

Table of Contents

Sound Charts and Transcription	viii
Abbreviations and Symbols	x
Preface	xi
1. The Object of Description	1
1.0 Preliminaries	1
1.1 The French Language	1
1.2 A Brief Historical Review	6
2. Key Descriptive and Theoretical Concepts	11
2.0 Introduction	11
2.1 Orthography and Pronunciation	11
2.2 Morphological and Lexical Notions	13
3. Basic Descriptive Units and Domains	21
3.0 Introduction: The Segment	21
3.1 The Syllable	23
3.2 The SF Phonological Word	30
3.3 The Phonological Phrase	31
3.4 Conclusion	37
4. Vowels and Semi-vowels	41
4.0 The Vowel System	41
4.1 Vowel Length	42
4.1.1 Lengthening Consonants	43
4.1.2 Intrinsically Long Vowels	44
4.1.3 The / ϵ – ϵ :/ Opposition	45
4.1.4 Supplementary Comments	47
4.2 The Mid Vowels	48
4.2.1 Mid Vowels in Final Open Syllables	49
4.2.2 Mid Vowels in Final Closed Syllables	50
4.2.3 Mid Vowels in Nonfinal Closed Syllables	51
4.2.4 Mid Vowels in Nonfinal Open Syllables	52
4.2.4.1 Analogy	53
4.2.4.2 Vowel Harmony	54
4.2.4.3 The <i>loi de position</i>	55
4.2.5 Grammatical Consequences of the Constraints on Mid Vowels	57
4.2.6 Orthography and Pronunciation	59
4.2.7 The Potential Merger of / ɔ / and / œ /	59
4.3 The Low Vowels / a / and / ɑ /	60
4.4 Nasal Vowels	62
4.4.1 The Merger of / $\bar{\epsilon}$ / and / $\bar{\text{œ}}$ /	63
4.4.2 Distribution of Nasal Vowels	64
4.4.3 Alternations between $\tilde{\text{V}}$ and VN	65

4.4.4 History and Orthography	73
4.4.5 Dialects	75
4.5 Schwa	76
4.5.1 Orthographic Representations of Schwa	77
4.5.2 Distributional Constraints on Schwa	77
4.5.3 The Phonetic Realization of Schwa	78
4.5.4 The Deletion of Schwa	80
4.5.4.1 Schwa in the Phonological Phrase	80
4.5.4.2 A Rhythmic Constraint	84
4.5.4.3 Epenthesis	85
4.5.4.4 The Tendency Towards Irregularity	86
4.5.4.5 Stylistic Considerations	88
4.5.4.6 The Stabilization of Schwa	90
4.5.5 Alternations Involving Schwa	92
4.5.6 Dialects and History	95
4.6 Semi-vowels	100
4.6.1 Orthographic Representations of the Semi-vowels...	102
4.6.2 The Phonology of the Semi-vowels	103
4.7 Further Effects of the Phonological Phrase	106
4.8 Concluding Remarks	107
5. Consonants	119
5.0 The Consonant System	119
5.1 Geminate Consonants	130
5.2 Nasal Consonants	132
5.2.1 The /ɲ/ – /nj/ Interchange	132
5.2.2 The Importation of /ɲ/	134
5.2.3 Nasal Assimilation	135
5.3 Voicing Assimilation	136
5.4 Aspirate-h	140
5.4.1 Other Types of ‘Aspiration’	146
5.4.2 Historical Comments Regarding < h >	147
5.5 Final Consonants	148
5.5.1 Stable Final Consonants	148
5.5.2 Latent Final Consonants	152
5.6 Linking Phenomena: <i>Enchaînement</i> and <i>Liaison</i>	160
5.7 <i>Liaison</i>	160
6. Prosody	177
6.0 Introduction	177
6.1 Stress and Rhythm	177
6.1.1 Phrasal Stress	178
6.1.2 Emphatic Stress	181
6.2 Intonation	182
6.3 Colloquial Constructions	187

7. Around the Phonological Periphery: Playing with Language	191
7.0 Introduction	191
7.1 Abbreviations	191
7.2 Acronyms	195
7.3 Reduplication	199
7.4 Word Games: <i>Verlan</i>	200
Appendix	207
References	213
Index	227