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Phonetic alphabet developed in the 1880s Not to be confused with pronunciation respelling for English used in American dictionaries. Americanist phonetic notationScript type Alphabet Period1880s to the presentLanguagesphonetic transcription of any languageRelated scriptsParent systemsLatin alphabet, augmented by GreekAmericanist phonetic notation This article contains phonetic transcriptions in the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). For an introductory guide on IPA symbols, see Help:IPA. For the distinction between [ ], / / and ⟨ ⟩, see IPA § Brackets and transcription delimiters. Americanist phonetic notation, also known as the North American Phonetic Alphabet (NAPA), the Americanist Phonetic Alphabet or the American Phonetic Alphabet (APA), is a system of phonetic notation originally developed by European and American anthropologists and language scientists (many of whom were Neogrammarians) for the phonetic and phonemic transcription of indigenous languages of the Americas and for languages of Europe. It is still commonly used by linguists working on, among others, Slavic, Uralic, Semitic languages and for the languages of the Caucasus, of India, and of much of Africa; however, Uralicists commonly use a variant known as the Uralic Phonetic Alphabet. Despite its name, NAPA has always been widely used outside the Americas. For example, a version of it is the standard for the transcription of Arabic in articles published in the Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft, the journal of the German Oriental Society. Diacritics are more widely used in Americanist notation than in the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), which seeks to use as few diacritics as possible for phonemic distinctions, retaining them only for the dental–alveolar distinction. Americanist notation relies on diacritics to distinguish many other distinctions that are phonemic in the languages it transcribes. On the other hand, Americanist notation uses single letters for most coronal affricates, whereas the IPA requires digraphs. Otherwise Americanist notation has grown increasingly similar to IPA, and has abandoned many of the more obscure letters it once employed. Certain symbols in NAPA were once identical to those of the International Phonetic Alphabet, but have become obsolete in the latter, such as ⟨ɩ⟩. Over the years, NAPA has drawn closer to the IPA. This can be seen, for example, in a comparison of Edward Sapir's earlier and later works. However, there remain significant differences. Among these are: ⟨y⟩ for [j], ⟨ñ⟩ for [ɲ], ⟨c⟩ or ⟨¢⟩ for [t͡s], ⟨λ⟩ for [t͡ɬ] and ⟨ɬ⟩ for [ɬ] Palato-alveolar ⟨č ǰ š ž⟩ and sometimes alveopalatal ⟨ć ś ź ń⟩ Advancing diacritic (inverted breve, e.g. g̑) for dentals and palatals (apart from non-sibilant dental ⟨θ ð⟩), and retracting diacritic (a dot, e.g. ṣ ġ) for retroflex and uvulars (apart from uvular ⟨q⟩) ⟨r⟩ or ⟨ř⟩ for a flap and ⟨r̃⟩ for a trill Ogonek for nasalization Dot over vowel for centering, two dots (diaeresis) over a vowel to change fronting (for front rounded vowels and unrounded back vowels) Acute and grave accents over vowels for stress John Wesley Powell used an early set of phonetic symbols in his publications (particularly Powell 1880) on American language families, although he chose symbols which had their origins in work by other phoneticians and American writers (e.g., Pickering 1820; Cass 1821a, 1821b; Hale 1846; Lepsius 1855, 1863; Gibbs 