

There are a majority of English sounds. They can be classified as consonants and vowels, as large. In terms of sounds, we can have a study on sounds, and this one is named as phonetics. Phonetics is a study that figures out how speech is described. To be specific, there are three types of phonetics: articulatory phonetics, acoustic phonetics, and auditory phonetics. First of all, articulatory phonetics is the study about the production of speech. This is the most primitive step of speech. The very first step of articulation is to release air from lung to vocal tract. Vocal tract is composed of larynx, pharynx, nasal tract and vocal tract. To take a closer look, vocal tract is organized by upper side and lower side. Upper vocal tract includes upper lip, upper teeth, alveolar ridge, hard palate, soft palate(velum), uvula and pharynx wall, from the front. In addition, lower vocal tract constitutes lower lip, tongue, and epiglottis, also from the front.

Now again about the speech process, there are 5 speech organs, which are constrictors, also articulators, that make the actual sound during the speech. They are lips, tongue tip, tongue body, velum, and larynx. Phonation process occurs in larynx. Every sound appears through the larynx. Also, the sound from larynx can be divided by voiced sound and voiceless sound. Voiced sound is the sound that occurs by the vibration of vocal cords, and the examples are b, m, v and so on.

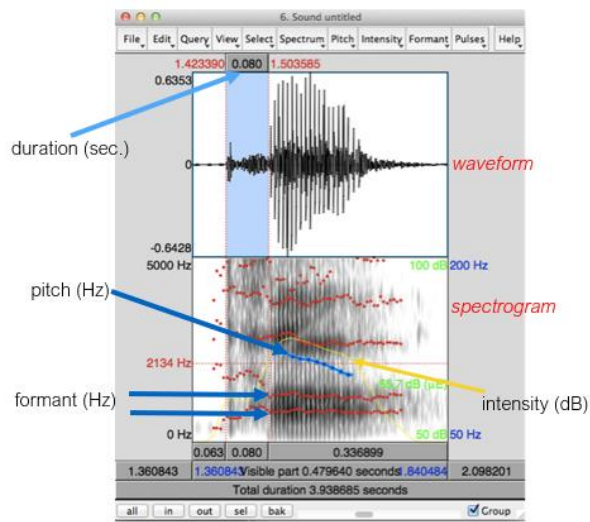
Oral-nasal process happens by the position of velum. When nasal sounds are made, velum goes downward so as to make the air go through the nose. Otherwise, velum goes upward, when it is oral sounds. Articulatory process is created in lips, tongue tip and tongue body.

Moreover, each constrictor can be specified by constriction location and constriction degree. By the touch of lips, tongue body and tongue tip, the air flow is constricted at such location, and then it appears as different sounds. Constriction degree is about how much constrictions are made. The very much constriction made, we call it stops. The order goes as fricatives, approximants, vowels, from the most. Therefore, phonemes are produced by specifying constrictors, constriction location, and constriction degree.

Phonemes are individual sounds that form words. Also, phonemes can be defined as a combination of speech organs' actions. At lips, p, b, m, f, v, and w sounds are made. By tongue tip, θ, ð, ʒ, t, d, s, z, ʃ, l, and r sounds are made. By tongue body, k, g, j, ŋ and vowels are made. By velum, m, and ŋ sounds are made. By larynx, ʔ, ʃ, p, f, t, s, k and h sounds are made.

We can figure out acoustic process in Praat. We can check duration, pitch, formant and intensity in Praat. To verify vowel acoustics, we can measure pitch using Praat. By the number of occurrences of a repeating event per second, we can find out the Hz. Then the repeating event shows the vibration of vocal folds, and the repeating parts show us a sine wave.

Acoustic process in English. We can find out acoustic process by using Praat program.



By Praat, we can figure out the waveform, spectrogram and other more information. To be specific, intensity shows the decibel, pitch shows the hertz. Formant is the darkest line of spectrogram. Also, spectrogram is the one that turns spectrum in to time line. Now, having a closer look at the vowel acoustics, all of us have different pitch, so the sine wave(pure tone) of our sound looks different.

If we listen to a sentence, we can notice that it is not a pure or simplex tone. Thus, the sound we perceive through the mouth is complex tone. In addition, how sound like differs depending on our vocal tract. Listening to the source of the sound, there are just sound and pitch. According to sign wave, x-axis describes time line and y-axis describes the value. Moreover, you can turn the sine wave into the spectrum. Spectrum shows frequency by x-axis, and amplitude by y-axis. Simple tone of 100hz is a fundamental frequency, which we will call it as F0.. By synthesizing all simple tones, harmonics are made, and we call it complex tone. In terms of complex tone, the frequency of complex tone is same as that of fundamental frequency.

Human voice source consists of harmonics. Harmonics are composed of harmonic overtone. As usual, female has less harmonic overtone than male. After that, if filtered by vocal tract, the organization of harmonic overtone is same but magnitude differs from that of simplex tone. In other words, peaks and valleys appear in the complex tone.

In conclusion, the lowest pure tone is fundamental frequency, the rate of vibration of the larynx and the number of opening-closing cycles of the larynx per second. Amplitude of pure tones gradually decreases. On the other hand, if the sound is filtered by the vocal tract, spectrogram shows formants which is the peaks that frequencies vocal tract likes.

By means of Praat, we can synthesize source ourselves. As we create one lowest pure tone and make its harmonic overtone, we can make harmonics. In spectrum, there is a mountain from the beginning and we call it F1 and F2 in order. In spectrogram it appears as formants. Each vowel has distinguishable formants and that why we can classify each vowel. Also, if we put F1 as y-axis and F2 as x-axis, we can watch vowel space.

# Source-filter theory

(from larynx) (by vocal tract)

