Day 7.1

**Categorize some cross language differences**

Phonemic model suggests that we can understand language differences in terms of a number of ways.

Examples of someone from other language -> English

1) choice of categories: English has categories not in other language.

2) sequencing restrictions: English allows more sequences than other language

3) contextual variation in categories: allophones
   a) English does not have a rule where the other language does
   b) English has a rule where the other language doesn’t

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**Speaking vs. Writing.**

Writing and Speaking, though closely related, have very different roles in the dynamic of a language:

1) Primacy in individuals. People learn to speak before they learn to write. Many people are illiterate, whereas relatively few people who write cannot speak (except for obvious physical reasons)

2) Primacy in cultures. All cultures (except deaf sub-cultures) have spoken systems, but many cultures do not have written systems.

**Historical Development of Writing Systems**

Pictographic Systems: graphical systems which are largely independent of spoken systems and are relatively iconic.

Iconic means that there is a non-arbitrary relationship between the symbol and the sign.

Logographic Systems: graphical systems in which the meanings depicted are taken from symbols in the spoken language. The symbols, then are morphemes. Hence a logographic system represents language as a string of morphemes.

Syllabary: graphical system in which the syllables of a language are represented. These differ from logographic systems in that they focus on the sounds of the language, rather than the meanings.

Phonemic Alphabet: a graphical system in which units of minimal contrast are represented. The system might or might not include all of the minimal contrasts.

What kind is the English use of Roman orthography?
0-4 - English orthographic structure.

Below are mappings between orthographic symbols and phonemic transcription symbols from Language Files for many dialects of American English. Included is the voiceless labial glide. Mappings are from R.B. Spaulding's educational materials entitled The Writing Road to Reading.
Notes on Orthographic mapping

Transcriptions are from 10 versions of the Language Files. Footnotes are as follows.

1. The use of 'g' and 'c' is context sensitive, depending on the following vowel letter. The 'g' corresponds to the affricate, and the 'c' corresponds to the fricative before 'e', 'i', and 'y'. These three vowel letters were all at one time indicators of a following front vowel, which often triggered palatalization of velar stops. Now, of course, the letters 'e', 'i', and 'y' also can stand for non-front vowels because the spoken vowel quality has changed.

2. Whether a symbol stands for /u/ or /ju/ is partially determined by the previous consonant sound. Many American English dialects do not allow palatal onglides (the /j/) after coronal consonants.

3. 'or' only indicates /ɔ/ after 'w' as in world.

4. The use of consonant symbols, 'y' and 'w', versus their corresponding vowel symbols, 'i' and 'u', depends on position in word. In general, the consonant variant is restricted to word-final position, while the vowel variant is restricted to word internal positions.

5. 'sh' is never used word-externally, except when it is at the end of a root which could stand alone as a word. For example, it occurs both word-finally in finish, and word-externally, but root-finally in finisher.

6. /i - I/ indicates high front vowels in unstressed positions, such as in the word baby. The actual realization varies from dialect to dialect.

7. These complexes are only used word-initially.

8. These complexes occur as 'doubled' consonants after historically short (lax) vowels. Thus, for example, 'ck' is the spelling of velars after short vowels analogous to 'tt' as a spelling of alveolars in the same position.

9. 'j' indicates /ʒ/ only in recent borrowings, particularly borrowings from French.

10. 'n' may uniquely indicate a velar before velar stops spelled with 'k', 'g', or 'x', as in rink, finger, and anxious.

11. The occurrence of the voiceless labio-velar glide is dialectal. For dialects, such as southern American English, the mapping is pretty straightforward, where the 'wh' indicates the voiceless sound and the 'w' indicates the voiced. In many northern dialects, the voiceless forms do not exist. There are varieties for which the mapping between 'wh' and the voiceless spoken variant is inconsistent.

12. 's' only indicates /z/ in non-initial position.

13. Words with these spellings are rare and small in number.

14. I have simplified the situation with /ɔ/ quite a bit in that many dialects will also have /ɔ/ in some words spelled with 'o' before a velar consonant, such as in dog, and hog. Of course, in dialects without /ɔ/ the 'aw' and 'au' simply indicate an /ə/.