5-6).

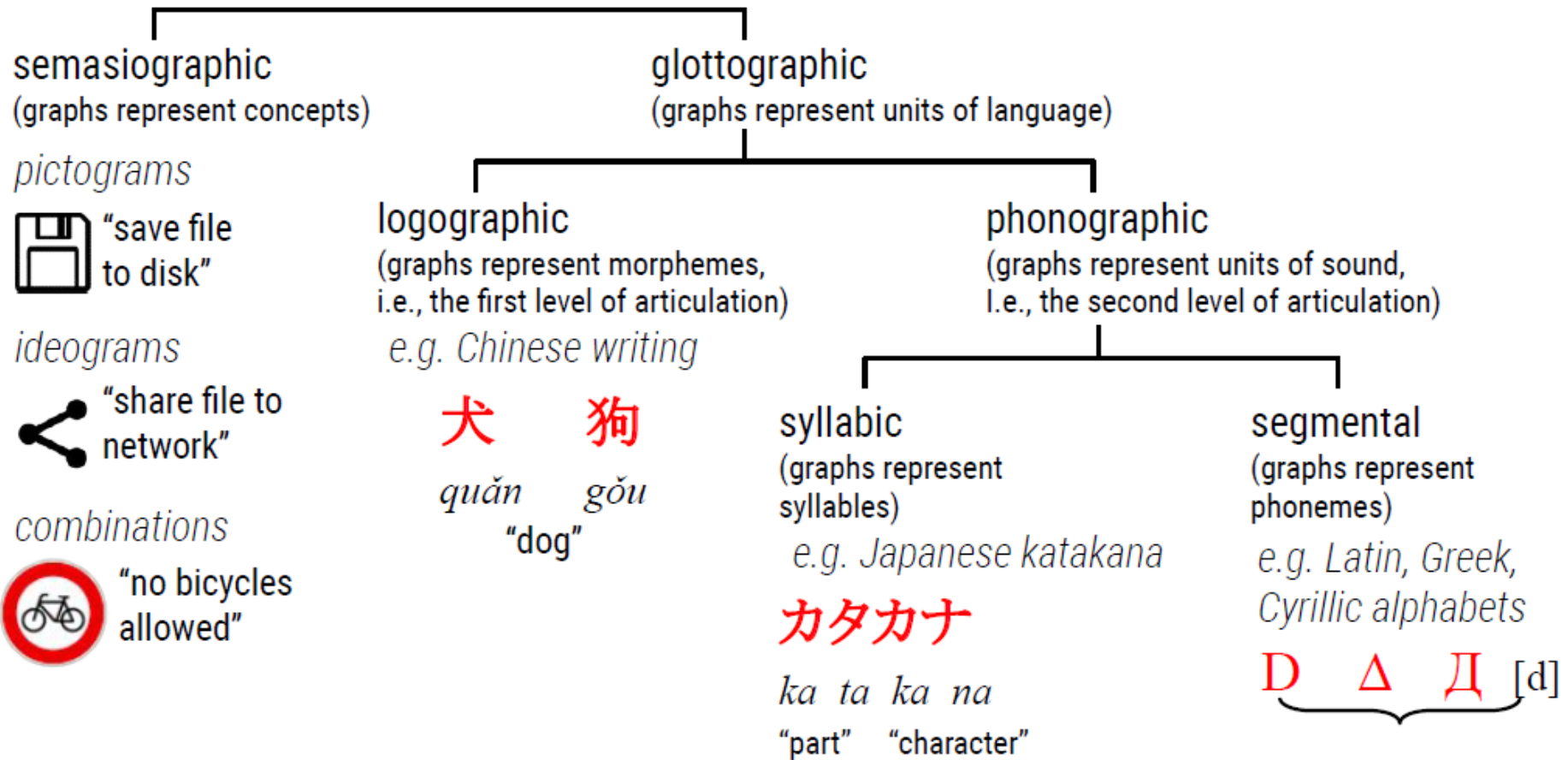


Figure 7.2 | Types of writing systems

(Stefanowitsch 2019)

Phonographic writing systems

- Symbols of the writing systems are related to the phonemes of a language;
- Although one would expect a 1:1 correspondence, it is not the case;
- E.g. Spanish, English;
- A lot of morphological information is required for English writing; variation among languages (Rogers 2005: 14);

Phoneme

”[...] the minimal distinctive unit in the sound system of the language” (Plag et al. 2009: 36, 232), the mental representation, and abstraction over all the various allophones of what we consider one sound; the smallest meaning-distinguishing units in language” (Bieswanger & Becker 2010: 59).