1861; and Powell 1877). The influential anthropologist Franz Boas used a somewhat different set of symbols (Boas 1911). In 1916, a publication by the American Anthropological Society greatly expanded upon Boas's alphabet. This same alphabet was discussed and modified in articles by Bloomfield & Bolling (1927) and Herzog et al. (1934). The Americanist notation may be seen in the journals American Anthropologist, International Journal of American Linguistics, and Language. Useful sources explaining the symbols – some with comparisons of the alphabets used at different times – are Campbell (1997:xii-xiii), Goddard (1996:10–16), Langacker (1972:xiii-vi), Mithun (1999:xiii-xv), and Odden (2005). It is often useful to compare the Americanist tradition with another widespread tradition, the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). Americanist phonetic notation does not require a strict harmony among character styles: letters from the Greek and Latin alphabets are used side-by-side. Another contrasting feature is that, to represent some of the same sounds, the Americanist tradition relies heavily on letters modified with diacritics; whereas the IPA, which reserves diacritics for other specific uses, gave Greek and Latin letters new shapes. These differing approaches reflect the traditions' differing philosophies. The Americanist linguists were interested in a phonetic notation that could be easily created from typefaces of existing orthographies. This was seen as more practical and more cost-efficient, as many of the characters chosen already existed in Greek and East European orthographies. Abercrombie (1991:44–45) recounts the following concerning the Americanist tradition: In America phonetic notation has had a curious history. Bloomfield used IPA notation in his early book An Introduction to the Study of Language, 1914, and in the English edition of his more famous Language, 1935. But since then, a strange hostility has been shown by many American linguists to IPA notation, especially to certain of its symbols. An interesting and significant story was once told by Carl Voegelin during a symposium held in New York in 1952 on the present state of anthropology. He told how, at the beginning of the 1930s, he was being taught phonetics by, as he put it, a "pleasant Dane", who made him use the IPA symbol for sh in ship, among others. Some while later he used those symbols in some work on an American Indian language he had done for Sapir. When Sapir saw the work he "simply blew up", Voegelin said, and demanded that in future Voegelin should use 's wedge' (as š was called), instead of the IPA symbol. I have no doubt that the "pleasant Dane" was H. J. Uldall, one of Jones's most brilliant students, who was later to become one of the founders of glossematics, with Louis Hjelmslev. Uldall did a great deal of research into Californian languages, especially into Maidu or Nisenan. Most of the texts he collected were not published during his lifetime. It is ironic that when they were published, posthumously, by the University of California Press, the texts were "reorthographized", as the editor's introduction put it: the IPA symbols Uldall had used were removed and replaced by others. What is strange is that the IPA symbols seem so obviously preferable to the Americanist alternatives, the 'long s' to the 's wedge', for example. As Jones often pointed out, in connected texts, for the sake of legibility diacritics should be avoided as far as possible. Many Americanist texts give the