



An Introduction to Forensic Phonetics and Forensic Linguistics

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There is no doubt that *An Introduction to Forensic Phonetics and Forensic Linguistics*, by Adrian Leemann, Ria Perkins, Grace Sullivan Buker, and Paul Foulkes, provides an exceptional resource for the fields of forensic phonetics and linguistics, featuring how these closely relevant disciplines work together to guide legal explorations and deliver justice. Emphasizing students and professionals, it includes important topics, including speaker and author profiling, meaning analysis, audio authentication, and forensic transcription. With a thorough and comprehensive focus on authentic implementation, the book bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and actual applications, exercises, and authentic tools, making it useful for students and professionals who are seeking to comprehend how essential language and speech analysis can be conducted in forensic settings.

The book is structured with 13 loosely connected chapters, emphasizing essential dimensions in terms of forensic phonetics and linguistics. It starts with an introduction to fundamental knowledge about the fields, providing a basis for the in-depth investigation that follows. The book's first theme is forensic phonetics, covering speech analysis, speaker profiling, speaker comparison, earwitness evidence, and audio improvement and authentication. Subsequently, it discusses forensic linguistics, investigating language analysis in asylum procedures, linguistic meaning, and language use in the judicial system. The book finally delves into authorship analysis, covering authorship profiling and comparative analysis, and ends with the importance of speech and language experts as witnesses in legal contexts. Each chapter integrates foundational perspectives to authentic implementation, advocated by case studies, exercises, and extra materials to improve learning experiences.

Chapter 1 discusses the fields of forensic phonetics and linguistics, contextualizing the fundamental knowledge for the investigation of speech

and language analysis in forensic settings. It provides readers with the foundations, in a way that is accessible for newcomers and but also relevant for those with background knowledge. Chapter 2 to Chapter 6 shed light on phonetic features, speaker profiling, comparison, earwitness evidence, and audio improvement in forensic explorations. Chapter 2 addresses a comprehensive exploration of phonetic analysis, specifically on speech production and acoustic analysis fundamentals. It centers on essential features of forensic phonetics, facilitating a solid background knowledge to understand the following chapters. Chapter 3 covers speaker profiling, discussing the main information extracted during analysis, including regional background and speech pathologies. It emphasizes the shortcomings of biometric data and the difficulties of analyzing short or low-quality recordings. Chapter 4 delves into the approaches and challenges of forensic speaker comparison (FSC). It emphasizes optimal phonetic characteristics for FSC, surveys popular analytical methods, and sheds light on how conclusions are conveyed, specifically on the use of likelihood ratios (LRs) for probability assessment. Chapter 5 identifies earwitness evidence, particularly on voice line-ups, elements influencing listener identification, and legal considerations. It investigates line-up construction and validity, the influence of voice familiarity and audio quality, and offers case instances, providing in-depth perspectives into this forensic evidence category. Chapter 6 examines strict protocols for audio authentication and improvement, highlighting meticulous documentation. The chapter ends with forensic transcription techniques, emphasizing the crucial role of linguistic perspectives and acoustic analysis skills.

Chapters 7 to 10 investigate how language is employed and interpreted in legal contexts, from asylum procedures to courtroom communication. Chapter 7 examines Language Analysis in the Asylum Procedure (LAAP), examining its legal settings, interview procedures, and linguistic analysis methods. It emphasizes the difficulties of working with uncooperative speakers and complex biographies, highlighting the challenges in offering definitive insights in asylum scenarios. Chapter 8 explores forensic linguistics in both written and spoken discourse within forensic settings. It includes the field's origins, important theories, and methodologies, supplemented by actual examples. Chapter 9 reports essential theories of meaning, corpus linguistic methods, and their implementation in real-world settings. The chapter also delves into language crimes and the crucial role of accurate meaning in legal settings, advocated by actual contexts. Chapter 10 discusses

power dynamics within legal institutions and forensic linguistic techniques for analyzing police interviews, courtroom testimonies, and other legal communications. Case studies are provided to emphasize strategies for understanding justice system interactions.

Chapter 11 and Chapter 12 shift the focus to the identity and features of language authors, namely profiling, comparative analysis, and plagiarism detection in forensic settings. Chapter 11 investigates authorship profiling, paralleling speaker profiling by investigating an author's social features through language use. It includes sociolinguistic theories, methodologies, and essential scenarios, with a strong emphasis on other language influence detection (OLID), showing how linguistics assists investigative casework. Chapter 12 delves into the theories and methodologies from previous chapters to explain comparative authorship analysis such as plagiarism detection. It outlines core concepts and authentic casework, and addresses ethical issues relevant to AI and plagiarism. This chapter provides readers with useful tools for addressing linguistic structures in forensic analysis. Chapter 13 highlights the importance of speech and language experts as expert witnesses by presenting the principles experts are required to follow, forensic science regulations, and best practices for reporting opinions.

This book contributes greatly to the fields of forensic phonetics and linguistics. To start with, it provides an in-depth exploration of forensic phonetics and linguistics, successfully connecting these closely related yet distinct fields. It successfully shows how experts from forensic phonetics and linguistics work together to analyze speech and language in legal settings, addressing their combined efforts to improve justice delivery in complicated scenarios. By the inclusion of important topics, including speaker and author profiling, disputed meaning, and audio authentication, the book provides readers with the solid foundations important for forensic investigations. Moreover, case studies and tasks serve as an authentic and useful source for the actual implementation. The use of comprehensive case studies helps readers to see how theoretical concepts are used in real forensic casework, improving their knowledge of profiling, meaning analysis, and interviewing techniques. Follow-up tasks in each chapter promote active learning, assisting students and professionals to enhance critical analytical skills. This authentic approach guarantees that readers are fully equipped with theoretical foundations and the competence to apply them in real-world forensic scenarios. Last but not least, it provides readers with invaluable accessibility affordances, including online audios, videos, and software tools.

These improve the teaching-learning process by offering real-world tools for audio improvement, transcription, and linguistic analysis. This excellent learning material is appropriate to students and professionals seeking to understand forensic phonetics, speech science, forensic linguistics, and legal language research. The integration of accessible materials and practical learning tools guarantees that readers are knowledgeable to address forensic difficulties effectively.

Taken together, as a linguist in favor of forensic phonetics and linguistics, I confirm that *An Introduction to Forensic Phonetics and Forensic Linguistics* is a timely and comprehensive learning and research resource, offering a balanced theoretical overview and authentic implementation. The in-depth inclusion of authentic case studies and real-world tasks provides readers with important skills to analyze speech and language in forensic settings efficiently. Whether readers are students or professionals looking to enhance their knowledge in the fields, this book can be used to further their knowledge of linguistic and phonetic analysis in the context of justice.

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