

Something about language

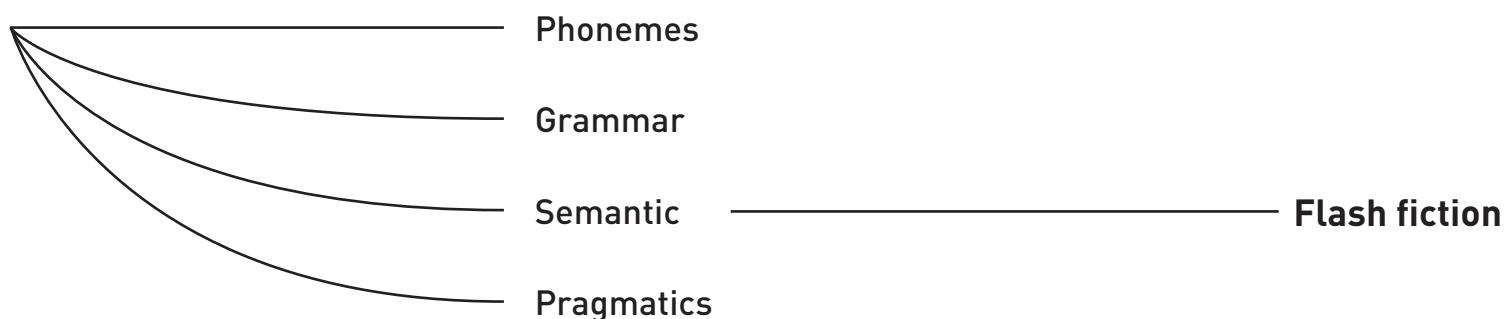
The project aims to raise the issue of the loss of linguistic diversity. Because of the development of the Internet and other media, the spread of various cultures on the platform has been unbalanced, the culture of a strong country has gradually become the mainstream, the corresponding language has become the international language. The present is an era of cultural diversity, and despite our efforts, the truth is the loss of diversity. The project ends with the topic of pronunciation which is accent. Language represents your cultural background, and your accent confirms your cultural background.

Language

1 Definition

2 Four feature

3 Four components



4 Special languages



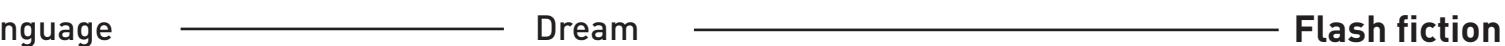
5 universal language



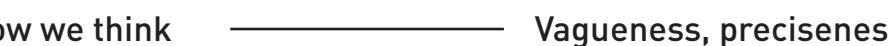
6 Diversity



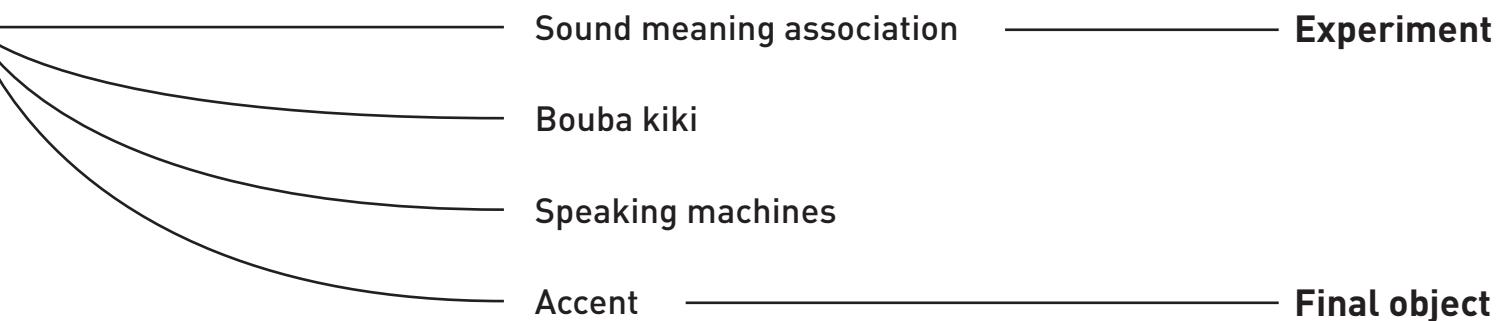
7 Tools for learning language



8 Language shapes how we think



9 Pronunciation



1 Definition

Wikipedia

Language is a system that consists of the development, acquisition, maintenance and use of complex systems of communication, particularly the human ability to do so; and a language is any specific example of such a system.

Merriam-webster

1

a :

the words, their pronunciation, and the methods of combining them used and understood by a community

b:

(1) : audible, articulate, meaningful sound as produced by the action of the vocal organs

(2) : a systematic means of communicating ideas or feelings by the use of conventionalized signs, sounds, gestures, or marks having understood meanings
//the language of mathematics

(3) : the suggestion by objects, actions, or conditions of associated ideas or feelings
//language in their very gesture — William Shakespeare

(4) : the means by which animals

communicate

//the language of birds

(5) : a formal system of signs and symbols (such as FORTRAN or a calculus in logic) including rules for the formation and transformation of admissible expressions

2

a :

form or manner of verbal expression
specifically : STYLE
//the beauty of Shakespeare's language

b :

the vocabulary and phraseology belonging to an art or a department of knowledge
//the language of diplomacy
//medical language

c :

PROFANITY
//shouldn't of blamed the fellers if they'd cut loose with some language
— Ring Lardner

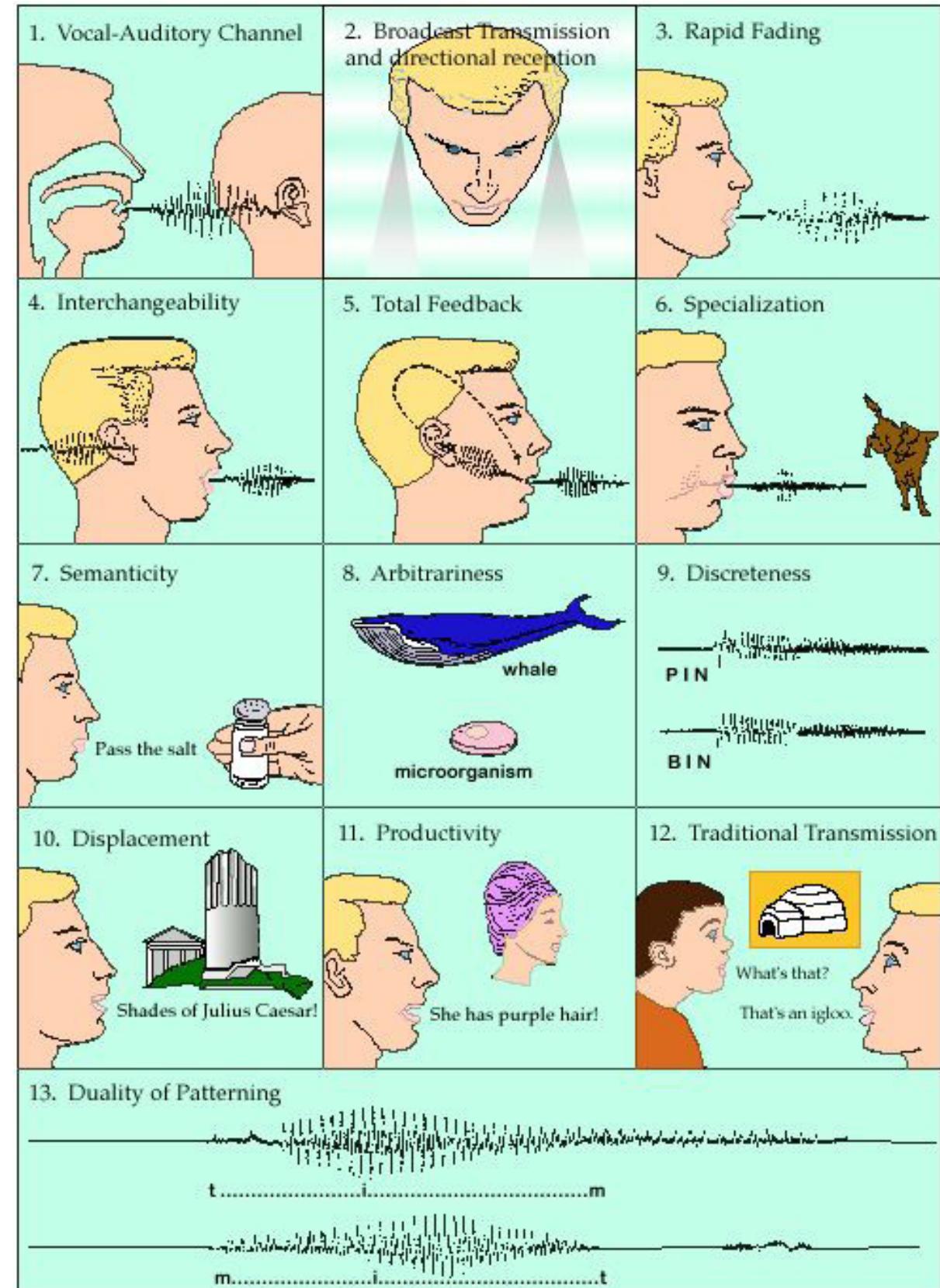
3

the study of language especially as a school subject
//earned a grade of B in language

4

specific words especially in a law or regulation
//The police were diligent in enforcing the language of the law.

2 Design features of language



The Four feature of language

Displacement

Refers to the idea that humans can talk about things that are not physically present or that do not even exist. Speakers can talk about the past and the future, and can express hopes and dreams. A human's speech is not limited to here and now. Displacement is one of the features that separates human language from other forms of primate communication.

Productivity

Refers to the idea that language-users can create and understand novel utterances. Humans are able to produce an unlimited amount of utterances. Also related to productivity is the concept of grammatical patterning, which facilitates the use and comprehension of language. Language is not stagnant, but is constantly changing. New idioms are created all the time and the meaning of signals can vary depending on the context and situation.

Cultural transmission

Also called cultural transmission. While humans are born with innate language capabilities, language is learned after birth in a social setting. Children learn how to speak by interacting with experienced language users. Language and culture are woven together.

Duality

Meaningful messages are made up of distinct smaller meaningful units (words and morphemes) which themselves are made up of distinct smaller, meaningless units (phonemes).

3 The Four Components of Language

Phonemes

Phonology is the system of sounds that is used by a particular language. It includes the basic units of sounds as well as the rules in how we put phonemes together in order to form words. It also includes the rules that correspond with regards to the proper intonation patterns for the phrases as well as sentences.

Grammar

Grammar is concerned on the structure of a language consisting of two major parts namely: Syntax and Morphology.

