

Titel: Outline of Glossematics Maj 36, [Uldall] 001-0020

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g: Precenematic Operation.

gr: $z^n \equiv g (g)$.

Reduction of Materialization Masses to Expressions
for Precenematemes.

According to the nature of the apparatus of expression under observation, this reduction may be formulated concretely in various ways: thus in phonematics it will be reduction of sound masses to expressions for phonematemes; in graphematics, reduction of masses of graphs to expressions for graphematemes.

The reduction consists in applying the commutation test (cf. p. above), by which the precenematically relevant elements are recognized.

The mass of sounds, or speech chain, is in itself amorphous: its constituent parts are merged in such a way that it is impossible to indicate exact borders between them, and the definition of the 'speech-sound' has therefore always been one of the greatest difficulties of the physical or physiological phonetician. As we study the sound mass, not for its own sake as an acoustico-physiological phenomenon, but for the sake of the language which

it serves to express, the division we wish to obtain is, naturally, the one that is linguistically relevant; and as this division is not directly reflected in any physical or physiological division, the only way in which it can be found, is by the commutation test, i.e. by finding the smallest parts of the speech chain, whose replacement by others give rise to a plerematic difference. Phonetics has suffered in the past from a too great zeal to make it into a natural science and to disregard the fact that it is and must remain a branch of linguistics.

As a basis for the commutation test, an inventory is made of the catalyzed preceñas (phonias, graphias, etc.) of the language. These have been found by a plerematic commutation test.

The commutation test leads to the recognition of expressions for as many preceñatemes (phonematemes, graphematemes, etc.): (g), as are commutable in the ^{with} expressions for the preceñas of the language, whatever their ~~length~~ ^{preceñatemes} extension. Even though the commutability of two elements be extremely limited, the two elements are nevertheless recognized as preceñatemes. For the neutralization of the commutability under certain conditions see §§ 31.

The basis for the commutative commutation test is the inventory of expressions for preceñatemes found in g

In cases where there is an insufficient number of preceñas differing as to one (g) only, the commutation test is carried out indirectly, by extending the reduction to include preceñas differing as to more than one (g).

Example: From the plerematically commutable sound masses in English [məθ] ; [rəθ] ; [vəθ] ; [səθ] ("mat", "rat", "vat", "sat") it is seen that [m], [r], [v], and [s] are phonememes. But a continuation of this list would not lead to the recognition of a phonememe [ɹ], since a phonia [ɹəθ] does not occur in the language. On the other hand it is possible to make a new list by commutating one of the elements that were not commutated in the first list: [səθ] ; [ɹəθ] ; [sʊθ] ; [səθ], and this list in turn leads to a list [səθ] ; [məθ] ; [səθ] ; [ɹəθ], which shows that [ɹ] is a phonememe.

When two commutable x^n differ only as to quantity, the longer one is regarded as an identity group, i.e. as a group consisting of two or more identical elements; it is not always possible to determine the exact number of elements contained in such a group.

A classical example of this is found in Sanskrit, where e.g. [i:] has always been regarded as an identity group, because a combination of [i] and [i] results in

[i:] [ati iṽa] = [ati:iva] 'exceedingly, very'. But [i:] cannot be regarded merely as the sum of two [i], since [i] plus [i:] and [i:] plus [i] and [i:] plus [i:] are also pronounced [i:]: [adāi i:qvarāḥ] = [adāi:qvarāḥ] 'supreme lord', [nadi: iṽa] = [nadi:iva] 'like a river', [de:vi: i:kṛate:] = [de:vi:kṛate:] 'the goddess looks'. In accordance with the principle of generalization (p.), every [i:] is regarded as an identity group of [i], whether or not it can be shown to be due to contraction.

By the same criterion Sanskrit [i] is regarded as an identity group of [ɪ] (written "y"), since it differs from [ɪ] only by being longer, and in spite of the fact that it cannot be shown to be due to contraction of two [ɪ]. Consequently, the sound [i] must be phonematically interpreted as [ī], and the sound [i:] as [ī]¹.

In Finnish, the large majority of phones occur both long and short. What is written in the Finnish orthography "pp", "aa", "uu", etc., is thus prephonematically [p̄], [ā], [ū], etc., while "ii" is [ī], since "i" is [ī], and "j", [j̄].

¹ For the sake of convenience, [ɪ] is written [i].

If two elements, a and b , are shown by the commutation test to be identical (i.e. exchangeable without a pleomorphic difference), and if the element a occurs also under other conditions where the exchangeability is not usual, and if the element b does not occur under such conditions, the (g) is written with the symbol for the element a .

Example: [l] and [ɫ] in English are exchangeable without a pleomorphic difference, e.g. in "please". The phone [l] occurs also under other conditions where the exchangeability is not usual, e.g. in "blow", while the phone [ɫ] does not. Consequently, the proper symbol for the (g) is [l].

