

Degree 3, (English Honours)

Paper – Eight

Section - 2

Subject- **Linguistics**

Suprasegmental Features

Juncture, stress and pitch are called suprasegmental features.

Juncture

Juncture is the transition from one segmental phoneme to another; it is either close or open, and if open, either internal or terminal. Some linguists have defined four significant types of juncture (or pause). One is internal or open and three are terminal. These may be illustrated as follows: -

Plus juncture : + (a+name-an+aim)

+ (six+tea+cups-sixty+cups)

+ (that+stuff- that's+tough)

+ (the+water+cut+it+the+way+to+cut+it)

+ (how+starained-hous+trained)

Single bar juncture : / His friend/Mohan/isn't here

Double bar juncture :// one// two// three// four

Double cross juncture # one# two# three# four

Robert De Lancey in his book *Linguistics and Teaching* contrasts the last three of these juncture as follows: **Single bar juncture** where speech is terminated abruptly and remains on a level pitch..... is sometimes but quite rarely associated with punctuation. **In Double bar juncture** (a rising terminal juncture) the voice is less sharply cut off, and there is a rise in pitch before the pause; this rise is the part of juncture, which is therefore, something more than just a pause.... **The Double cross juncture** (as falling terminal juncture) is associated with a drop in pitch and a falling off or trailing away of the voice into silence. This can be discerned at the end of most statement utterances in American English, and is typically associated in written English with some form of end punctuation.