impression of being overloaded with diacritics. One may wonder why there should be such a hostility in America to IPA notation. I venture to suggest a reason for this apparently irrational attitude. The hostility derives ultimately from the existence, in most American universities, of Speech Departments, which we do not have in Britain. Speech Departments tend to be well-endowed, large, and powerful. In linguistic and phonetic matters they have a reputation for being predominantly prescriptive, and tend to be considered by some therefore to be not very scholarly. In their publications and periodicals the notation they use, when writing of pronunciation, is that of the IPA. My belief is that the last thing a member of an American Linguistics Department wants is to be mistaken for a member of a Speech Department; but if he were to use IPA notation in his writings he would certainly lay himself open to the suspicion that he was. There is no central authority. The Western Institute for Endangered Language Documentation (WIELD) has recommended the following conventions since 2016:[1] Note however that WIELD is designed specifically for Native American languages, whereas NAPA, despite its name, is widely used elsewhere, e.g. in Africa. Advanced is ⟨Ç⟩ and retracted is ⟨Ç⟩. Geminate is ⟨C:⟩ or ⟨CC⟩. Glottalization is e.g. ⟨č⟩ or ⟨ḿ⟩ (ejectives are not distinguished from other types of glottalization). Palatalization is written ⟨Cʸ⟩. Labialization, velarization, aspiration, voicelessness and prenasalization are as in the IPA. Pharyngeals, epiglottals and glottals are as in the IPA, as are implosives and clicks. WIELD (2016) recommendations for NAPA consonants Bilabial Labio-dental Dental Alveolar Retro-flex Palato-alveolar Alveo-palatal Palatal Velar Uvular Pharyn-geal Glottal Plosive voiceless p ṭ t ṭ ḳ k q ʔ[2] voiced b ḍ d ḍ g g ġ Affricate central voiceless pf tθ c ç č ć kx qx ç voiced dð dz dẓ ǰ dź dʑ lateral voiceless ƛ voiced ʎ Fricative central voiceless ɸ f θ s ṣ š ś x̱ x ẖ h ṣ voiced β v ð z ẓ ž ź ɣ̱ ɣ ẖ ʕ ɦ ẓ lateral voiceless ɬ ɬʸ voiced ɮ Nasal m ṇ n ṇ ń ñ ŋ ŋ̣ Trill r̃ ʀ Tap ṛ r ɾ Approximant central ʋ ɹ ɹ̣ y ɰ labialized w̃ w lateral l̥ l l̥ lʸ Differences from the IPA fall into a few broad categories: use of diacritics to derive the other coronal and dorsal articulations from the alveolar and velar, respectively; use of c j ƛ ʎ for affricates; y for its consonantal value, and r for a tap rather than a trill. Notes: Among the dental fricatives, ⟨θ ð⟩ are slit fricatives (non-sibilant) while ⟨ṣ ẓ⟩ are sulcalized (sibilant). About 90% of languages[citation needed] only have one phonemic rhotic consonant. As a result, rhotic consonants are generally transcribed with the ⟨r⟩ character. This usage is common practice in Americanist and also other notational traditions (such as the IPA). This lack of detail, although economical and phonologically sound, requires a more careful reading of a given language's phonological description to determine the precise phonetics. A list of rhotics is given below. Common rhotic conventions Alveolar Retroflex/Uvular Approximant r ṛ ʀ Flap ř r̃ Tap ɒ ɒ̣ Trill r̃ ʀ̃ Other flaps are ⟨ñ⟩, ⟨l̃⟩, etc. There are many alternate symbols seen in Americanist transcription. Below are some equivalent symbols matched with the symbols shown in the consonant chart above. ⟨¢⟩ may be used for ⟨c⟩ (= ⟨ts⟩), or for ⟨ð⟩. ⟨č⟩ may be used for ⟨ç⟩ (= ⟨tş⟩). ⟨j⟩ may be used for ⟨ʒ⟩ (= ⟨dz⟩). ⟨ǰ⟩ may be used for ⟨ǯ⟩ (= ⟨dž⟩). ⟨j́⟩ may be used for ⟨ʒ́⟩ (= ⟨dź⟩). ⟨ɬ⟩ may be used for ⟨ɬ⟩. ⟨φ⟩ may be used for ⟨ɸ⟩. ⟨G⟩ may be used for ⟨ġ⟩. ⟨X⟩ may be used for ⟨x̱⟩. ʸ may be used for fronted velars (e.g., kʸ = ḳ, gʸ = ġ). Some transcriptions superscript the onset of doubly articulated consonants and the release of fricatives, e.g. ᵍᵇð, ⁽ᵗᵉᵊ⁾. There may be a distinction between laminal retroflex ⟨č š ž⟩ and apical retroflex ⟨ç ş ʐ⟩ in some transcriptions. The fronting diacritic may be a caret rather than an inverted breve, e.g. dental ⟨ṭ⟩ and palatal ⟨ḳ⟩. Many researchers use the x-caron ⟨x̌⟩ for the voiceless uvular fricative. The use of the standard IPA belted l ⟨ɬ⟩ for the voiceless lateral fricative is becoming increasingly common. According to Pullum & Ladusaw (1996),[3] typical Americanist usage at the time was more-or-less as follows. There was, however, little standardization of rhotics, and ⟨r⟩ may be either retroflex or uvular, though as noted above ⟨ṛ⟩ or ⟨ř⟩ may be a retroflex flap vs ⟨r̃⟩ as a uvular trill. Apart from the ambiguity of the rhotics below, and minor graphic variants ⟨ɐ g ɣ⟩ for c g ɣ and the placement of the diacritic in ĝ ŷ⟩, this is compatible with the WIELD recommendations. Only precomposed affricates are shown below; others may be indicated by digraphs (e.g. ⟨dz⟩). Typical NAPA consonant values (1996, not prescriptive) Bilabial Labio-dental Inter-dental Dental Alveolar Retroflex Palato-alveolar Palatal Velar Uvular Pharyn-geal Glottal Stop (oral) voiceless p ṭ t ṭ ḳ k q ʔ voiced b ḍ d ḍ g g ġ Affricate voiceless ɐ č voiced ǰ Lateral affricate voiceless ƛ voiced ʎ Fricative voiceless ɸ f θ s ṣ š ś x̱ x ẖ h voiced β v ð z ẓ ž ź ɣ̱ ɣ ẖ ʕ ɦ Lateral fricative voiceless ɬ Nasal m ṃ n ṇ ń ñ ŋ ŋ̣ Rhotic r ṛ ɾ Lateral l ḷ Glide (w) y (w) Ejectives and implosives follow the same conventions as in the IPA, apart from the ejective apostrophe being placed above the base letter. Pike (1947) provides the following set of symbols: Pike (1947) consonant values Bilabial Labio-dental Inter-dental Alveolar Retroflex Alveolo-palatal Palatal Velar Uvular Pharyn-geal Glottal Stop (oral) voiceless p ṭ t ṭ ḳ k ḳ (q) ḳ ʔ voiced b ḍ d ḍ g g ġ (G) Affricate voiceless ᵽᵽ ṭθ ts (ɐ) tš (č) kx voiced bᵽ ḍð dz (ʒ) dž (ǰ) gᵽ Lateral affricate voiceless tɬ (ƛ) voiced dl (ʎ) Flat fricative voiceless ᵽ f θ ṣ x̱ x ẖ h voiced ᵽ v ð ḍ ġ g ɣ ɦ Sibilant voiceless ṣ (Ṣ) s ṣ , š š voiced ṣ z ẓ , ž ž Lateral fricative voiceless ḷ voiced ḷ Nasal voiceless m̥ (M̥) n̥ (N̥) ñ̥ (Ñ̥) ŋ̊ (Ŋ̊) voiced m n ṇ ñ ŋ Lateral voiceless ɬ (L) ɬʸ voiced l ḷ lʸ Flap voiceless ř voiced ř , ř̥ Trill voiceless p̄ r̄ voiced b̄ r̄ r̥̄ Voiceless, voiced and syllabic consonants may also be Ç, Ç̬ and Ç̩, as in IPA. Aspirated consonants are C′ or Cʰ / Cᵏʰ. Non-audible release is indicated with superscripting, V⁽ᵊ⁾. Fortis is Ç or lenis C̬. Labialization is Ç or Cʷ; palatalization is Ç, C⁽ʲ⁾ or Cʸ; velarization is C⁽ˠ⁾, and pharyngealization is Ⲥ. Other airstream mechanisms are pulmonic ingressive C←, ejective Cʿ, implosive Cᶦ, click Cˇ, and lingual ejective (spurt) Cˇ. WIELD recommends the following conventions. It does not provide characters for distinctions that are not attested in the literature:[1] WIELD (2016) recommendations for NAPA (semi)vowels Front Central Back unround round unround round Glide y ẅ ɯ w Close higher i ü ɨ ʉ ï u lower ɪ ö ɤ ʊ ʊ Mid higher e ö ə ȯ ë o lower ɛ ɔ̈ ɛ̇ ɔ̇ ʌ ɔ Open higher æ ɒ̈ æ̇ ɑ ɒ lower a a No distinction is made between front and central for the lowest unrounded vowels. Diphthongs are e.g. ⟨ai⟩ or ⟨ay⟩, depending on phonological analysis. Nasal