It is the syntax that specifies how words are combined into the sentences. The syntax rule is to allow us to make variations in word order allowing us to say what we want without limitation.

Morphology is the study of the smallest unit of meaning in language, called as morphemes (prefixes, suffixes and root words). It also deals on how these small units of meaning are combined properly. Part of the language's morphological system are the rules for altering root words, produces plurals, past tense, inflections and others.

Semantic

Semantics is a component of language which is concerned in the study of word combinations and meanings. Language comprehension either spoken or written does not only require knowledge on their specific words and their definitions. It also requires on how we are going to use these words as well as on how we make combinations to these words whether in clauses, phrases, or sentences.

Pragmatics

The pragmatics is the component of language that consists of rules concerning for the use of the appropriate language that is suited for a particular context. It is not only concerned with the way of speaking and writing. It is also concerned with the social interaction that takes place.

What is important about Semantic

Ambiguity

Misunderstanding

Cup

- 1 a small bowl-shaped container for drinking from, typically having a handle.
- 2 an ornamental trophy in the form of a cup, usually made of gold or silver and having a stem and two handles, awarded as a prize in a contest.
- 3 a cup-shaped thing.
- 4 bleed (someone) by using a glass in which a partial vacuum is formed by heating

....

One word always has multiple meanings.

I am going back home.

I am going back to my apartment.

I am going back to my house.

— 我要回家了。

I am going back to hometown.

I am going back to my family.

All this sentences could be translated into one Chinese sentence.

Ambiguity

poetic

诊断结果

丁杨洋是什麼做成的?
肉桂、星星
和一座乾草堆。
丁杨洋是這些東西做成的。

Diagnosis

What is Steven made of?
Cinnamon, stars
And a haystack.
Steven is made of these things.

Based on Mother Goose.

The meaning of expansion of semantic

The Book of Human Emotions

Tiffany Watt Smith

The Book of Human Emotions is a gleeful, thoughtful collection of 156 feelings, both rare and familiar. Each has its own story, and reveals the strange forces which shape our rich and varied internal worlds.

The history of human emotions -ted talk

Tiffany Watt Smith

"Learning new and unusual words for emotions will help attune us to the **more finely grained aspects of our inner lives**. But more than this, I think these words are worth caring about, because they remind us how **powerful the connection** is between what we think and how we end up feeling. True emotional intelligence requires that we **understand the social, the political, the cultural** forces that have shaped what we've come to believe about our emotions and understand how happiness or hatred or love or anger might still be changing now. Because if we want to measure our emotions and teach them in our schools and listen as our politicians tell us how important they are, then it is a good idea that we understand ..."

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acedia

amae

ambiguphobia

anger

anticipation

anxiety

apathy

L`appel Du Vide

awumbuk

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depaysement

desire

despair

disappear

disappointment

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llinx

impatient

idignation

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kaukokaipuu

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"Rely on the kindness of a person," or "can accept the love of others with peace of mind." Although we often feel that we are independent enough in modern society, we still perceive this emotion. It stems from a deep trust in others, whether it is for partners, parents or yourself.

"The call of nothingness." It means that at some point you are suddenly controlled by the mind that cannot be explained. For example, while waiting for the subway to come, you will suddenly have the urge to "jump off the platform", but you don't know where this impulse comes from. It may make you feel powerless and crumbling.

I really want to know how much you can push others.

A mixed feeling of joy and sorrow as a stranger

Strange pleasure in unscrupulous destruction

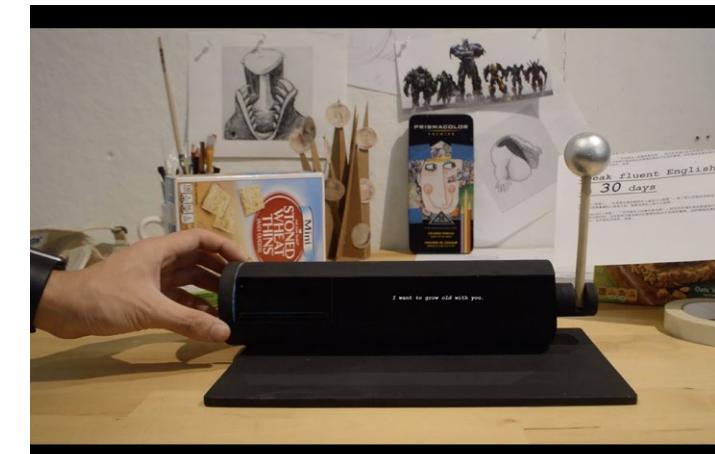
Missing the hometown I have never been to.

Project 1: Flash fiction

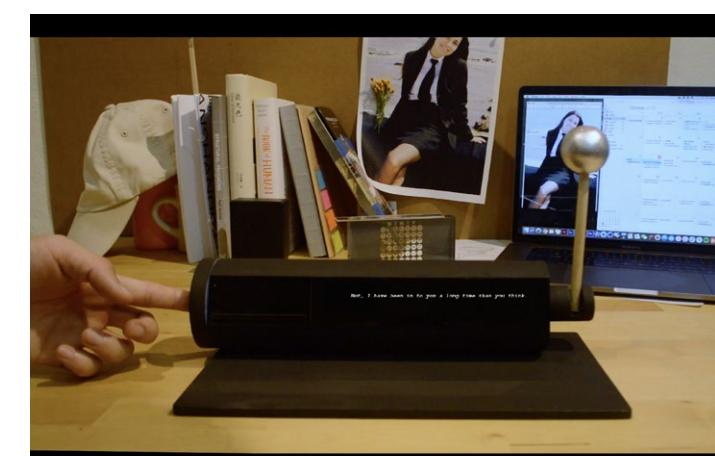
I tried to picture the language learning in the future is based on semantic. Because it's human's learning pattern.

The learning tool is designed to fit into three different contexts which are second-language learning for children, learning to speak romantically and language diversity preserve program. This tool functions by sharing same actions which are rolling, clicking and pulling.

They both ends with big twist and the main reason is that we are currently losing language diversity at a high speed level. Even in the language diversity preserve program, it doesn't have enough language included to get audiences' empathy.



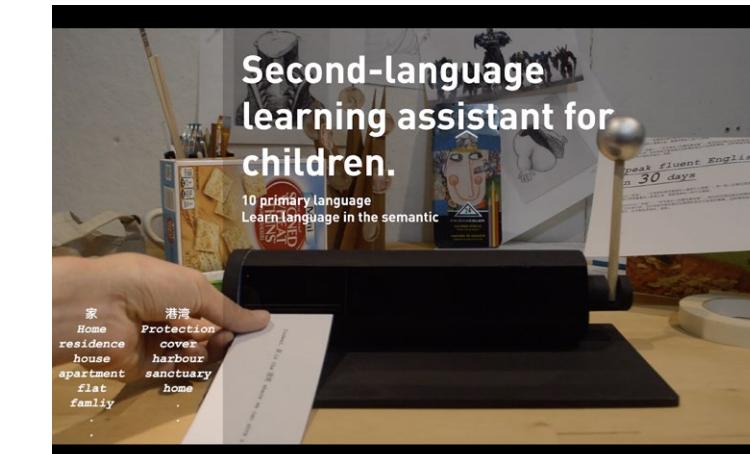
Rolling



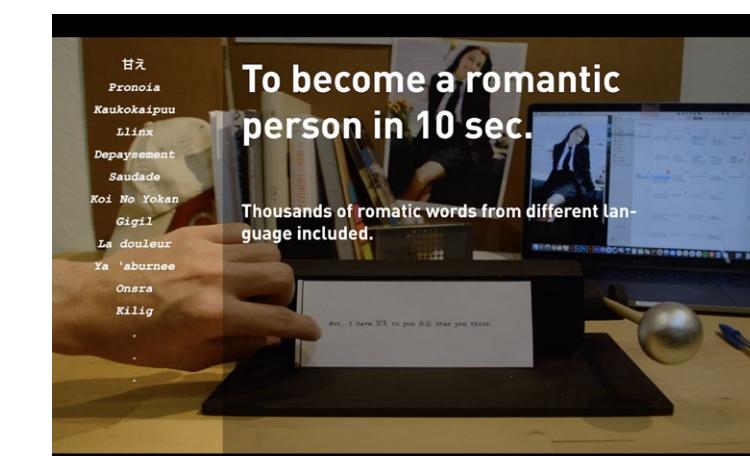
Clicking



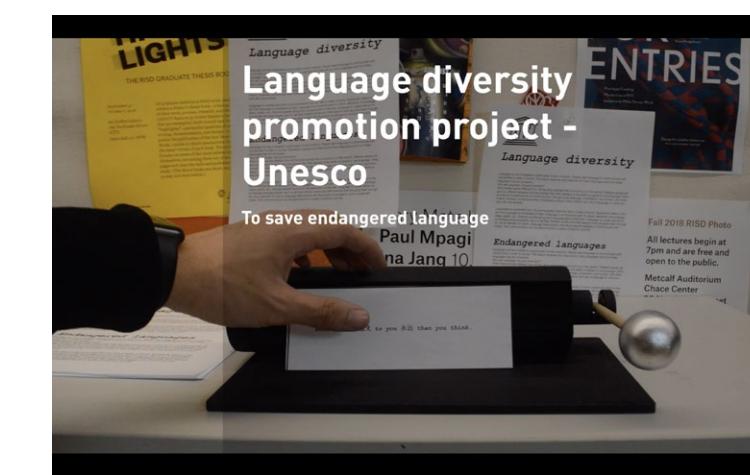
Puling



Second-language learning



Learning to speak romantically



Language diversity preserve program



Lack diversity



Lack cultural understanding



Lack diversity

4 Special Language - Hand Gesture

Speak Italian: The Fine Art of the Gesture

Bruno Munari

"Attenzione!" They say that a gesture is worth a thousand words, and when it comes to speaking with your hands, the Italians speak volumes. This quirky handbook of Italian gestures, first published in 1958 by renowned Milanese artist and graphic designer Bruno Munari, will help the phalange-phobic decipher the unspoken language of gestures a language not found in any dictionary.

