

Allophones of English Consonants

Stops

Variations in the Manner

- **aspiration**, indicated by a small raised letter *h* [^h] = a period of voicelessness after the stop articulation and before the start of the voicing for the vowel ('pie, tie, kye' [p^haɪ, t^haɪ, k^haɪ])
- **unexploded** consonant, indicated by a small raised mark [ˀ]: syllable- or word-final consonant unexploded when the next syllable or word begins a stop or nasal ('the cat pushed [ðə 'kætˀ 'pʰʊʃt], 'apt' [æpˀt], 'act' [ækˀt])
- absence of this rule in oth. languages, a mark of foreign accent to explode all final stop consonants and add an extra vowel at the end ('it's a big day' [ɪts ə 'bɪgˀ 'deɪ] x * [ɪts ə 'bɪgˀ 'deɪ])
- a **glottal stop**, indicated by a question mark without the dot [ʔ] = the sound, or the lack of sound, produced with the vocal cords held tightly together (mhm̩) for 'yes' x [ʔm̩ʔm̩] for 'no')
- glottal stops frequently as allophones of /t/ ('beaten' ['biʔn], 'kitten' ['kɪʔn], 'fatten' ['fæʔn])
- a **syllabic** consonant, indicated by [ˌ]
 - homorganic sounds = two sounds with the same place of articulation
 - (a) nasal plosion = the release through the nose of the air pressure built up in the mouth when a voiced stop and a homorganic nasal occur in the same word ('sadden' ['sædn̩], 'sudden' ['sʌdn̩], 'leadn̩' ['ledn̩])
 - a mark of foreign accent to add a vowel ['sædn̩, 'sʌdn̩, 'ledn̩]
 - (b) lateral plosion = the release by lowering the sides of the tongue of the air pressure built up in the mouth when a stop and a homorganic lateral occur in the same word ('little' ['lɪtl̩], 'ladle' ['leɪdl̩])
- a **flap** [ɾ]: GA [t] changed into a voiced sound after a stressed vowel and before an unstressed syllable oth. than [n] ('city' ['sɪɾi], 'better, writer')

Variations in the Place

- **coarticulations** = the overlapping of adjacent articulations, present in all utterances
- anticipatory coarticulation = anticipation of the articulations of the sounds yet to come (a stop unexploded before another consonant in 'apt' [æpˀt], etc.)
- perseverative coarticulation = the actions involved in making one sound continue into the next ('it is' [ɪt ɪz] > 'it's' [ɪts])
- E = an anticipatory language
- the feature that two consecutive sounds have in common will be retained throughout the transition btw them
- articulators not involved in the primary articulation will take up twd the articulation of the following item
- a general tendency in E to equalise the lengths of syllables differing in the number of segments x but: stressed syllables longer than the corresponding unstressed ones
- target positions = the positions of the vocal organs specified for a given sound; remain always the same x but: the resulting articulation may be changed by the neighbouring sounds
- targets = units used in describing how a speaker produces utterances
- x phonemes = more abstract units used in describing languages to show how one word contrasts with another

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1	2	3	4	5
pie	buy	spy	nap	nab
tie	die	sty	mat	mad
kye	guy	sky	knack	nag

Column 1 vs. 2

- a set of voiceless stop consonants x voiced stop consonants
- more precisely a set of (voiceless) aspirated stops x (partially voiced) unaspirated stops

Column 1 vs. 3

- in E no opposition btw words beginning with /sp-, st-, sk-/ and /sb-, sd-, sg-/

Column 4 vs. 5

- vowel > shorter before voiceless consonants /p, t, k/ than before voiced ones /b, d, g/
- syllable-final voiceless consonant > longer than the corresponding voiced consonant after the same vowel

Fricatives

- fricatives resemble stops
- both groups the only E consonants to contrast by being voiced x voiceless
- both infl. vowel length: vowels shorter before voiceless consonants than before voiced ones
- syllable- or word-final voiceless consonants longer than voiced ones in the same position
- syllable- of word-final voiced consonants fully voiced throughout the articulation only before another voiced sound
- **obstruents** = a natural class of sounds incl. both fricatives and stops /p, b, t, d, k, g, f, v, θ, ð, s, z, ʃ, ʒ/ [+obstruent] x all oth. E sounds [-obstruent]

Affricates

- [tʃ] and [dʒ] = sequences of a stop followed by a homorganic fricative
- from a phonological POV and wrt the sound pattern of E consid. single units

Nasals

- [ŋ] = a sequence of the phonemes /n/ + /g/
- phonemically: 'sing' /sɪŋ/ x but: [sɪŋg] accord. to the phonological rule of /n/ before /g/ and /k/ > the allophone [ŋ]
- the status of [ŋ] different from the oth. nasals
 - cannot be syllabic at the end of word like the oth. nasals together with [ɹ, l]
 - cannot occur at the beginning of word

Approximants

- devoicing of a vowel, indicated by [ʰ]: a vowel after the voiceless stops /p, t, k/ partially voiceless ('pie' [pʰaɪ], 'tie' [tʰaɪ], 'kye' [kʰaɪ])
- **devoicing** of a consonant, indicated by [̥]: an approximant after the voiceless stops /p, t, k/ voiceless ('play' [p̥leɪ], 'twice' [twaɪs], 'clay' [k̥leɪ], 'cue' [k̥ju])
- **velarization**, indicated by [~] = the arching upwards of the back of the tongue
- GA: all examples of /l/ > [ɫ]
- RP: only word-final or before a consonant ('feel' [fiɫ], 'ball', 'filled')