vowels are e.g. ⟨ą⟩. Long vowels are e.g. ⟨a:⟩. A three-way length distinction may be ⟨a a: a::⟩ or ⟨a a· a:⟩. Primary and secondary stress are e.g. ⟨á⟩ and ⟨à⟩. Voicelessness is e.g. ⟨ą̥⟩, as in the IPA. Creak, murmur, rhoticity et al. are as in the IPA. According to Pullum & Ladusaw (1996), typical Americanist usage at the time was more-or-less as follows: Typical NAPA vowel values (1996, not prescriptive) Front Central Back unround round unround round unround Glide y w High (higher) i ü ɨ ʉ ï u lower ɪ ö ɤ ʊ ʊ Mid higher e ö ə ë o lower ɛ ɔ̈ ʌ ɔ Low æ a/ɑ Lower-Low a ɑ ɒ Pike (1947) presents the following: Pike (1947) vowel values Front Central Back unround round unround round Glide y w High (higher) i ü ɨ ʉ ï u lower ɪ ö ɤ ʊ ʊ Mid higher e ö ə ë o lower ɛ ɔ̈ ʌ ɔ Low higher æ lower a ɑ ɒ Nasalization is V̨ or Vⁿ. A long vowel is V: or V·; half-long is V· (raised dot). Positional variants are fronted Vˣ, backed Vˆ, raised Vˆ and lowered Vˇ. Bloch & Trager (1942)[4] proposed the following schema, which was never used. They use a single dot for central vowels and a dieresis to reverse backness. The only central vowels with their own letters are ⟨ɨ⟩, which already has a dot, and ⟨ɨ⟩, which would not be distinct if formed with a dot. Bloch & Trager (1942) vowel symbols Front Central Back unround round unround round High i ü ɨ ʉ ï u Lower-high ɪ ö ɤ ʊ ʊ Higher-mid e ö ė ȯ ë o Mean-mid ɐ ɔ̈ ɐ̇ ɔ̇ ɐ̈ ɔ Lower-mid ɛ ɔ̈ ɛ̇ ɔ̇ ɛ̈ ɔ Higher-low æ ɔ̈ æ̇ ɔ̇ æ̈ ɔ Low a ɒ̈ ȧ ɒ̇ ä ɒ Kurath (1939) is as follows.[5] Enclosed in parentheses are rounded vowels. Apart from ⟨ɐ, ɑ⟩ and some differences in alignment, it is essentially the IPA. Kurath (1939) vowel symbols Front Half-front Central Half-back Back High i (y) ɨ (ʉ) ɯ (u) Lower high ɪ (ʏ) ɤ (ʊ) ɤ̞ (ʊ) Higher mid e (ø) ɘ (o) Mid ə (ɵ) Lower mid ɛ (œ) ɜ (ɔ) ʌ Higher low æ ɐ (ɔ) Low a ɑ ɑ (ɒ) Chomsky & Halle (1968) proposed the following schema, which was hardly ever used. In addition to the table, there was ⟨ə⟩ for an unstressed reduced vowel. Chomsky & Halle (1968) vowel symbols [−back] [+back] [−round] [+round] [−round] [+round] [+high −low] [+tense] i ü ɨ u [−tense] ɪ ʏ ʊ ɤ [−high −low] [+tense] e ö ɤ̄ o [−tense] ɛ œ ʌ ɔ [−high +low] [+tense] æ ɐ ā ɔ [−tense] æ ɐ a ɔ Pike (1947) provides the following tone marks: High: V̋ or V¹ Mid: V̄ or V² Norm: V̄ or V³ Low: V̏ or V⁴ Stress is primary ˈCV or V́ and secondary ˌCV or V̀. Short or intermediate and long or final ˈpauses' are |, ||, as in IPA. Syllable division is CV.CV, as in IPA, and morpheme boundaries are CV-CV. The following charts were agreed by committee of the American Anthropological Association in 1916.[6][7] The vowel chart is based on the classification of H. Sweet. The high central vowels are differentiated by moving the centralizing dot to the left rather than with a cross stroke. IPA equivalents are given in a few cases that may not be clear. narrow wide back mixed front back mixed front high ï ɨ (= ˙ɪ) i ɨ ʉ ï (= ˙u) i ɨ ʉ ï (= ˙ʊ) i ɨ ʉ ï (= ˙ʊ) i mid ɑ [ʌ] e a ɛ low à ä high round u ü ʉ ʊ ʊ̈ mid round o ö ȯ ɔ̈ ɔ̇ ɔ̈ low round ω ω̈ ω̇ Stops Spirants Affricates Nasals Laterals Lateral Affricates Rolled Consonants Surd Sonant Intermed. Aspirated Glot-talized Surd Sonant Glot-talized* Surd Sonant Glot-talized* Surd Sonant Glot-talized* Bilabial(rounded) pw bw ʙw pw' ṗw , pwˡ ɓ w hʷ pɓ bw pɓˡ ʍw mw ṭɬˡ ʀ ɾ ʀˡ Bilabial(unrounded) p b ʙ pˀ ṗ , pˡ φ β φˡ pφ bβ pφˡ ʍ m Dento-labial f v fˡ pf bv pfˡ Dento-labial f v fˡ pf bv pfˡ Inter-dental θ ð θˡ tθ dθ tθˡ Inter-dental θ ð θˡ tθ dθ tθˡ Linguo-dental ṭ ḍ ṇ ṭˀ ṭ , ṭˡ s ẓ sˡ ʦ ʣ ʧ ʤ ɲ ɲ̩ ɬ , ɮ ɬˡ ɬ̩ dl tɬˡ ʀ ɾ ʀˡ Linguo-alveolar t d n tˀ t , tˡ s z sˡ ts dz tsˡ ɴ n ɫ , ɮ ɬˡ ɬ̩ dl tɬˡ ʀ ɾ ʀˡ Linguo-alveolar t d n tˀ t , tˡ s z sˡ ts dz tsˡ ɴ n ɫ , ɮ ɬˡ ɬ̩ dl tɬˡ ʀ ɾ ʀˡ Cerebral ʈ ɖ ɳ ʈˀ ʈ , ʈˡ ʂ ʐ ʂˡ ʈʂ ɖʐ ʈʂˡ ɳ ɳ̩ ɭ , ɭ ɭˡ ɭ̩ ɖl ʈɭˡ ʁ ɾ ʁˡ Cerebral ʈ ɖ ɳ ʈˀ ʈ , ʈˡ ʂ ʐ ʂˡ ʈʂ ɖʐ ʈʂˡ ɳ ɳ̩ ɭ , ɭ ɭˡ ɭ̩ ɖl ʈɭˡ ʁ ɾ ʁˡ Dorso-dental ʈ ð Δ [8] tˀ ʈ , tˡ σ ζ σˡ ʦ δζ ʦˡ ν ɲ ʌ λ ʌˡ ʧ δʌ ʧʌˡ Dorsal ʈ ð Δ[8] tˀ ʈ , tˡ σ ζ σˡ ʦ δζ ʦˡ ν[9] ɲ ʌ λ ʌˡ ʧ δʌ ʧʌˡ Dorso-palatal ʈ ð Δ ʈˀ ʈ , ʈˡ σ ζ σˡ ʦ δζ ʦˡ ν ɲ ʌ λ ʌˡ ʧ δʌ ʧʌˡ Dorso-palatal ʈ ð Δ ʈˀ ʈ , ʈˡ σ ζ σˡ ʦ δζ ʦˡ ν ɲ ʌ λ ʌˡ ʧ δʌ ʧʌˡ Anteriorc-sounds (ʦy) (δy) (Δy) (ʦʸ) (ʈ , ʈyˡ) cy jy cyˡ tcy djy tcyˡ (ny) (ny) (λy , ly) (ly) (lyˡ) Anteriorc-sounds (ʦy) (δy) (Δy) (ʦʸ) (ʈ , ʈyˡ) cy jy cyˡ tcy djy tcyˡ (ny) (ny) (λy) (λyˡ) (ʧʌy) (δʌy) (ʧʌyˡ) Midc-sounds (ty) (dy) (ny) (tyˀ) (t , tyˡ) c j cˡ tc dj tcˡ (ny) (ny) (ly , ly) (ly) (lyˡ) (tly) (dly) (tlyˡ) Posteriorc-sounds (ʦy) (δy) (ny) (tyˀ) (ʈ , ʈyˡ) c j cˡ tc dj tcˡ (ny) (ny) (ly , ly) (ly) (lyˡ) (tly) (dly) (tlyˡ) Posteriorc-sounds (ty) (dy) (ny) (tyˀ) (t , tyˡ) c j cˡ tc dj tcˡ (ny) (ny) (ly , ly) (ly) (lyˡ) (tly) (dly) (tlyˡ) Anteriorpalatal ḳ g ɡ ḳˀ ḳ , ḳˡ x̱ ɣ x̱ˡ ḳx gy ḳxˡ ɰ ŋ ḳl gl ḳlˡ P ɋ ɋˡ Anteriorpalatal ḳ g ɡ ḳˀ ḳ , ḳˡ x̱ ɣ x̱ˡ ḳx gy ḳxˡ ɰ ŋ ḳl gl ḳlˡ P ɋ ɋˡ Mid-palatal k g ɢ kˀ k , kˡ x ɣ xˡ kx gy kxˡ ɰ[10] ŋ ḳl gl ḳlˡ P ɋ ɋˡ Mid-palatal k g ɢ kˀ k , kˡ x ɣ xˡ kx gy kxˡ ɰ[10] ŋ ḳl gl ḳlˡ P ɋ ɋˡ Back palatal,velar ḳ (q) g ɢ ḳˀ ḳ , ḳˡ x̱ ɣ x̱ˡ ḳx gy ḳxˡ ɰ ŋ ḳl gl ḳlˡ P ɋ ɋˡ Back palatal,velar ḳ (q) g ɢ ḳˀ ḳ , ḳˡ x̱ ɣ x̱ˡ ḳx gy ḳxˡ ɰ ŋ ḳl gl ḳlˡ P ɋ ɋˡ Glottal ʼ ˀˀ ˈ , h a (anyvowel) ˀˀ (ȧ) Laryngeal ʼ ˀˀ ḥ (any vowel with laryngeal resonance) ʼ̥ḥ Notes: surd = voiceless; sonant = voiced; intermed. = partially voiced In the glottalized stop column, the phonetic symbol appearing on the left side (which is a consonant plus an overhead single quotation mark) represents a weakly glottalized stop (i.e. weakly ejective). The symbol on the right side is strongly glottalized (i.e. it is articulated very forcefully). Example: [k] = weakly glottalized, [kˡ] = strongly glottalized. (Cf. kʼ = [k] followed by glottal stop.) This convention is only shown for the glottalized stops, but may be used for any of the glottalized consonants. "Laryngeal" refers to either pharyngeal or epiglottal. Main article: Anthropos phonetic alphabet The journal Anthropos published the alphabet to be used in their articles in 1907.[11] It is the same basic system that Sapir and Boas introduced to the United States. Transcription is italic, without other delimiters. Following are symbols that differ among well-known Americanist sources.[12][13] Powel1880 Boas1911 AAA1916 Sapir1934 Sturtevant1978 WIELD2020 IPA plosives k· ky kʸ kʸ ḳ, kʸ c g· gy gʸ gʸ g, gʸ ɟ q q, ḳ q q q g g ġ ġ ɢ ʔ ʔ ʔ ʔ affricates tθ θ tθ tθ dθ ð dð dð ts c c c ts dz ʒ ʒ dz dz tc tc č č tɕ dj dj ǯ ǯ ǰ dʒ ʟ tɬ, tʟ ƛ ƛ ƛ tƛ ʟ dl λ λ λ dλ fricatives ç ç θ θ θ θ ɛ ɛ θ ð ð ð c c c š š ʃ j j j ž ž ʒ q χ x x x x x ɣ ɣ ɣ χ̱ χ x̱ x̱ x̱ χ ɣ ɣ ɣ ɣ̌ ʁ ẖ ẖ ẖ nasals ñ ñ ñ ŋ ŋ ŋ̣ ṇ̃ ñ ŋ̣ ɴ ṃ ṃ M ṃ ṃ ṇ ɴ N ṇ ṇ ṇ̃ ñ N̥ ŋ̊ laterals ɬ ɬ, ʟ ɬ ɬ̣ trills ɹ ɽ ʀ ʀ Powel1880 Boas1911 AAA1916 Sapir1934 Sturtevant1978 WIELD2020 IPA aspiration C‘ C‘ C‘, Cʰ Cʰ Cʰ Cʰ glottalization C′ (b′) C! C′ C′ C′ C′ C′, C′ palatalization C· Cy, Cy Cʸ Cʸ Cʸ Cʸ Cʲ labialization Cʷ Cw, Cw Cʷ Cʷ Cʷ Cʷ length V̄? V̄ V· (V:) V· (V:) V: (a: a:: or a· a:) V: (V::) nasalization Vⁿ Vⁿ V̨ V̨ V̨ V̨ Powel1880 Boas1911 AAA1916 Sapir1934 Sturtevant1978 WIELD2020 IPA vowels ĭ i i, ĭ i i i i i, ĭ ɪ ɪ ɪ ĕ e e, ē e e e e ɛ, e ɛ ɛ ɛ ä ä, ă æ æ æ u u u, ŭ u u u ŭ ʊ, u ʊ ʊ ʊ o o o, ŏ o o o ŏ ɔ, o ŏ ɔ ɔ ɔ â ω ɔ ɒ ɒ ĭ i i, ï i, ɯ ŭ ɐ ə ə ə ə ɑ, à ʌ ʌ? ɐ The IETF language tags register fonnapa as a subtag for text in this notation.