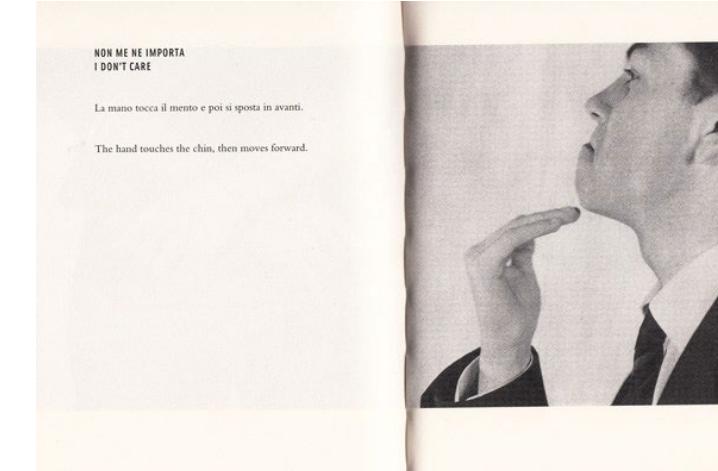
"Speak Italian" gives a little hand to anyone who has ever been at a loss for words.



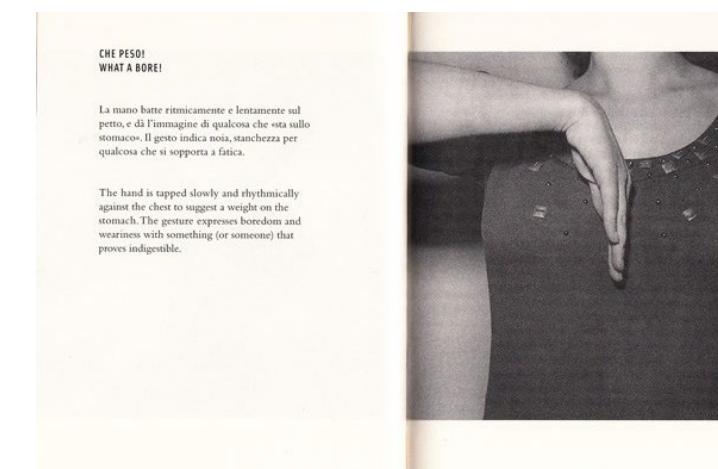
'You make a mockery of the 'madam'! (from an old Neapolitan print)



Gestures of drinking and eating (from an old Neapolitan print)

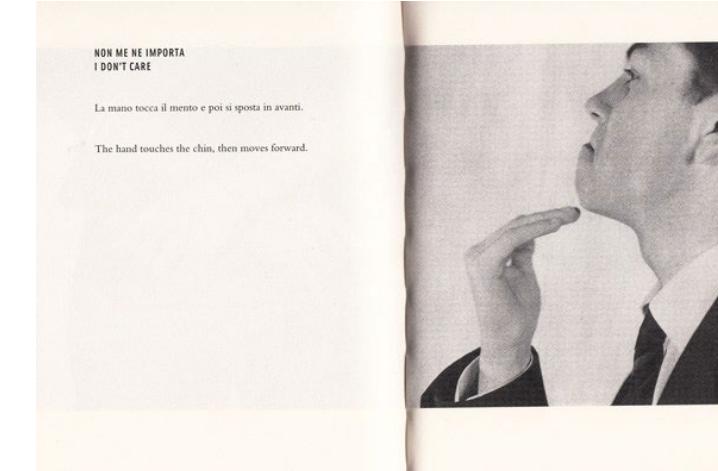


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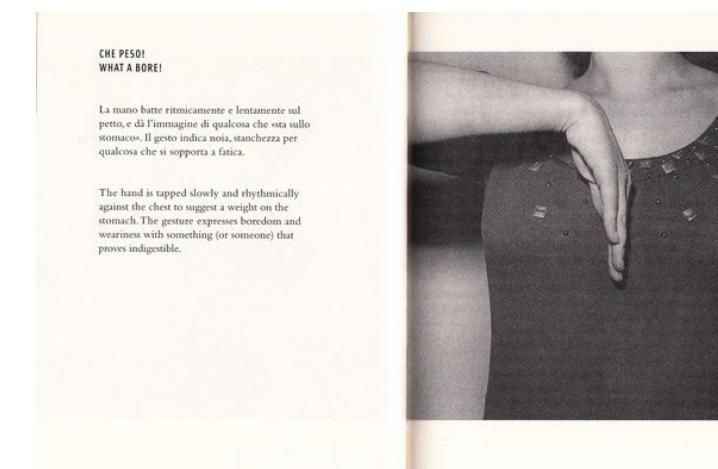


CHE PESO!
WHAT A BORE!

The hand is tapped slowly and rhythmically against the chest to suggest a weight on the stomach. The gesture expresses boredom and weariness with something (or someone) that proves indigestible.

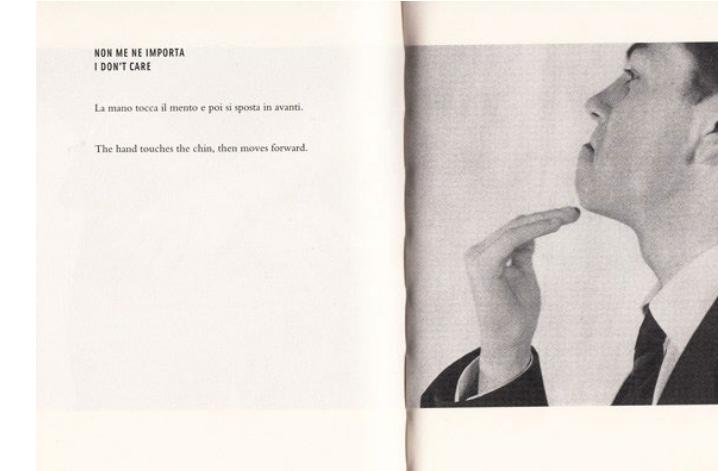


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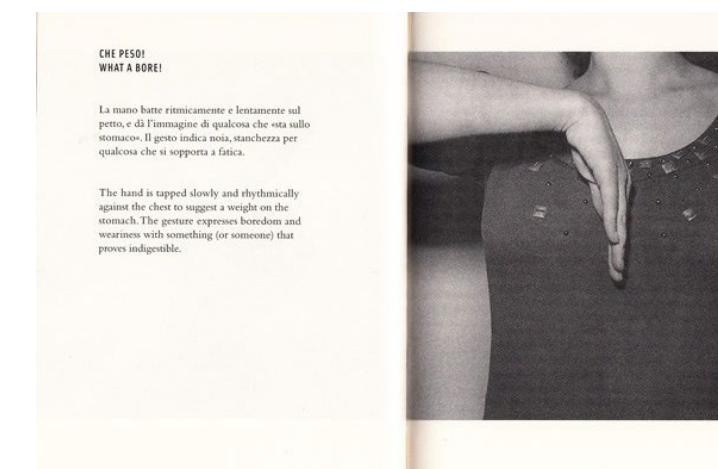


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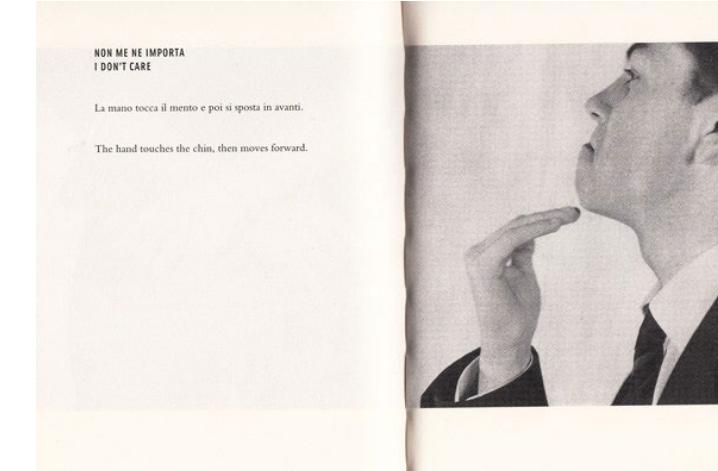


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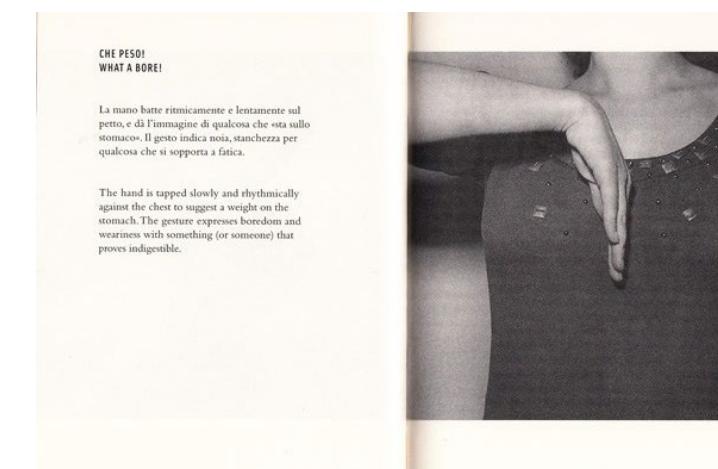


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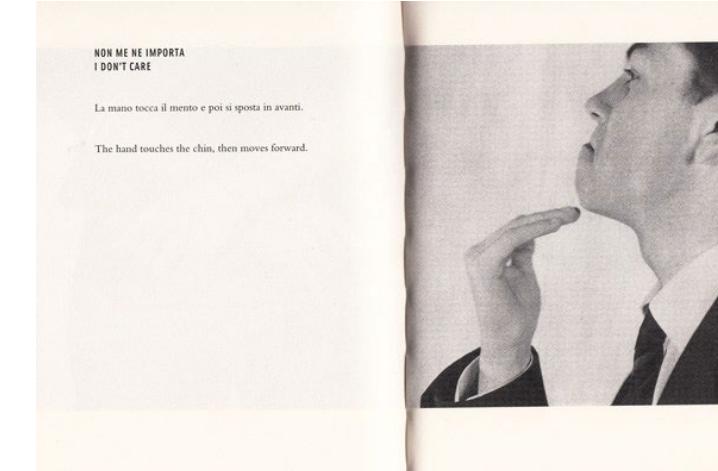


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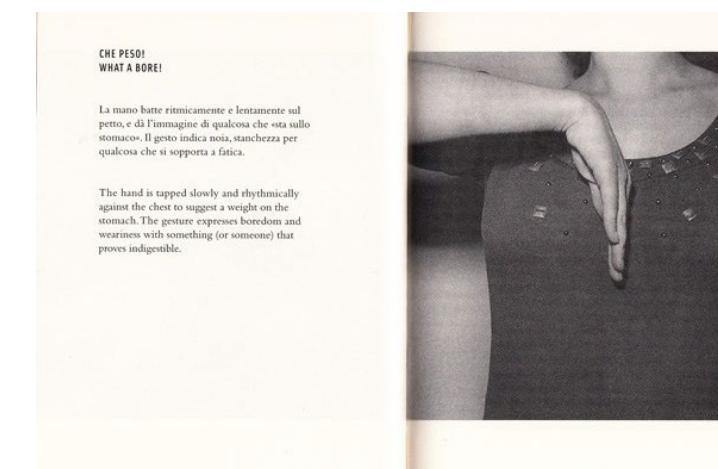