When there exist two elements, \underline{x} and \underline{z} , which, under certain conditions, are both expressed by \underline{q} , which does not otherwise occur in the language; and if the elements \underline{x} and \underline{z} are commutable under other conditions, \underline{q} is not established as a (g). The following argument obtains:

1. When the conditions under which $\underline{x} \in \underline{q}$ and $\underline{z} \in \underline{q}$, are mutually exclusive, there is no necessity for establishing a (g) \underline{q} . Thus, if in a language [a] and [o] are commutable π elements, and if [a] \in [o] in unstressed position in front of the main stress, while [o] \in [a] in unstressed position after the main stress (this is demonstrated by a change of stress within the same pre-cenias), there is no necessity for establishing a (g) [a], unless [a] occurs also independently.

2. When the conditions under which $\underline{x} \in \underline{q}$ and $\underline{z} \in \underline{q}$, are identical, there is no necessity for establishing a (g) \underline{q} .

Example: In Russian, [a] and [o] are commutable elements (cf. ^[da,na] дама 'lady'; [da,na] 'at home'). But in unstressed position (except immediately in front of the main stress, in juxtaposition with palatalized phones, and in final position), both [a] and [o] are replaced by [o]; this is shown by a change of stress within the same pre-cenias, e.g. [ˈsɔ, vɔr] 'speech'; [sɔˈva, ɫʲitʲ] 'to speak', [kvat] 'suitor'; [svɔˈta, ɫʲa] 'suitors'. Thus there is no necessity for establishing a (g) [a] in Russian, the phone [a] being a member of the sound families expressing [a] and [a] respectively.

In French, [p] and [b] are commutable elements (cf. "pas" ; "bas"), but in front of voiceless phones, both [p] and [b] are replaced by [p̥] (cf. "une nappe sale" [yn naʔ sal], "une robe sale" [yn roʔ sal]). Consequently there is no necessity for establishing a (g) [p̥], the phone [p̥] being a member of the sound families expressing the (g) [p] and [b] respectively.

3. When the conditions under which \underline{x} and $\underline{q} \in \underline{q}$, are partially identical, it is necessary, from a pre-phonemic point of view, to establish a (g) \underline{q} . But as experience shows that (g) established according to this rule are inevitably removed from the phonemic inventory in \underline{GR} , it would serve no useful purpose to establish them here.

Thus, if in a language [a] and [o] are commutable elements, and if [a] is replaced by [o] after [w] and [m], while [o] is replaced by [o] after [m] and [b], it would theoretically be necessary to establish a (g) [a], which would, however, be removed from the inventory in \underline{GR} , and so need not be established at this point.

As each (g) is expressed by a mass of materialization segments (a mass of sound segments): z^n , the commutation test will lead to a reduction of z^n to expressions for (g). A $z^n \ominus$ (g) is called in phonematics a phone.

According to the general rule for commutation (see p.), not all the segments which can be found by a phonetic analysis, are phonematically relevant. The possibilities are the following:

1. A (g) is expressed by a z^n , none of whose z occurs alone as expression for another (g).

Examples: In Maidu, the (g) [g'] is expressed by an affricate consisting of the z [t'] and [j'], none of which occurs alone as complete expression for a (g).

The so-called 'accent no. 2' of Norwegian and Swedish is a (g) expressed by a falling tone plus a high tone, none of which occurs alone as complete expression for a (g).

Examples of this way, of course, be found in any language, since it is possible to divide any phone into three segments, viz. on-glide, stasis, and off-glide, none of which normally occurs as complete expression for a (g) other than the one expressed by the three z together.

In the same way it is phonetically possible to isolate 'voice' as a z in any voiced phone; but as 'voice' does not occur alone as complete expression for a (g), the segmentation is phonematically irrelevant.

2. A (g) is expressed by a z^n , part of whose z occur separately in the language as expressions for other (g).

Example: In Russian, the gkz (g) [g] is expressed by an affricate consisting of the fricative [ʃ] preceded by a stop produced in the same place. Of these two z , [k], but not the stop, is by itself the complete expression for another (g).

A common example of z which, according to the general rule for commutation, are phonematically relevant, is 'tone'. 'Tone' occurs in many languages in such a way that all voiced phones may be coupled with all the 'tones' distinguished by the language. When this is the case, and only then, 'tone' is phonematically relevant.

The same is true of the varying degrees of 'stress'.

'Tone' and 'stress' may be regularly accompanied by other z which are not phonemically relevant, or 'tone' or 'stress' may form part of z^n composed of z none of which are separately relevant. For examples see p. .

After the reduction, an inventory is made of the (g) recognized through zR . As the (g) have not yet been classified in any way, the order of the elements in the inventory must necessarily be arbitrary.