

British Union of Research Phoneticians: *Conference anthem*

This is traditionally performed at the end of the annual conference of the British Union of Research Phoneticians (BURP). It is sung to the tune of:

Dem bones dem bones dem dry bones etc etc
The foot bone connected to the leg bone,
The leg bone connected to the knee bone, etc etc. [SEE EDITOR'S NOTE]

Daniel visits the Valley of Dry Phones and prophesies that the low vowels will one day rise again at the command of the Lord.

Dem bones dem bones dem dry bones
Dem tones dem tones dem high tones
Dem phones dem phones dem dry phones
Now shake dem allophones!

The allophone's connected to the phoneme
The phoneme's connected to the morpheme
The morpheme's connected to the lexeme
The lexeme's connected to the phraseme
Now shake dem allophones!

Daniel Jones connected dem high tones
Daniel Jones connected dem dry phones
Daniel Jones connected dem allophones
Now hear the word of the Lord!

Do you hear him, Brother Saussure? (Yeah yeah!)
Do you hear him, Brother Bloomfield? (Yeah yeah!)

The phoneme's connected to the morpheme
The morpheme's connected to the lexeme
The lexeme's connected to the phraseme
The phraseme's connected to the whole theme
Now shake dem allophones!

Daniel he cried, "Dere's back phones!"
Daniel he cried, "Dere's front phones!"
Daniel he cried, "Dere's low tones!"
Daniel he cried, "Dere's high tones!"
Now hear the word of the Lord!

Dem tones dem tones gonna walk around
Dem phones dem phones gonna walk around
Daniel Jones made dem all turn around
Now shake dem allophones!

Dem bones dem bones gonna rise again
Dem phones dem phones gonna rise again
Dem tones dem tones come alive again
Now hear the word of the Lord!

Do you hear him, Brother Chomsky? (Yeah yeah!)
Do you hear him, Brother Labov? (Yeah yeah!)

EDITOR'S NOTE. As far as we know, the members of BURP have never apologized to the brothers James Weldon Johnson and J Rosomond Johnson for thus distorting their original song, which was first recorded in the 1920s.

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