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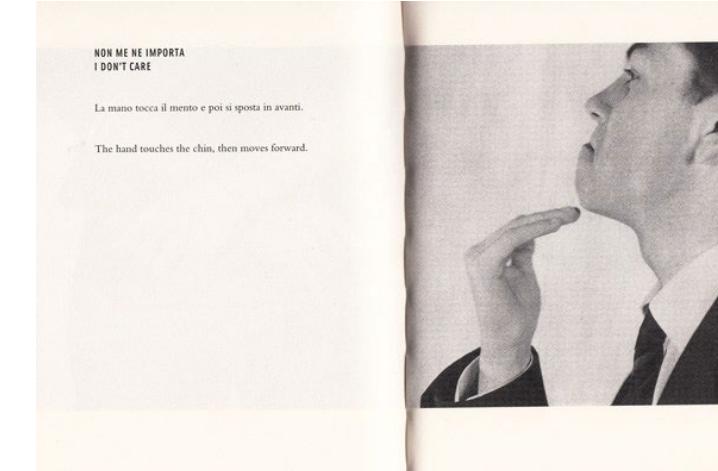


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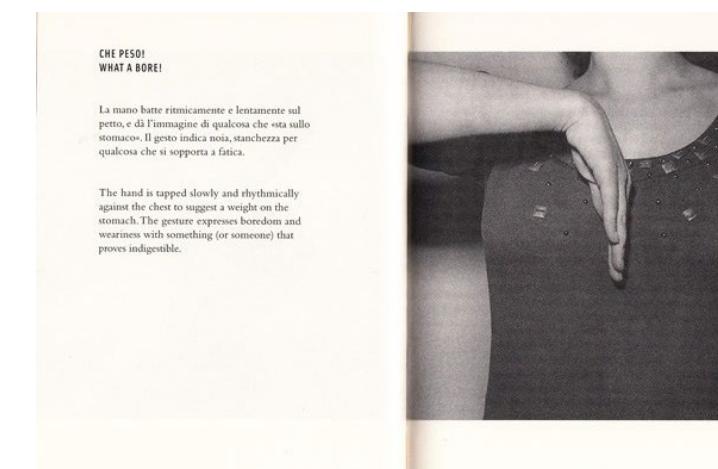


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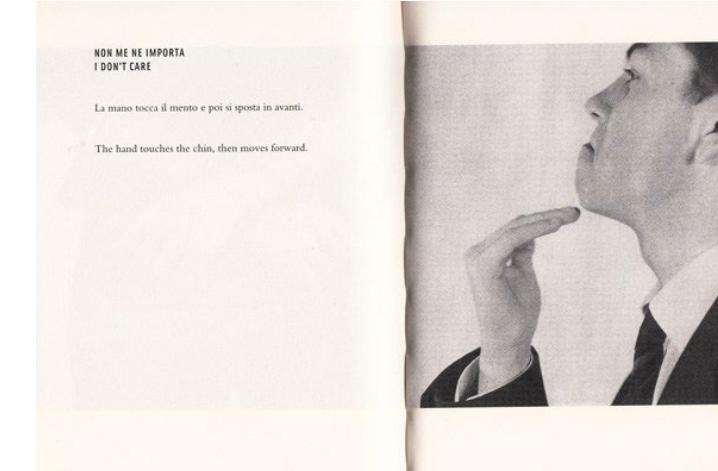


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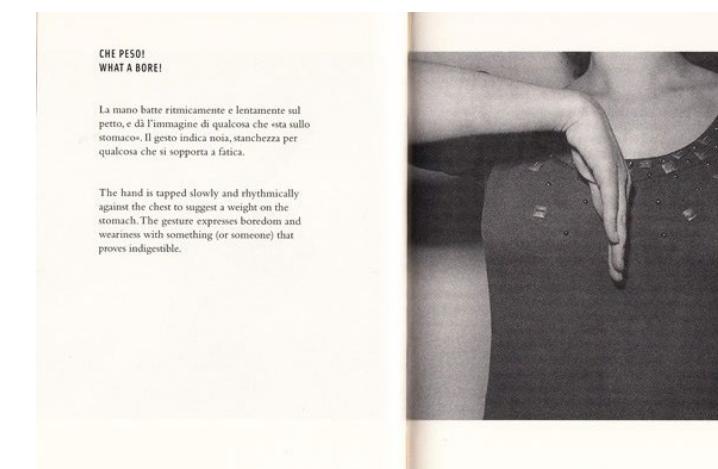


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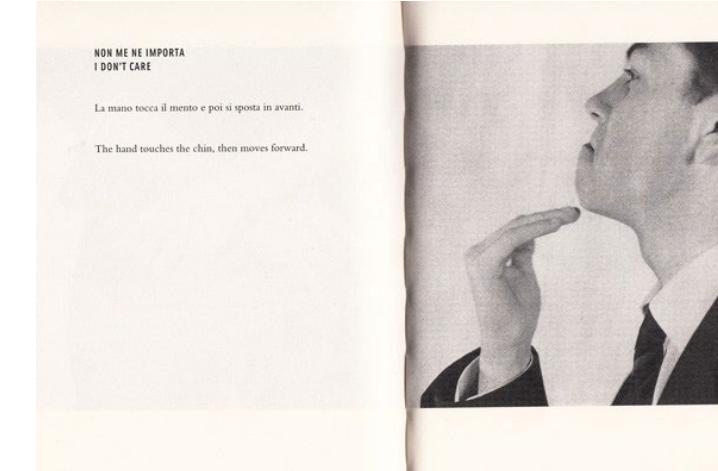


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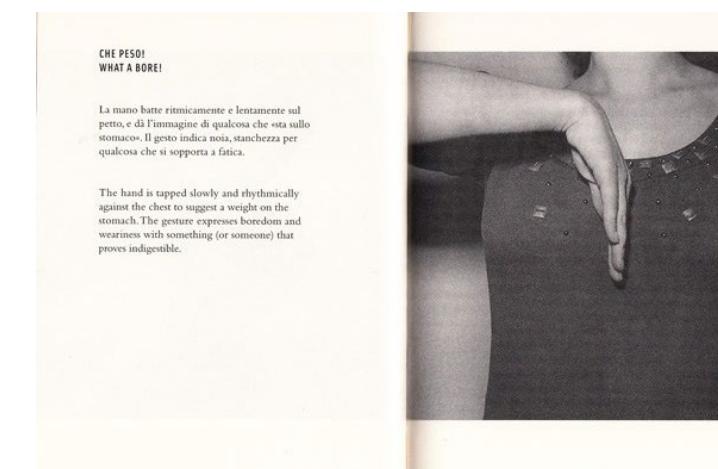


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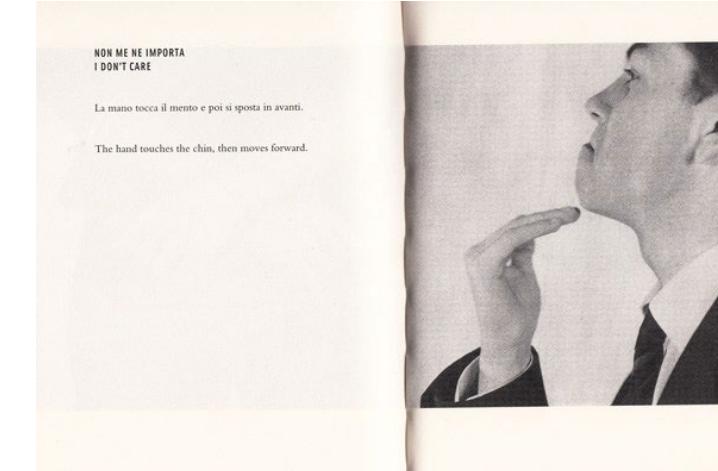


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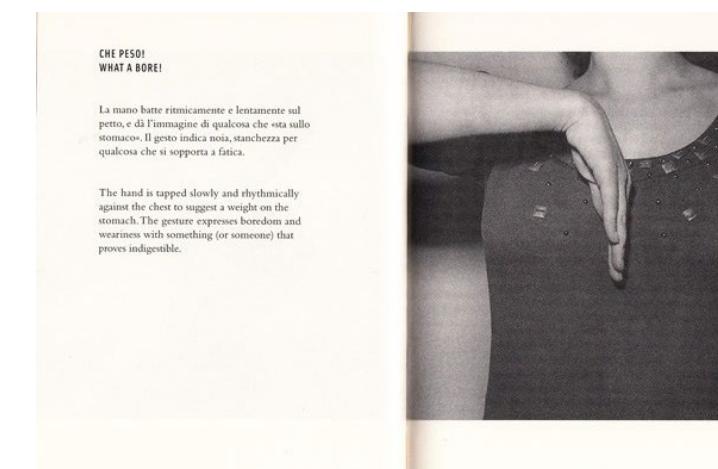


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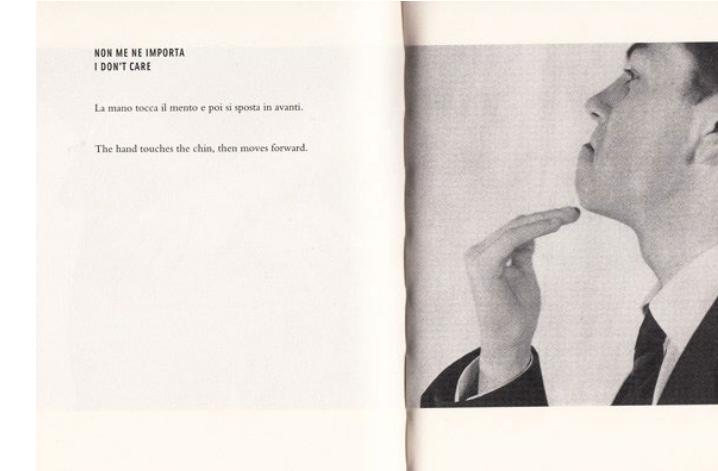


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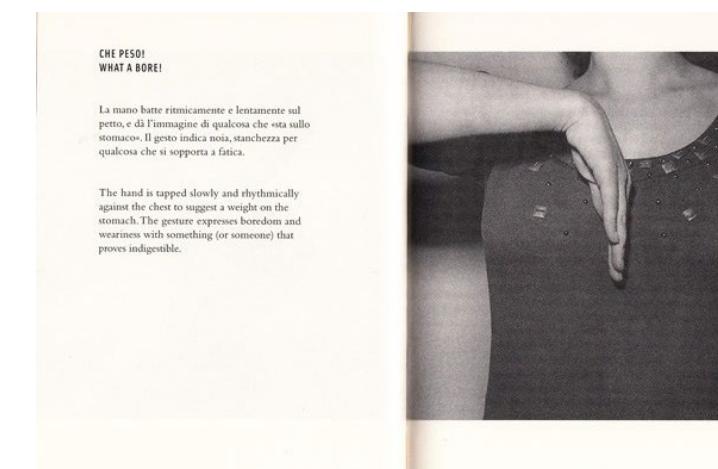


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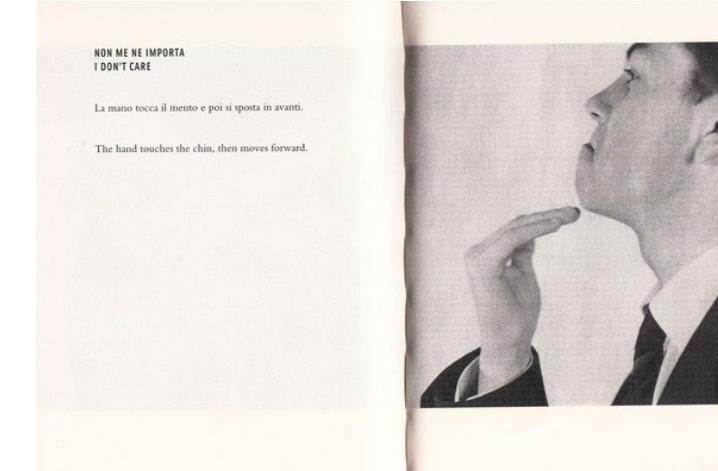


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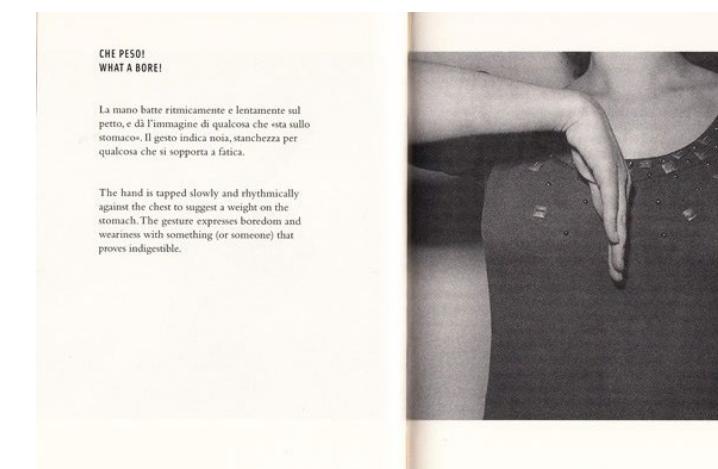


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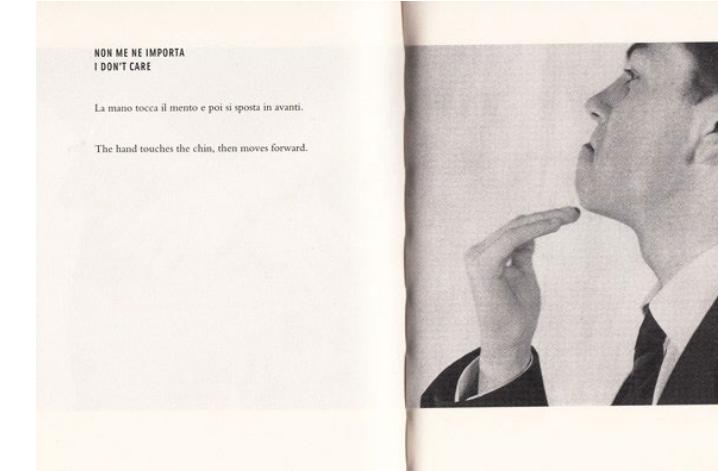


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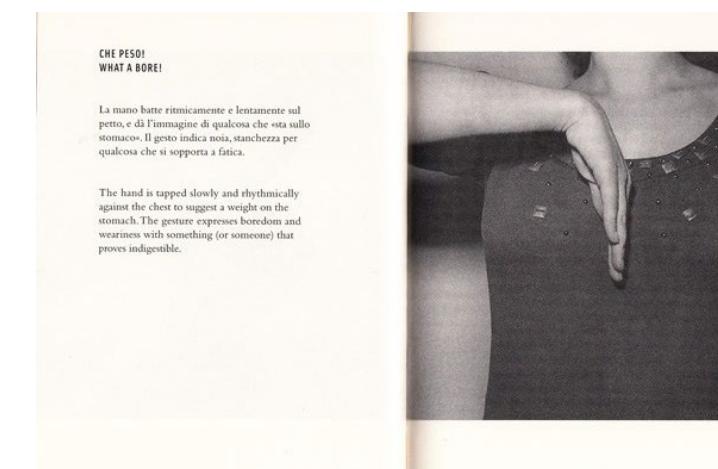


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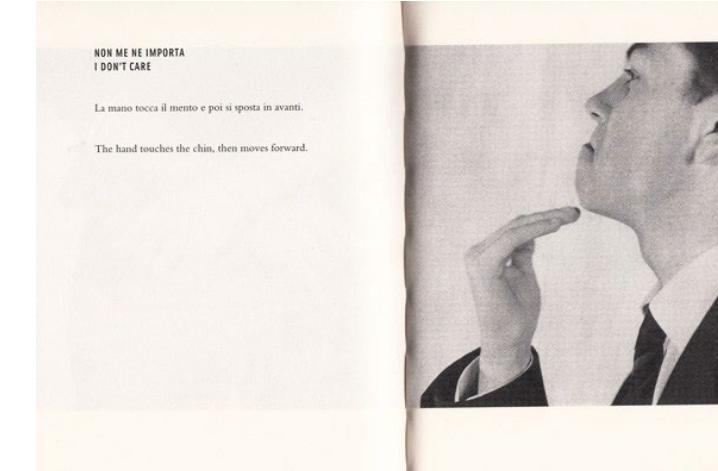


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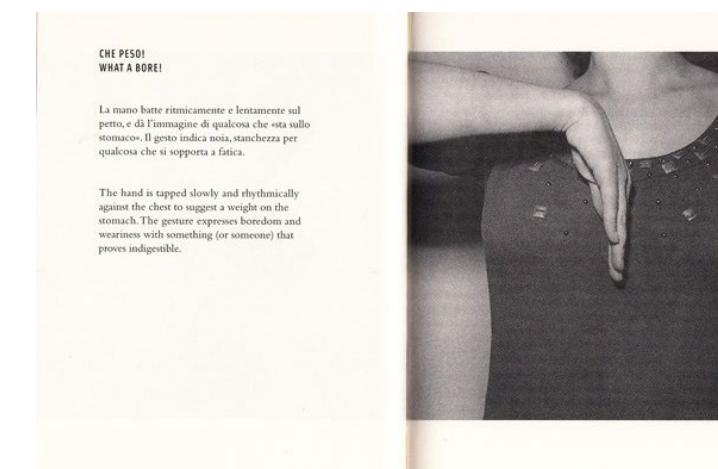


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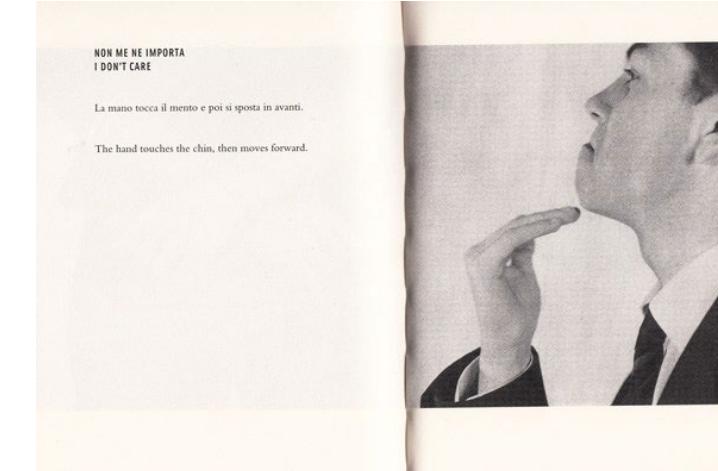


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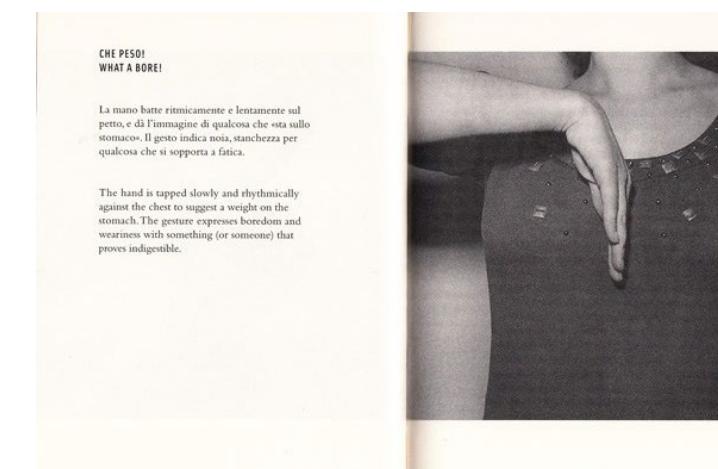


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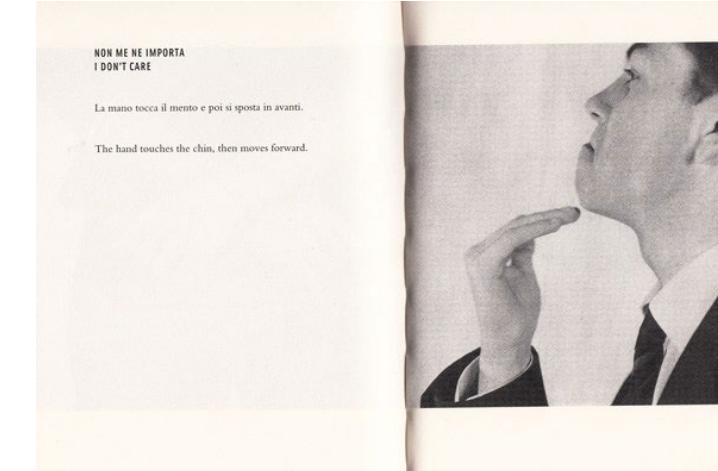