Phonemes in English

- Consonants & vowels
- About 44 phonemes in spoken English
- More phonemes than letters in the English version of the Roman alphabet (26);
- Most consonant phonemes are just one sound, but they can also be in clusters:
strength /streŋθ/
- Vowel phonemes: one or two sounds (diphthongs);

(Brooks 2015: 4)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JfwVXfl0EnI>

Modern English: grapheme-phoneme correspondence in English: consonants (RP)

- 13 out of 24 consonant phonemes of RP have a high extend of regular spellings (mind that there are positional constraints for /w and ŋ/;
- Regularly spelt: /b d g h m n p r t ð θ/;
- /w/ only before vowel phonemes; does not occur word-finally; it is spelt initially <w> and medially <u>;
- /ŋ/ only after short vowel phonemes; it does not occur word-initially; it is spelt <n> before / k, g/, and in other cases <ng> (Brooks 2015: 19).

	Position in word			
Phoneme	Initial	Medial	Final	
/ʃ/	sh	ti	sh	
/f/	f	f	ff	
/v/	v	v	ve	
/j/ within /ju:/	See Table 5.1			
/j/ elsewhere	y	i ^ɹ	(does not occur)	
			in monosyllables after a short vowel spelt with one letter	otherwise
/l/	l	l	ll	L
/tʃ/	ch but <t> before /u:/	t	tch	ch
/ʒ/	(rare)	si	(does not occur)	ge
/z/	z	s	zz	S
/dʒ/	j	<g> before <e, i, y>, otherwise <j>	dge	ge
/s/	s	s	ss	in other monosyllables <ce>; in polysyllables <s>
/k/	c	c	ck	in other monosyllables <k>; in polysyllables <c>
	but <k> before <e, i, y>			

Correspondencies with variable spelling (Brooks 2015: 20)

Grapheme – phoneme correspondence: consonants (choice)

/ʃ/

initial <sh>: <ship> /ʃi:p/

medial <ti>: <caution> /'kɔ:ʃən/

<ci> <crucial> /'kru:ʃəl/

<si> <aversion> /ə'vɜ:ʃən/

<ssi> <admission:>/əd'mɪʃən/

final <sh>: <clash> /klæʃ/

(Brooks 2015: 89-90)

/ʒ/

si> <vision> /'vɪʒən/

<s> before medial <u> <casual> /'kæʒuəl/

<g> words mainly of French origin; <melange>/meɪ'la:nʒ/

(Brooks 2015: 94-95)

Grapheme – phoneme correspondence: consonants (choice)

/tʃ/

initial <ch>: church /tʃɜ:tʃ/ chain /tʃeɪn/ change /tʃeɪndʒ/

medial <ch>: teacher /'ti:tʃə/

medial <t>: <adventure> /əd'ventʃə/, <culture> /'kʌltʃə/ <feature> /'fi:tʃə/

<suggestion> /sə'dʒestʃən/, <question> /'kwestʃən/

<tch> <butcher> /'bʊtʃə/

(Brooks 2015: 20; 55-56; Teflpedia, 2020)

/j/:

within /ju:/; for instance <ew>: <new> /nju:/ <u> <union> /'ju:njən/ <u.e.. <mute> /mju:t/

elsewhere: initial <y>: young /jʌŋ/

(Brooks 2015: 103-104; 214)

Grapheme – phoneme correspondence: consonants (choice)

/dʒ/

initial <ge>: <George> /dʒɔ:dʒ/

Initial <j>: <jam>: /dʒæm/, <January> /'dʒænjʊəri/

(Brooks 2015: ; voiced palato-alveolar affricate - Teflpedia, 2020)

Medial position:

<g> before <e, i, y> agency /'eɪdʒənsi/, apologize /ə'pɒlədʒaɪz/, <Egypt> /'i:dʒɪpt/
otherwise <j>: <enjoy> /ɪn'dʒɔɪ/ <major> /'meɪdʒə/

