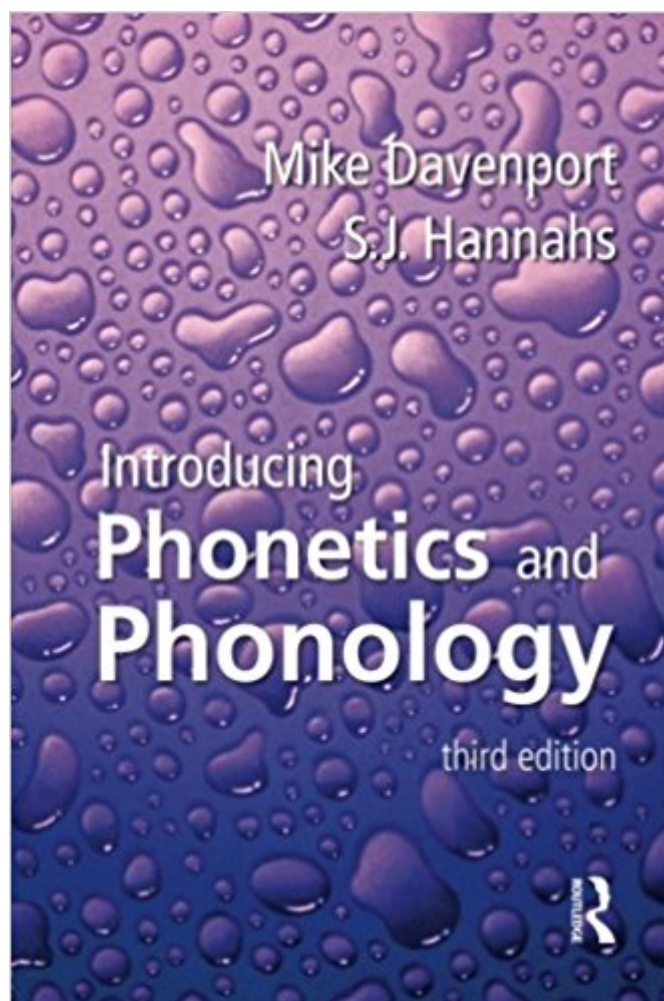


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# Introducing Phonetics And Phonology



## Synopsis

This book examines some of the ways in which linguists can express what native speakers know about the sound system of their language. Intended for the absolute beginner, it requires no previous background in linguistics, phonetics or phonology. Starting with a grounding in phonetics and phonological theory, the book provides a base from which more advanced treatments may be approached. It begins with an examination of the foundations of articulatory and acoustic phonetics, moves on to the basic principles of phonology, and ends with an outline of some further issues within contemporary phonology. Varieties of English, particularly Received Pronunciation and General American, form the focus of consideration, but aspects of the phonetics and phonology of other languages are discussed as well. This new edition includes more discussion of Optimality Theory and a new glossary of terms. It has been updated throughout to take account of the latest developments in phonological theory, but without sacrificing the book's ease of use for beginners.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

'...a very well-written and meticulously structured book for readers who are just embarking upon their linguistics odyssey. In a clear and easy-to-follow manner, key concepts with respect to phonetics and phonology are introduced....[T]he book is undoubtedly a valuable addition to one's bookshelf.' The LINGUIST List

Mike Davenport is Director of Durham University Language Centre. S.J. Hannahs is Senior Lecturer at Newcastle University. They are the authors of *Issues in Phonological Structure*.

Unreadable!... The kindle (android) copy is a faded photocopy of the original with missing letters everywhere! I want my money back!

It's a helpful tool but be aware that it is written to include British English pronunciations without necessary designating them as such. Also, I read from the kindle edition and reading the charts and diagrams is frustrating and manipulating them to make them bigger is pretty much impossible. So maybe not the best textbook to read on your kindle.

Rather a daunting book to start due to wealth of detail and stodgy style. Best taken in small doses, rather than trying to read through it in cold blood. It seems to treat the subject very competently.