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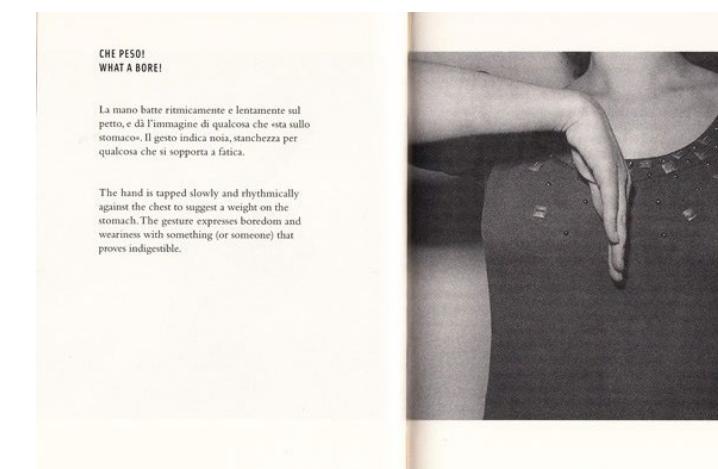


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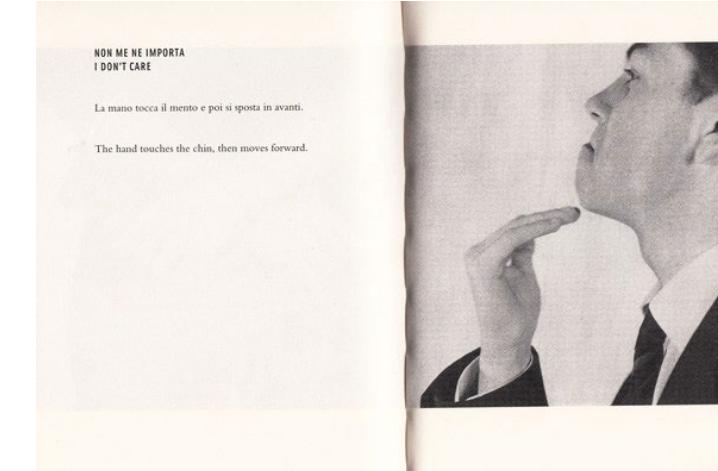


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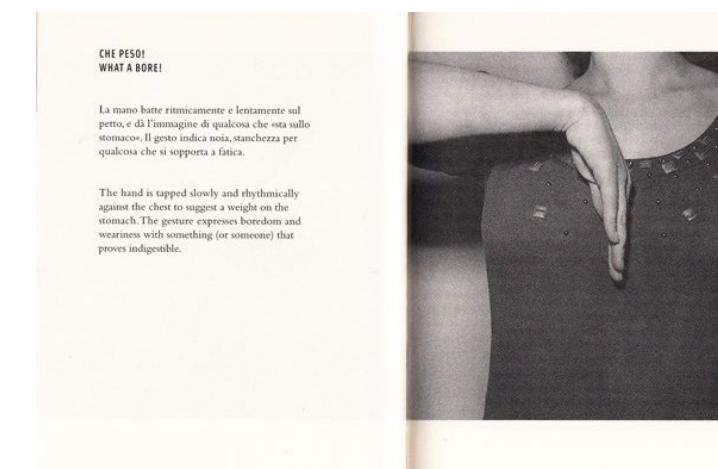


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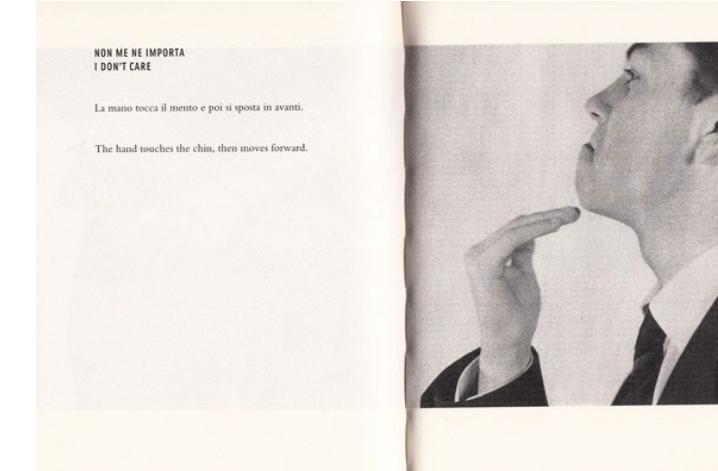


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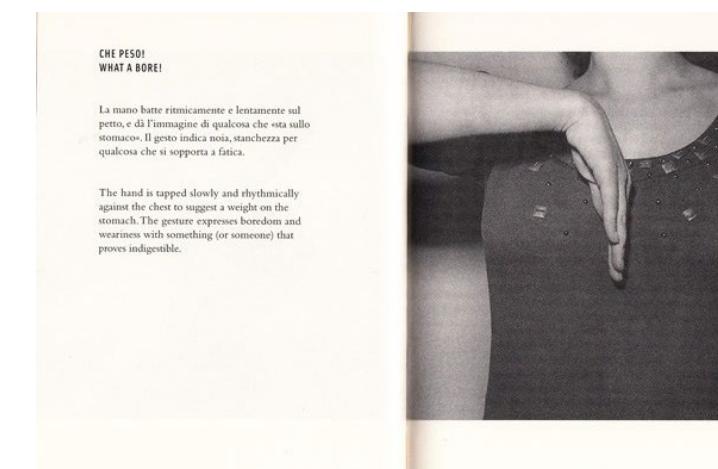


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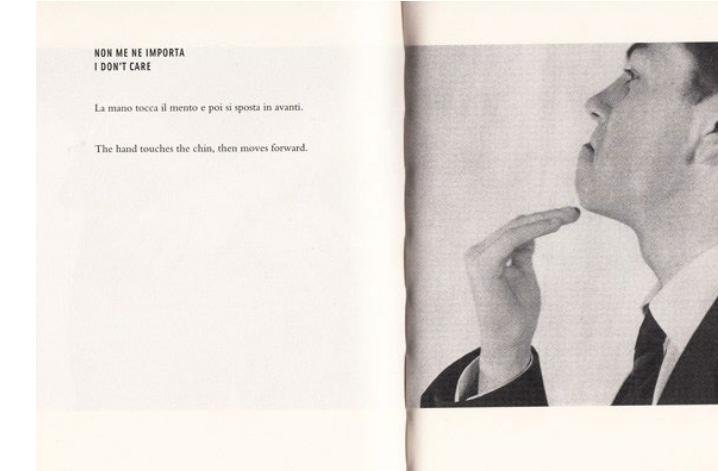


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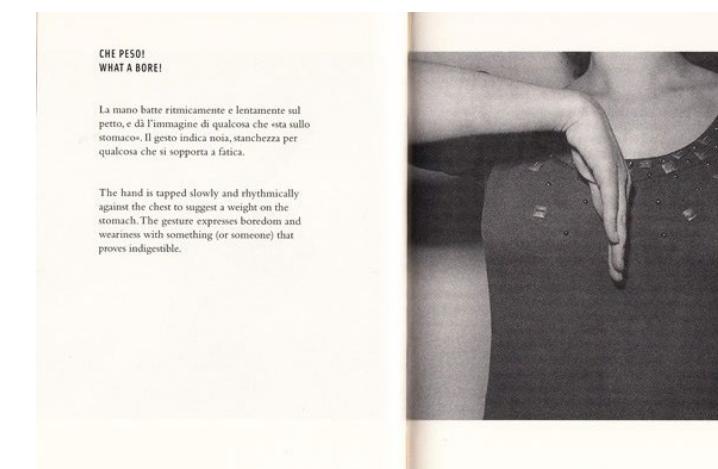


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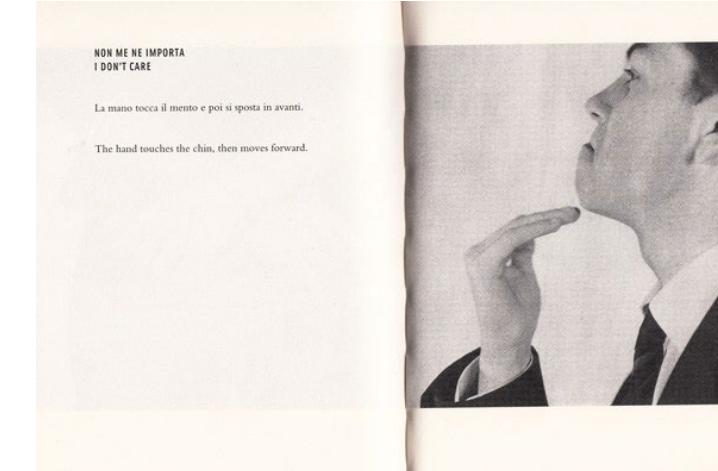


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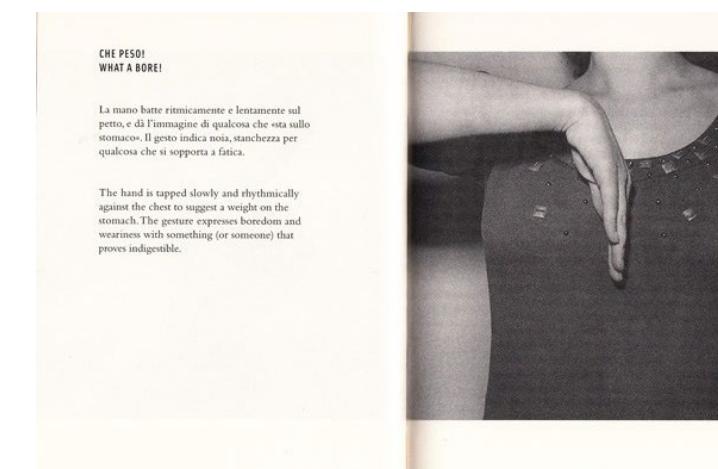


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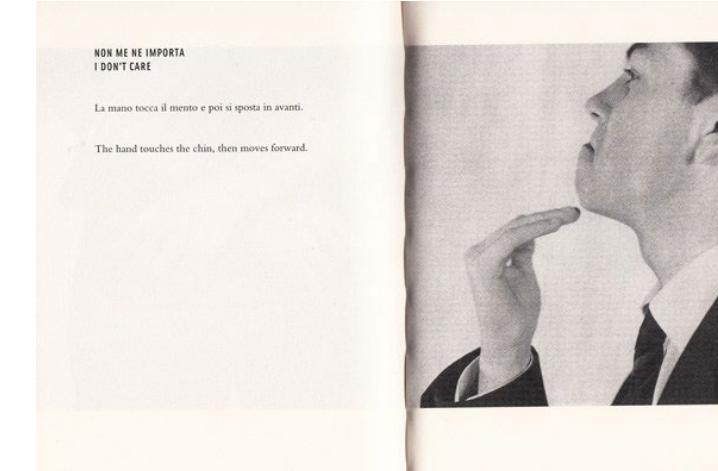


