

國立清華大學101學年度碩士班考試入學試題

系所班組別：語言學研究所

考試科目（代碼）：國文與英文 (3103)

共_2_頁，第_1_頁 *請在【答案卷、卡】作答

一、國文

甲、翻譯

請將王荊公所撰之「讀孟嘗君傳」翻成白話文（10%）並討論其與現代漢語之異同（10%）

世皆稱孟嘗君能得士士以故歸之而卒賴其力以脫於虎豹之秦嗟乎孟嘗君特雞鳴狗盜之雄耳豈足以言得士不然擅齊之強得一士焉宜可以南面而制秦尚何取雞鳴狗盜之力哉夫雞鳴狗盜之出其門此士之所以不至也

乙、作文（30%）

請舉出一個你在學習語言學時所遭遇到的問題。不限領域。以五百字為限。

二、英文

a. Argue for or against the statement: "natural languages are only used for interaction between people." (30%)

b. Summarize the following paragraphs in about 100 words. (20%)

We have seen that English non-final schwa vowels are very variable in quality, particularly F2, and that most of this variation can be explained in terms of assimilation to context. But we still need to understand why this kind of schwa is more variable than a full vowel. Flemming (2004) argues that two related factors are involved: word-medial schwa is (i) very short, and (ii) it does not minimally contrast with other vowel qualities. These two factors are related because the short duration of non-final unstressed syllables motivates the neutralization of vowel quality contrasts in these contexts.

The outline of the analysis is as follows: To realize a particular vowel quality in a word, it is necessary to move from the articulatory position of the previous segment to the target for the vowel and then on to the position for the following segment. As the duration of the vowel decreases, it can become difficult to complete the required movements, especially if the vowel target is far from the targets for the preceding or following segments, because the articulators would have to move too fast to complete the movements in the time available. Lindblom (1963) shows that speakers tend to fall short of vowel targets as vowel duration decreases: at shorter durations vowels assimilate more and more to their contexts. Lindblom dubs this phenomenon 'target undershoot'. As a result, in positions where vowel duration is very short, all vowels in that context are liable to be strongly assimilated to the surrounding segments, and thus similar to each other in quality. Given a requirement that contrasting sounds should be perceptually distinct (Liljencrants & Lindblom 1972, Flemming 2004), this makes short, unstressed syllables a poor location for

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vowel quality contrasts, and accordingly these contrasts are often neutralized.

So one reason why schwa is expected to be subject to stronger coarticulatory effects than other vowels is that it is shorter, and thus more subject to undershoot – i.e. assimilation to its context. The medial schwa vowels in Flemming & Johnson's (2007) study average 64 ms, while Kondo (1994) reports that schwa in the indefinite article averages 34 ms. By comparison, tense vowels can be as long as 300 ms in citation forms (Peterson & Lehiste 1960) and are on the order of 150 ms in fluent speech (van Santen 1992).

A second factor that is suggested to allow greater variability in schwa is that it generally occurs in contexts where it does not contrast with other vowel qualities, at least in American English. The idea is that there is no motivation to resist the pressure to assimilate to context if there is no need to realize vowel quality contrasts. If vowel targets specify the realization of contrasts so, for example, the targets for [i] are the properties that it must have to differentiate it from contrasting vowels that could appear in the same context, such as [i], [u] etc, then in contexts where there are no vowel quality contrasts, vowels should lack vowel quality targets. In the absence of a specific target, it is predicted that schwa should be realized with a minimum of articulatory effort, which would plausibly yield a smooth transition between the preceding and following sounds.