[14] Phonetic transcription International Phonetic Alphabet English Phonetic Alphabet Uralic Phonetic Alphabet Teuthonista Phonetics Phonology ^ a b WIELD's Recommended Americanist Transcription System ^ ⟨ʔ⟩ is often rendered by removing the dot from a question mark ⟨ʔ⟩. ^ Phonetic Symbol Guide, 2nd ed., p. 301–302 ^ Bloch, Bernard; Trager, George L. (1942). Outline of Linguistic Analysis. Linguistic Society of America. p. 22. ^ Kurath, Hans (1939). Handbook of the Linguistic Geography of New England. Brown University. p. 123. ^ Boas, Goddard, Sapir & Kroeber (1916) Phonetic Transcription of Indian Languages: Report of Committee of American Anthropological Association. Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections 66.6.[1] Chart is a fold-out behind the back cover that is not reproduced at this link. ^ Smithsonian Institution; Institution, Smithsonian; Institution, Smithsonian (1916). Smithsonian miscellaneous collections. Vol. v.66 (1916-1917). Washington: Smithsonian Institution. ^ There is no small-capital delta in Unicode. A full capital would normally be substituted. ^ Not supported by Unicode. It can be kept distinct in a database as Greek N, but that is not visually distinct in print. ^ Small-capital engma is rendered various ways. ⟨и⟩ is the form it takes in the Uralic Phonetic Alphabet and is the form supported by Unicode. ^ P. W. Schmidt, P. G. Schmidt and P. J. Hermes, "Die Sprachlaute und ihre Darstellung in einem allgemeinen linguistischen Alphabet (Schluß) / Les sons du langage et leur représentation dans un alphabet linguistique général (Conclusion)", Anthropos, Bd. 2, H. 5. (1907), insert at page 1098 ^ Mithun, Languages of Native North America, 1999, p. viii. ^ Sturtevant, Handbook of North American Indians, vol. 17, 1978, p. 12ff ^ "Language Subtag Registry". IETF. 2024-05-16. Retrieved 22 May 2024. Recommendations of WIELD for Americanist notation Abercrombie, David. (1991). "Daniel Jones's teaching". In Abercrombie, David (ed.). Fifty years in phonetics: Selected papers. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. pp. 37–47.(Original work published 1985 in Fromkin, V. A. (ed.). Phonetic linguistics: Essays in honor of Peter Ladefoged. Orlando: Academic Press, Inc. Albright, Robert W. (1958). The International Phonetic Alphabet: Its background and development. 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But there are other alternatives one might choose instead of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). I'm going to examine one of those today from the perspective of someone looking to transcribe human language and invent fictional languages (called "conlangs"). The subject of today's article is another American system, because the Americans are about as keen on the IPA as they are on the metric system. It's a very old system called Americanist Phonetic Notation, and luckily it doesn't have much in common with the AHD. But can it compare with the IPA? Well, the short answer is that overall it can't, but it might have some applications in areas where transcription doesn't need to be standardized. I've found quite a bit more information on this system than I did when researching the American Heritage Dictionary. Americanist