

2019I024 PH_LING 语言学社活动概要 Handout

1. 观看电影《窈窕淑女》（*My Fair Lady*）片段，which is one of 知名的语言学入坑作品（还有特德姜《你一生的故事》改编的《降临》）。电影和语言学的关系还是非常紧密的，几个例子：法国新浪潮导演特吕弗的《野孩子》中有语言习得关键期假说（The Critical Period Hypothesis，大概就是儿童在12岁前没学会语言就再也学不会了）的内核，《知更鸟不歌唱》（*Mockingbird Don't Sing*）则是反对它的（2018年该假说遭遇到了危机：5月刊的*Cognition*杂志上，一篇名为A critical period for second language acquisition: Evidence from 2/3 million English speakers的论文明确表示：语言学习的关键期持续到17.4岁。[@语言学午餐](https://www.douban.com/note/681984943/)）。《爱丽丝梦游仙境》也被一位有关人士称为是语言学宝藏（<https://www.douban.com/note/681984943/>）。在《窈窕淑女》里主要涉及的是语音学（phonetics）和音位学（phonology）在口音辨别中的妙用（？）以及它和社会阶级的联系。



一张老照片：Peter Ladefoged teaching Rex Harrison (饰Professor Higgins) and Wilfred Hyde White (Colonel Pickering) about Sweet's vowel symbols on the set of *My Fair Lady*. George Cukor (the director) is on the right.

2. Basics of phonetics

‘Phonetics describes the concrete, **physical form** of sounds (how they are produced, heard and how they can be described)(while phonology is concerned with the **function** of sounds, that is with their status and inventory in any given language).’ (Heidrun Dorgeloh)

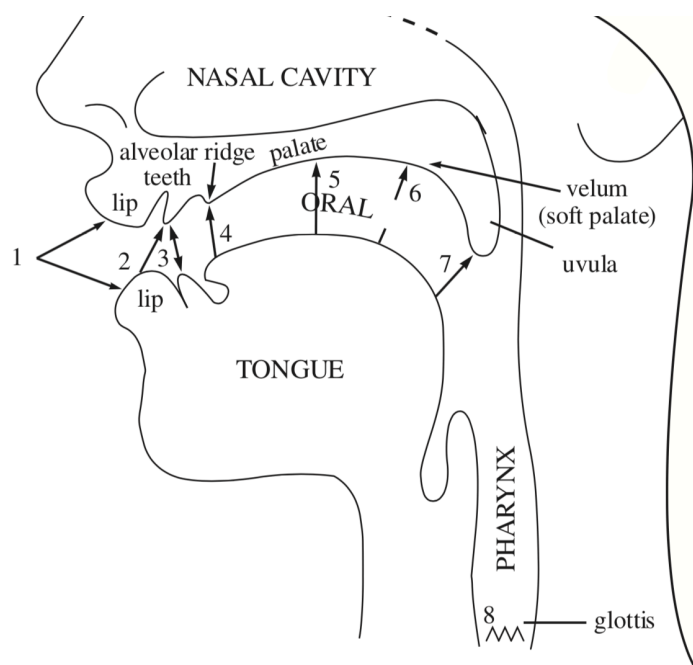
Types of phonetics:

- Articulatory phonetics (**our focus today**): study of the way how speech sounds are made, (articulated) by the vocal organs, i.e. how the vocal tract produces the sounds of language.
- Acoustic phonetics: focuses on the physical properties of sounds;
- Auditory phonetics: study of the perceptual response to speech sounds through ear, auditory nerve, brain. Concerned with how listeners perceive these sounds.

Articulatory phonetics - an introduction:

“Lolita, light of my life, fire of my loins. My sin, my soul. Lo-lee-ta: the tip of the tongue taking a trip of three steps down the palate to tap, at three, on the teeth. Lo. Lee. Ta.”

—VLADIMIR NABOKOV, *Lolita*, 1955



Most speech sounds are produced by pushing lung air through the *vocal cords*, up the throat, into the mouth or nose and finally out of the body. The *opening* between the vocal cords is the **glottis** and is located in the voice box or **larynx**. The tubular part of the throat above the larynx is the **pharynx**. What sensible people call “the mouth,” linguists call the **oral cavity** to distinguish it from the **nasal cavity**, which is the nose and the plumbing that connects it to the throat. Finally we have the tongue and the lips, both of which are capable of rapid movement and shape changing. All of these together make up the **vocal tract**. By moving the different parts of the vocal tract we change its shape, which results in the different sounds of language.

The phonetic alphabet

Also we’ll talk about: (International Phonetic Alphabet i.e. IPA)

- include just enough symbols to represent the fundamental sounds of all languages.

The two basic tasks of phonetics are the **transcription** and the **classification** of sounds, also called **phones** in this context. Phone is the basic unit of phonetics and it refers to the concrete sound substance as such.

Phones are represented by placing brackets around the transcription ([da:ns]/[dæns]) for *dance* in British and American English)).

The usefulness of a **transcription** system (a phonetic alphabet) is particularly plausible in a language such as English, where pronunciation & spelling often diverge substantially (e.g. *see* – *sea* on the one hand, and *through* and *though*, on the other).

There are various transcription models, such as the IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet); for the transcription of English, several, slightly differing systems have evolved, all of them following in some way the original model of the phonetician **Daniel Jones**.

* we also have KK(Kenyon and Knott)音标系统（专门标美式发音）。

Here is a list of the IPA symbols that we will use to represent English speech sounds:

From now on, we will enclose phonetic symbols in square brackets [] to distinguish them from ordinary letters. (The symbols in table above are IPA symbols with one small exception.

The IPA uses an upside-down *r* ([ɹ]) for the English sound *r*. Many writers, prefer the right-side-up symbol [r] for clarity when writing for an English-reading audience.)

Consonants						Vowels			
p	pill	t	till	k	kill	i	beet	ɪ	bit
b	bill	d	dill	g	gill	e	bait	ɛ	bet
m	mill	n	nil	ŋ	ring	u	boot	ʊ	foot
f	feel	s	seal	h	heal	o	boat	ɔ	bore
v	veal	z	zeal	l	leaf	æ	bat	a	pot/bar
θ	thigh	tʃ	chill	r	reef	ʌ	butt	ə	sofa
ð	thy	dʒ	gin	j	you	aɪ	bite	aʊ	bout
ʃ	shill	ɹ	which	w	witch	ɔɪ	boy		
ʒ	measure								

Using the IPA symbols, we can now unambiguously represent the pronunciation of words. For example, in the little lovely sentence, the *ou* (*plus the silent 'gh'*) below represents several distinct vowel sounds:

I thought it would be rough to plough through the slough, though it was failing in to the lough that left me thoroughly coughing and hiccoughing.

(加上展开的内容，今天预计只能讨论这么多了，TBC)