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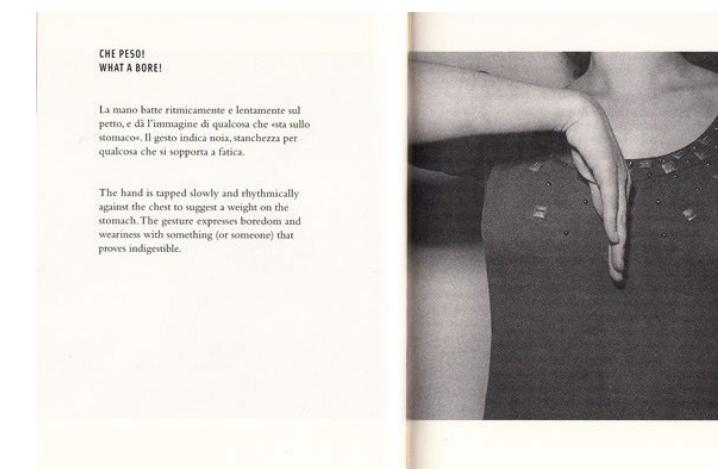


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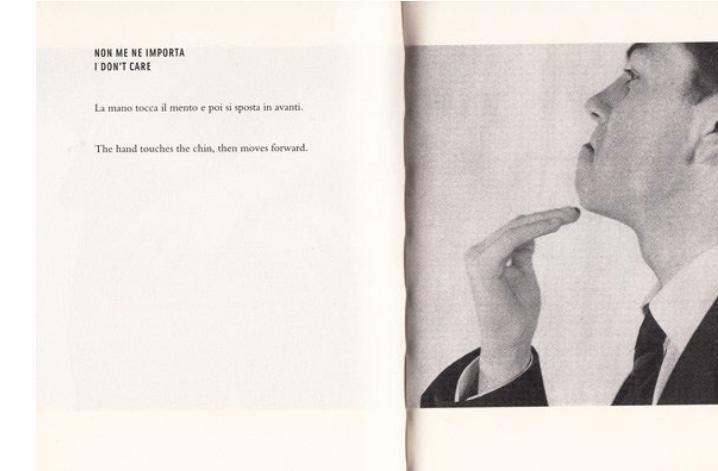


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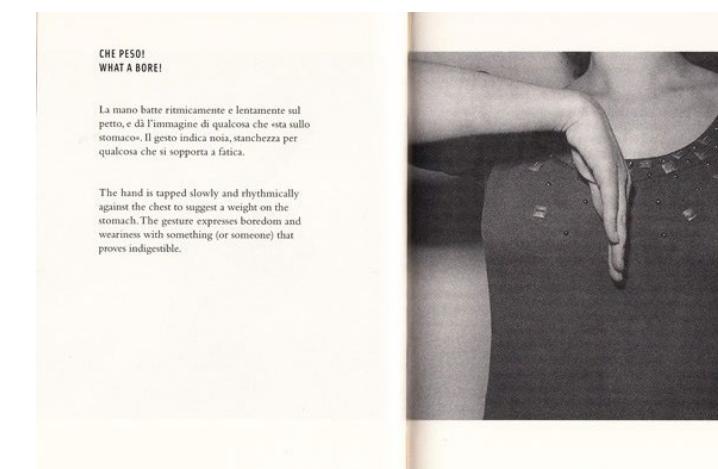


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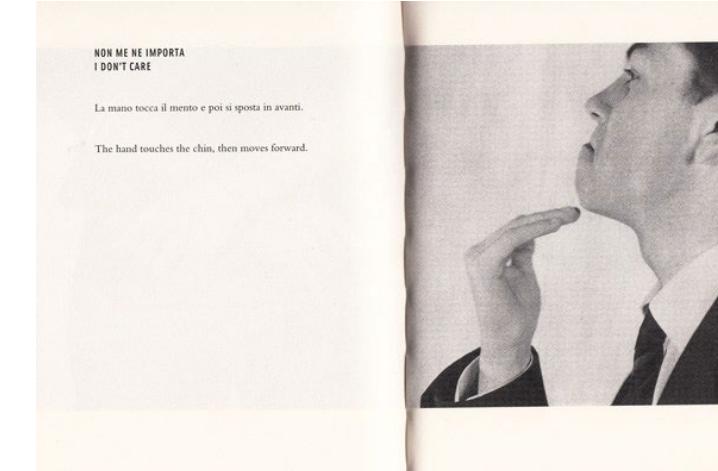


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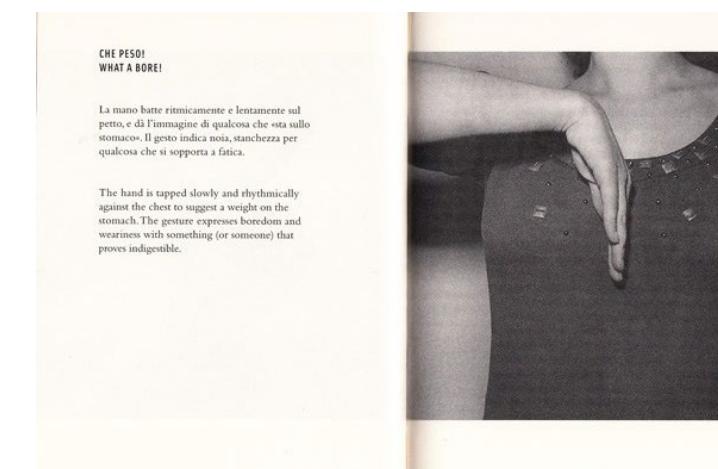


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The hand is tapped slowly and rhythmically against the chest to suggest a weight on the stomach. The gesture expresses boredom and weariness with something (or someone) that proves indigestible.

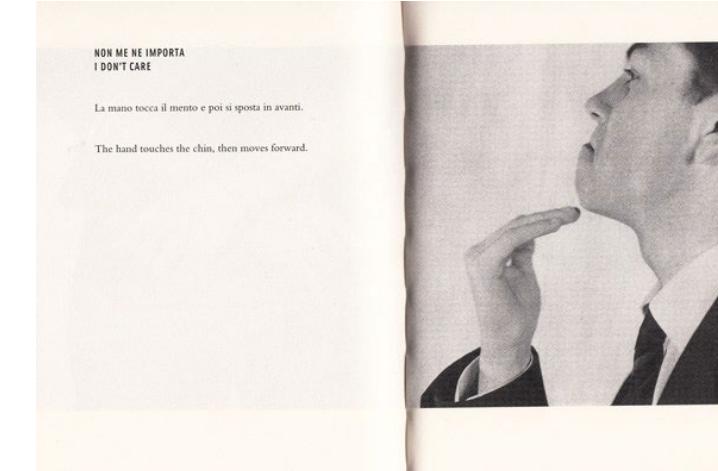


I don't care

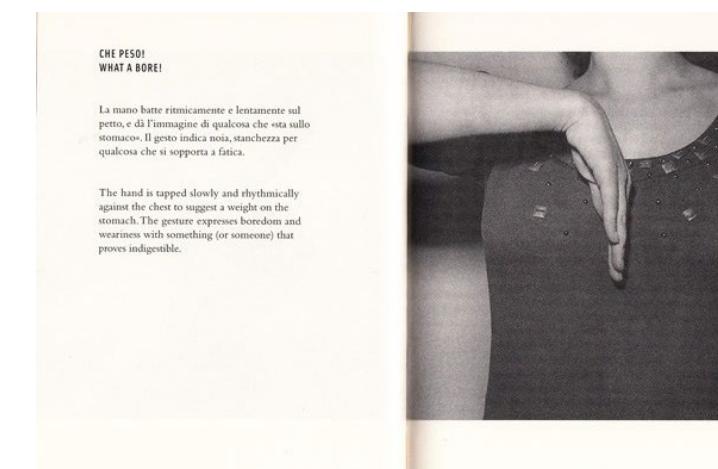


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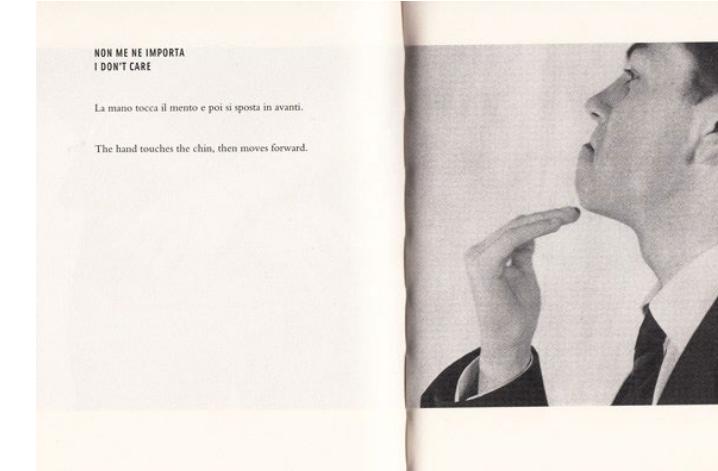


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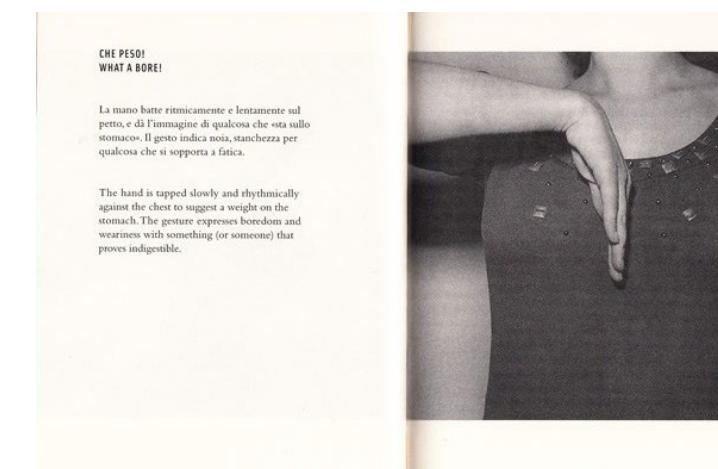


