

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualification:-

M.A.

M.A. English Language (Modern): Phonetics and Phonology of Modern English

COURSE CODE : ENGLMA01

DATE : 06-MAY-04

TIME : 10.00

TIME ALLOWED : 3 Hours

MA in English Language (Modern)

Phonetics and Phonology of Modern English 2004

Answer Question 1 and any two other questions.

Do not use substantially the same material for more than one answer, whether on this paper or in other parts of the examination.

1. Answer both (a) and (b).
- (a) Make a broad transcription of the entire following passage, showing plausible intonation. State the accent you are transcribing.

It was just off Southend Pier, I recollect, and he was leaning out through one of the port-holes in a very dangerous position. I went up to him to try and save him.

“Hi! come further in,” I said, shaking him by the shoulder. “You’ll be overboard.”

“Oh my! I wish I was,” was the only answer I could get; and there I had to leave him.

Three weeks afterwards, I met him in the coffee-room of a Bath hotel, talking about his voyages, and explaining, with enthusiasm, how he loved the sea.

“Good sailor?” he replied in answer to a mild young man’s envious query; “well, I did feel a little queer ONCE, I confess. It was off Cape Horn. The vessel was wrecked the next morning.”

Jerome K. Jerome: *Three Men in a Boat*

- (b) Find a possible example in the above passage of each of the following (RP):

- (i) devoiced obstruent
- (ii) release masking
- (iii) anticipatory assimilation
- (iv) dental nasal
- (v) labiodental nasal
- (vi) obligatory strong form
- (vii) alveolar plosive elision
- (viii) compression
- (ix) epenthetic plosive
- (x) linking /r/

2. Discuss the classification of English vowels as short, long and diphthongal. Do any uncertainties arise in this classification?
3. What are strong and weak forms? Is the difference between them important in English?
4. English /t/ is usually classified as a voiceless alveolar plosive. How adequate is this classification?
5. Present two possible phonological analyses of English [ŋ]. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each?
6. Discuss the allophonic variation found in the realization of /r/ and /l/.
7. Which are the English sibilants? What justification is there for treating them as a class?
8. Discuss the stress/accent patterns exhibited by (i) compound words or (ii) phrasal verbs. How may the basic pattern be influenced by the context?
9. What are the main factors determining the speaker's placement of nuclear accents in English intonation?