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Dear Dr. Kellner

I make no claim to be an authority on phonetics, or to have a particularly accurate ear. You should put your questions to some one who can make such a claim. I am quite unable to perceive any difference between Eng. initial and final l, except so far as every consonant (except perhaps a labial) does undergo slight modification according to the difference of organic position required for the adjacent sound. From this point of view, I would admit that the l's in like, blue, fill, full, are all different.

But what I can perceive is that the English l in all positions is distinct from the French or the German l. As you say, a Frenchman pronounces the final sound of Courcel differently from an Englishman. But then he also pronounces the initial l differently.

I think I can understand why a German

may fancy that there is a material difference between the initial and the final l. The quality of a voiced consonant is more easily perceived accurately at the end of a ~~the~~ word than at the beginning, and it is usually somewhat longer. Therefore, if a German uses his native l in English, he is more likely to find out his mistake, or to be criticised for foreign pronunciation, in the case of the final than the initial l.

As I admit no important organic difference between initial & final l, your question ^{to} which class medial l belongs is to me unmeaning. I may mention that ~~a~~ Scotchmen often say ful-ly with a doubled l, but Englishmen do not.

As to the vowel in *ster*, *sterring*,
Englishmen differ, and I do not think
my own pronunciation is consistent.

There is a quantitative difference in
my pronunciation, the vowel of *ster* being
over long, while that of *sterring* varies
from short to half long. And when I
speak ~~natura~~ without deliberation I feel
sure there is a slight qualitative
difference, but I cannot analyse it, or
even feel sure that I quite reproduce
my natural pronunciation when I
attempt to observe it.

As to ~~z~~ *z*, there is a difference
in quantity, not in quality: in
sing it is long, in *singing* it is short

Yours very truly

Henry Bradley.