Final position:

<dge>: <edge> /edʒ/ <fridge> /frɪdʒ/

<ge> <advantage> /əd'vɑ:ntɪdʒ/ <average> /'ævərɪdʒ/ <image> /'ɪmɪdʒ/

(Brooks 2015: 62-63)

Grapheme – phoneme correspondence: consonants (choice)

/ŋ/

<ng> <ring> /rɪŋ/

<n> before <k, g> <uncle> /'ʌŋkəl/ <kangaroo> /,kæŋgə'ruː/

(Brooks 2015: 87)

/θ/

<th> thigh /θaɪ/ (Brooks 2015: 96)

/ð/

Word-final for instance in <teethe> /tiːð/ etc. (Brooks 2015: 97)

/w/

<w> <word> /wɜːd/

<u> quick /kwɪk/

<wh> <while> /waɪl/

(Brooks 2019: 99-101)

VOWELS OTHER THAN THE LETTER-NAME VOWELS AND /u: /			
Vowel	Position		
	Initial phoneme	Medial phoneme	Final phoneme
Short pure vowels			
/æ/	<a>		(does not occur)
/e/	<e>		(does not occur)
/ɪ/	<i>, but frequently <e> in unstressed syllables	<i>, but <a> in word-final unstressed /ɪdʒ/, and frequently <e> in other unstressed syllables	(does not occur)
/ɒ/	<o>	<o>, but mainly <a> after /w/	(does not occur)
/ʌ/	<u>, but there are many examples with <o>		(does not occur)
/ʊ/	(does not occur)	<oo> in monosyllables ending in /d, k/, <u> elsewhere	(does not occur)
/ə/	<a>, with few exceptions	<a>, with many exceptions	<er>, with many exceptions
Long pure vowels other than /i:, u: /			
/ɑ: /	<ar>, but <a> before consonant clusters		(nothing predominates)
/ɜ: /	(very rare)	<er>, but <or> after initial /w/	<er>

Spelling of vowels (Brooks 2015: 136)

/ɔ:/	<au, or>, but mainly <a> before /l/	<au, aw, or, ore>, but mainly <a> after /w/ and before /l/	<aw, or, ore>		
Diphthongs other than /eɪ, aɪ, əʊ/					
/ɔɪ/	<oi>		<oy>		
/aʊ/	<ou>	<ou>, but <ow> before /l, n/ and vowel letters	<ow>		
/eə/	<air>	<ar>	<are>		
/ɪə/	(very rare)	<er>	<ear>		
/ʊə/	(so rare and diverse that no generalisations are worthwhile)				
THE LETTER-NAME VOWELS, PLUS /uː/					
Vowel	In non-final syllables	In final syllables			
		Closed		Open	
		In polysyllables	In monosyllables	In polysyllables	In monosyllables
/eɪ/	<a>	<ai> before /nt/, otherwise <a.e>, with many exceptions with <ai>		<ay>	
/i:/	mainly <e>; many exceptions with <i> in unstressed syllables	<e.e>, with many exceptions	<ee>, with many exceptions	<y>, with many exceptions	<ee>, with some exceptions
/aɪ/	<i>	<i.e>	<i> before consonant clusters, <igh> before /t/, otherwise <i.e>	<y>, with a few exceptions, mostly with <i>	<y>, with more exceptions than examples
/əʊ/	<o>	<o.e>	<o> before consonant clusters, otherwise <o.e>	<ow> in two-syllable words after /l, r/, otherwise <o>	<ow>
/ju:/	<u>	<u.e>		<ue>	<ew>
/u:/	<u>	<oo> in stressed final /'u:n/, otherwise <u.e>	<oo>	<oo>	<ew>

Spelling of vowels and diphthongs (Brooks 2015: 137)

Grapheme – phoneme correspondence: vowels (choice)

/æ/

<a> <cat> /kæt/, <trap> /træp/

(Brooks 2015: 136, 139; Near-open front unrounded vowel - Teflpedia, 2020)

/e/

<e> <dress>/dres/ <less> /les/

<ae> ahead /ə'hed/

(Brooks 2015: 136, 140; Close-mid front unrounded vowel - Teflpedia, 2020)

/ɪ/

Initial position: <i> <sit> /sɪt/ and frequently <e> in unstressed syllables: /bɪ'gɪn/