Got it by the promised date. Very happy with my purchase

In my view, this book is the best introductory textbook to the fascinating fields of Phonetics and Phonology currently available. As a mature undergraduate studying Linguistics, with no A Level English Language under my belt, I had no prior knowledge of the areas this book covers, and as such was disadvantaged in comparison to the other students who had done the A Level. However I soon found, with the aid of this worthy publication, that the playing field had been levelled. This is not to say that this was the only book at this level that I read. In fact, I have at least four others in my collection. Why this one stands out is because of its clear and informative style, understandable examples, and sensible, logical layout. Initially there is an overview, laying out the underpinning theory that the modern sciences of Phonetics and Phonology are built on. The distinction between physical language and the underlying mental representation of its physical form, as adopted by Generative Linguistics, is introduced, and Phonology and Phonetics are placed into the 'big-picture' of a total language model that includes Syntax, Morphology and Semantics. Next comes an introduction to articulatory phonetics: the actual physical mechanisms used in the production of speech, including airstream, vocal cords and places of articulation. This then opens up the complete exposition of consonants and vowels, and details all the possible types of sounds that humans produce. Clear tables and diagrams are used throughout, making understanding and revision an easy task. After this comes a chapter on Acoustic Phonetics, the captivating study of the properties of speech sounds. Not only does it consider the physical nature of these, but also focuses on the linguistically relevant acoustic features that play a part in production and reception. Here the authors

have taken some complex physics and made it fathomable, no mean feat! From here on, the book investigates the phonological rules and features used when we produce speech. Davenport and Hannahs introduce the Linear Model of phonology, as pioneered by Noam Chomsky and Morris Halle in *The Sound Pattern of English*, (1968. New York; Harper & Row), and developed by many, which to the uninitiated would make you run away faster than a gazelle! The chapters develop in a logical manner, each building upon the previous, and the reader comes out with a sense of mastery over the data. Throughout this discussion, however, the book does not take this Linear Model as gospel, and the authors frequently highlight problems that the model cannot account for. They introduce several alternative models, like Autosegmental Phonology and Feature Geometry, and the discussion of the relative merits is open and unbiased. Finally, the book concludes with a well-written chapter that stresses the need to constrain the phonological model so that over-productive rules are dismissed with. Concepts like extrinsic vs. intrinsic rule ordering, abstractness and the power of the phonological component are discussed, leaving the reader in a frame of mind to delve into further reading. Overall this is an excellent book, well written and interesting all the way. As a student of Linguistics this is a must, with exercises at the end of each chapter to test your knowledge, not just at degree level, at High School Level too it will prove an invaluable resource. Also, for the non-academic with an interest in how we produce speech, *Introducing Phonetics & Phonology* is an excellent and enjoyable read.

If I could I would put 4,5-star rating here. The book is definitely higher than 4-star ones, but it lacks some rather important issues to be rated full 5 stars. It would be nice to have more info on tone and intonation, and prosody in the book. Besides the authors failed to include issues on auditory phonetics. As for the issues which the authors did tackle, they are dealt very well. The book is easy to read, supplied with exercises to consolidate skills and knowledge, and expands on contemporary phonological theories. I would advice this textbook as a major one for the 1-yr students of linguistics, provided they use some supplementary writings on the basics of perceptive phonetics and intonation.

Few works of mortal man can even share a bookshelf with this magnum opus, a subtle yet devastating journey into the soul of speech, if you will. It took the combined genius of two authors, both scholars and gentlemen of the highest order, to shape this multifaceted work at Athena's own lathe, turning it to a fine finish, lopping off inaccuracies and dross with a ready wit and flawless methodology. But beyond the field of linguistics, I find myself returning to this book (and oh! how

little justice that appellation does this masterly craft!) in my everyday life. When making difficult decisions, I find it helpful to open this work at random and point to a passage; it has never failed to offer wisdom, if not inspiration. I believe that holding this work above the bed of the infirm can heal them. I believe that nailing a copy of it to one's front door will ward off evil spirits and those of ill will. In fact, I am seriously considering dropping out of society completely to devote my life to study and reflection on the immortal words of MM. Davenport and Hannahs. Kudos, gents. You have written on velum plain the fiery words of truth itself, glory be to you both forever!

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