Phonetic Notation (APN), also known as the North American Phonetic Alphabet (NAPA), has a long history. A lot of American linguists made their own adjustments to it without much oversight, and the result isn't particularly standardized. Indeed, I've thus far been unable to find any definitive chart of its symbols. Every chart I look at is vastly different from the others, and I can only conclude that every American linguist must use a slightly different system. What I have been able to gather is that the American system was conceived with different priorities than the IPA. Where the IPA has a different letter for each sound and uses diacritics as modifiers, the NAPA uses diacritics for pretty much everything. General usage changes drastically from decade to decade, and each new chart looks increasingly like the IPA. It makes one wonder why Americans don't just switch to what most of us are using. There might be an answer to that, but we'll get there. Let's start with the most obvious difference between IPA and Americanist Phonetic Notation: diacritics. Like the AHD, the NAPA uses diacritics to distinguish between completely different sounds. It does this because the philosophy of Americanist Phonetic Notation was originally intended to allow linguists to easily print their transcriptions using old-fashioned typefaces. Instead of writing the voiceless palatal-through-uvular fricatives [ç], [x], and [χ] as the IPA does, NAPA writes them all as variants of ⟨x⟩: [x̟], [x], and [x̞]. I'm sure this was all very convenient when working with old printers that used moveable type, but these days that's not an issue. In my experience, letters in the North American Phonetic Alphabet tend to all look a lot more similar to each other than they do in the IPA. One aspect of Americanist Phonetic Notation that I find interesting is how some of its devotees distinguish voiceless vowels. They simply capitalize the vowel to make it voiceless. Therefore IPA [ɯ] and [ɥ] would be NAPA [i] and [Ï], respectively. In one article I read, an American linguist argues that the NAPA is better for field work, particularly when working with languages that distinguish between a plosive-fricative cluster (such as IPA [tʃ]) and a true affricate (like IPA [t͡ʃ]). You see, as I hinted at in my article on the AHD, NAPA gives most affricates their own symbols. IPA's [tʃ] and [t͡ʃ] become [č] and [ǰ] in NAPA. Some people find that this lets them write things down clearer and faster in the field. Unfortunately Americanist Phonetic Notation's focus on diacritics can make it hard to read. Just look at the same phrase in both alphabets. I'll go with "Josh ran to the hospital," as it has some phonemes whose symbols I want to demonstrate. Let's start with NAPA's: [ǰoš rän tü? ʒə hɒspitəl]North-American Phonetic Alphabet I feel the diacritics here end up being a bit distracting, and they're hard to see if you're not looking closely. And again, there are any number of other ways an American linguist might transcribe the same sentence. Some may find NAPA easier to write by hand, but it's certainly not as easy to read as the IPA: [d͡ʒɒʃ æn tu: ðə ˈhɒspɪt(ə)l]International Phonetic Alphabet Maybe it's just that I was taught the IPA first, but I find that a lot easier to read at a glance. Everyone who uses the NAPA appears to use a different set of symbols. The sound represented in IPA by [ɱ] has been written as [ɱ], [ʍ], and [M] in different versions of Americanist Phonetic Notation. One American linguist might transcribe IP