<y> <bicycle> /'baɪsɪkəl/

<e> <enough> /ɪ'nʌf/ <extreme> /ɪk'stri:m/

(Brooks 2015: 136, 142; Near-close near-front unrounded vowel - Teflpedia, 2020)

/ɒ/ (RP)

Initial position: <o> <obvious> /'ɒbvɪəs/

Medial position: <o> <economic> /,ekə'nɒmɪk/ and <a> after <w> <want> /wɒnt/
<wash> /wɒʃ/

(Brooks 2015: 136, 148)

Grapheme – phoneme correspondence: vowels (choice)

/ʌ/

<u>: <but> /bʌt/ <o> <above> /ə' bʌv/

(Brooks 2015: 136, 150)

/ʊ/:

<oo> in monosyllables ending in <k> <book> /bʊk/ and <d>: <wood> /wʊd/

<u> <push> /pʊʃ/

(Brooks 2015: 152)

Grapheme – phoneme correspondence: vowels (choice)

/ə/:

<a>: <attend> /ə'tend/, <character> /'kærəktə/

<ar>: <particular> /pə'tɪkjələ/ <monarchy> /'mɒnəki/

<ate> in adjectives: <intimate> /'ɪntəmət/ <accurate> /'ækjərət/

<o> <tomorrow> /tə'mɒrəʊ/

<or>: <forget> /fə'get/ <ambassador> /æm'bæsədə/

<e>: <settlement> /'setlmənt/ <postmen> /'pəʊstmən/

<er>: <perhaps> /pə'hæps/ <stronger> /strɒŋgə/ <photographer> /fə'tɒgrəfə/
in AmEn /fə'tɑ:grəfər/

<u>: <autumn> /'ɔ:təm/ <support> /sə'pɔ:t/

<ough>: <thorough> /'θʌrə/

<ou>: <gracious> /'greɪʃəs/

Roach (2009: 65-66)

/ɑ:/: <ar>: <art> /ɑ:t/ (RP) in GenAm: /ɑ:rt/ <a> <father> /'fɑ:ðə/
(Brooks 2015: 137; 167-168)

Grapheme – phoneme correspondence: vowels (choice)

/ɜ:/

Middle position:

<er>: <prefer> /prɪ'fɜ:/

<ir> <birth> /bɜ:θ/

<or> <word> /wɜ:d/ <world> /wɜ:ld/

<ur>: <fur> /fɜ:/ (RP)

(Brooks 2015: 170-171);

/ɔ:/

<awe> /ɔ:/

<or> <order> /'ɔ:də/ <afford> /ə'fɔ:d/

<ore> <before> /bɪ'fɔ:/

<ar> <ward> /wɔ:d/

<a> before <l> <wall> /wɔ:l/

<au> <autumn> /'ɔ:təm/

<aw> <awful> /'ɔ:fəl/ (Brooks 2015: 173)

Grapheme – phoneme correspondence: vowels (choice)

/i:/

<ee> <see> /si:/

<e> <be> /bi:/

<ea> <sea> /si:/

(Brooks 2015: 198)

/u:/

<oo><zoo> /zu:/

<u> <super> /'su:pə/

<u.e><intrude> /In'tru:d/

<ew><blew> /blu:/

(Brooks 2015: 216-217)

Grapheme – phoneme correspondence: diphthongs

/ɔɪ/

<oi> <boil> /bɔɪl/

<oy> <boy> /bɔɪ/

(Brooks 2015: 179)

/aʊ/

<ou> <about> /ə'baʊt/

word-final <ow> <allow> /ə'lau/

(Brooks 2015: 180)

/eə/ (RP)

<are> <fare> /feə/

Word-initial <ar> <caring> /'keərɪŋ/

<air> <chair> /tʃeə/

<ear> <wear> /weə/

(Brooks 2015: 181-182)

Grapheme – phoneme correspondence: diphthongs

/ɪə/ (RP)

<ear> <appear> /ə'piə/

<ere> <sincere> /sin'siə

<er> <series> /'siəri:z/

<eer> <beer> /biə/

(Brooks 2015: 185-186)

/ʊə/ (RP)

<oor> <poor> /pʊə/ also: /pɔ:/

<our> <bourbon> /'bʊəbən/

(Brooks 2015: 188-189)

/eɪ/

<a.e> <make> /meɪk/

<a> <bacon> /'beɪkən/

<ay> <display> /di'spleɪ/

<ai> before <nt>: <paint> /peɪnt/ (Brooks 2015: 191)

Grapheme – phoneme correspondence: diphthongs

/aɪ/

<i.e> <bike> /baɪk/

<i> <child> /tʃaɪld/

<y> <cycle> /'saɪkəl/

(Brooks 2015: 205)

/əʊ/

<o> <focus> /'fəʊkəs/

<o.e> <remote> /rɪ'məʊt /

(Brooks 2015: 210)

Ortographic dialect variations

ORTOGRAPHIC DIALECTS:

Two recognised ways of writing the same language or certain words of this language (Rogers 2005: 295): British usage vs. American usage (ibid., p. 192).

Ortographic dialect variations

American

color, favor, honor, humor, glamor
center, theater, fiber, liter (but acre, ogre)
(bank) check
traveling, leveling
enroll, enrolled, enrollment
license, practice
defense, offense
judgment
catalog, cigaret

British

colour, favour, honour, humour, glamour
centre, theatre, fibre, litre, acre, ogre
cheque
travelling, levelling
enrol, enrolled, enrolment
licence, practice (noun); license, practise (verb)
defence, offence
judgement (but judgment in legal contexts)
catalogue, cigarette

Source: Rogers (2005: 193)

Etymological spelling

Latin

debitum

Dubitum

Fr. dette /dɛt/

dout /du:t/

borrowed into Middle English; then scholars inserted "b" into the words in Renaissance times:

doubt

debt

(Rogers 2005: 194)

1. Brooks, Greg. 2015 *Dictionary of the British English Spelling System*. OpenBooks Publishers: Cambridge, UK.
2. Carstairs-McCarthy, Andrew. 2002. *An introduction to English morphology: words and their structure*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
3. Csun.edu. 2019. *Chapter 2: Orthography*.
<http://www.csun.edu/~sk36711/WWW/KAG/ch2.html> [22 Nov. 2019].
4. Coulmas, Florian. 2003 *Writing Systems. An introduction to their linguistic analysis*. Cambridge Textbooks in Linguistics: Cambridge.
5. Hogg, Richard M., 2002. *An Introduction to Old English*. Second Edition. Edinburgh University Press.
6. Kortmann, Bern. 2005. *Linguistics: Essentials*. Berlin: Cornelsen.
7. Lass, Robert, Phonology and Morphology. In: Hogg, Richard, Denison, David. 2006. *A History of the English Language*. Cambridge University Press; Cambridge.
8. Mair, Christian. 2012. *English linguistics: An Introduction*. Tübingen: Narr. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
9. Plag, Ingo, Maria Braun, Sabine Lappe & Marelle Schramm. 2009. *Introduction to Linguistics*. 2nd ed. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton.
10. Rogers, Henry. 2005. *Writing Systems: a linguistic approach*. Wiley-Blackwell Publishing: Malden/Oxford/Carlton.
11. Stefanowitsch. Amatol. 2019. Survey of Language and Linguistics [Winter 2019]. PHILGEIST_V_17308_19W_ Lecture 7: Modes of Language.

11. Teflpedia.com. 2020. *Close-Mid Front Unrounded Vowel - Teflpedia*. [online] Available at: <https://teflpedia.com/Close-mid_front_unrounded_vowel> [11 November 2020].
12. Teflpedia.com. 2020. *Near-Close Near-Front Unrounded Vowel - Teflpedia*. <https://teflpedia.com/Near-close_near-front_unrounded_vowel> [11 November 2020].
13. Teflpedia.com. 2020. *Near-Open Front Unrounded Vowel - Teflpedia*. <https://teflpedia.com/Near-open_front_unrounded_vowel> [11 November 2020].
14. Teflpedia.com. 2020. *Open-Mid Back Unrounded Vowel - Teflpedia*. <https://teflpedia.com/Open-mid_back_unrounded_vowel> [11 November 2020].
15. Teflpedia.com. 2020. *Schwa Sound - Teflpedia*. <https://teflpedia.com/Schwa_sound> [11 November 2020].