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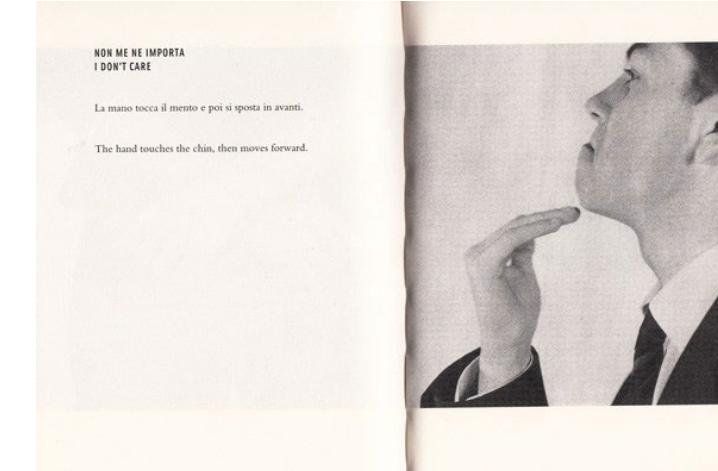


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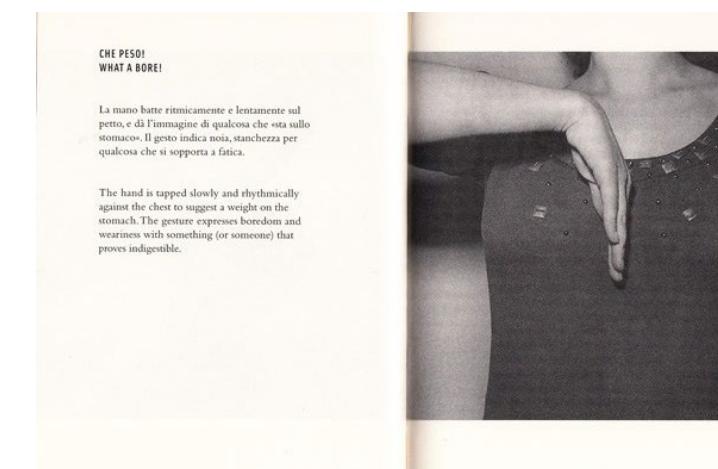


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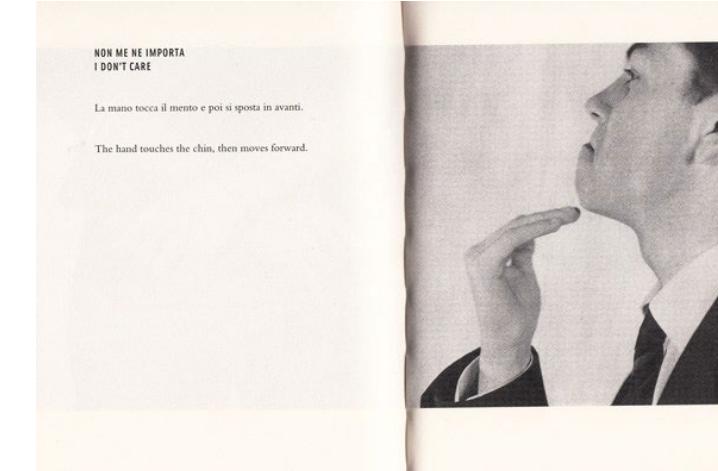


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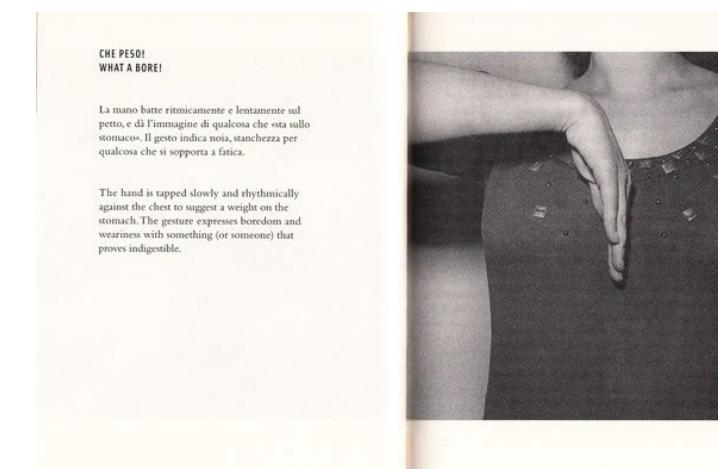


CHE PESO!
WHAT A BORE!

The hand is tapped slowly and rhythmically against the chest to suggest a weight on the stomach. The gesture expresses boredom and weariness with something (or someone) that proves indigestible.



I don't care



CHE PESO!
WHAT A B

Experimental Language

Toki Pona: The Language of Good 120 words, one language.

Sonja Lang

Toki Pona is a language that simplifies ideas to their most basic elements. If you are hungry, you 'want eat'. To teach is to 'give knowledge'.

Training your mind to think in Toki Pona can lead to deeper insights. The micro-language filters out the noise of our excess thoughts and points to the centre of things.

Consonant

letter
k
l
m
n
p
s
t
w
j

pronounced as in
kill
let
met
net
pit
sink
too
wet
yet

Vocabulary - Direct Objects

ona	he, she, it
kili	fruit, vegetable
e	introduces direct object
wile	to want, to need, to have to, desire
ilo	tool, device, machine
ijo	something, anything, stuff, thing
ni	this, that
pipi	bug, insect, spider
ma	land, country, region, outside area
jo	to have, ownership, possession
lukin	to see, to look at, vision, sight
pakala	mess up, destroy, accident
unpa	have sex with, sex, sexual

Sentences

mi lawa pona e jan.
mi utala ike.
sina lukin sewi e suno.
ona li wile mute e ni.
mi mute li lukin lili e ona.

I lead people well.
I fight badly.
You look up at the sun.
He wants that a lot.
We barely saw it.

Vowel

letter
a
e
i
o
u

pronounced as in
father
met
peel
more
food

Vocabulary - Adjectives

ike	bad, evil, complicated
jaki	dirty, nasty, trash
lawa	main, leading, head; to lead
len	clothing, clothe
lili	little
mute	many, a lot
nasa	crazy, stupid, silly, weird, drunk, strange
seli	warm, hot, to burn
sewi	high, superior, sky
tomo	house, building, construction
utala	war, battle, to fight

Vocabulary - basic

Vocabulary

mi
sina
jan
li

I, we, me, our
you, your
somebody, anybody, person, etc.
separates a 3rd person subject
from its verb
good, simple, to fix, to repair
food, eat, drink
sun, light
water, liquid
big, tall, long, important

Vocabulary - Adjectives

lon	to be in/at/on, to exist; in, at, on
kepeken	to use, with, using
tawa	to go to, to move, to, for
kama	to come, to happen, to cause
kiwen	stone, rock, hard like a rock
kon	air, atmosphere, spirit, wind
pana	to give, to send, to release, to emit
poki	container, bowl, glass, cup, box, etc.
toki	language, to talk, to speak

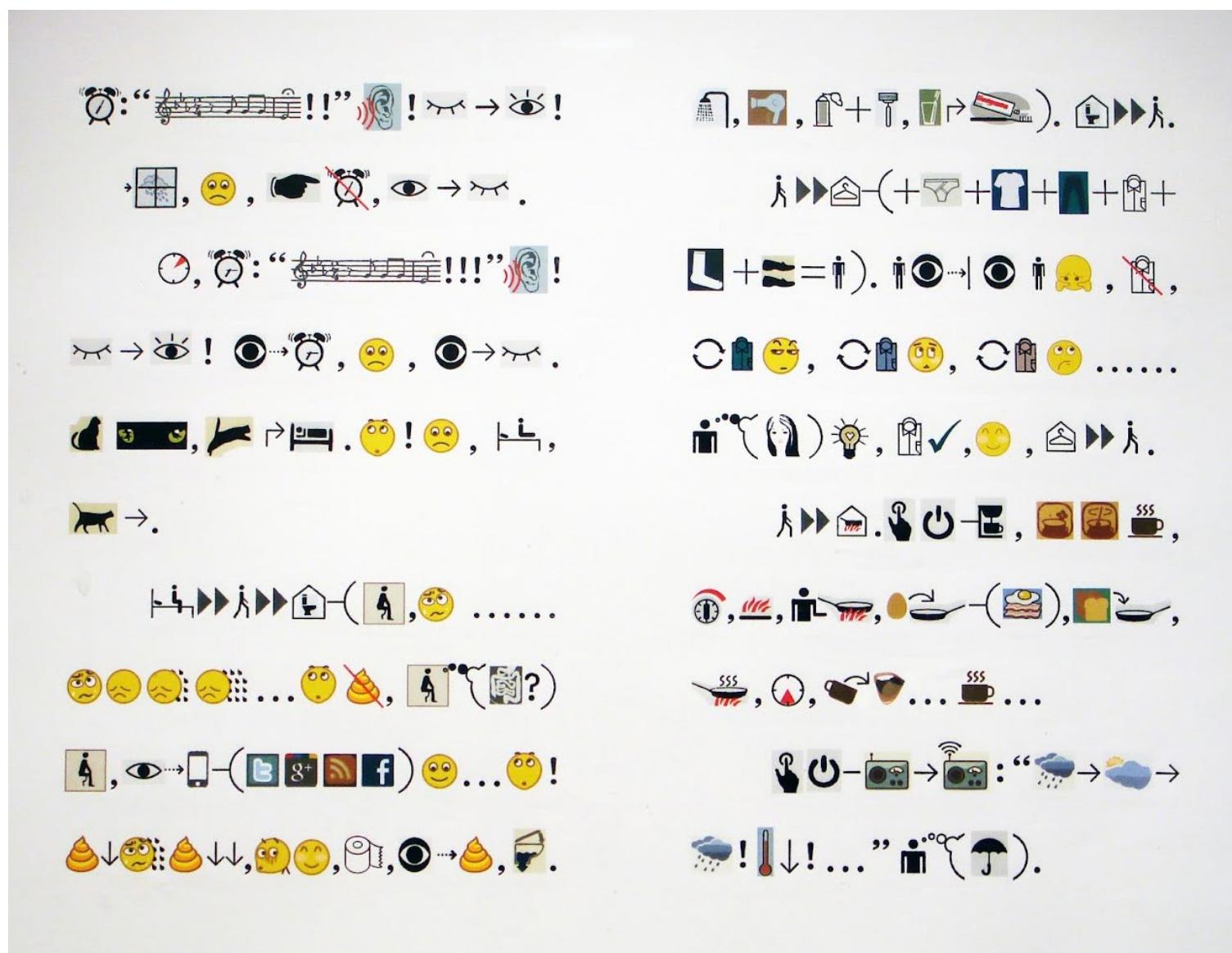
.....

Experimental Language

A Book from the Ground

Bing Xu

Pictorial language. A book that anyone can read.

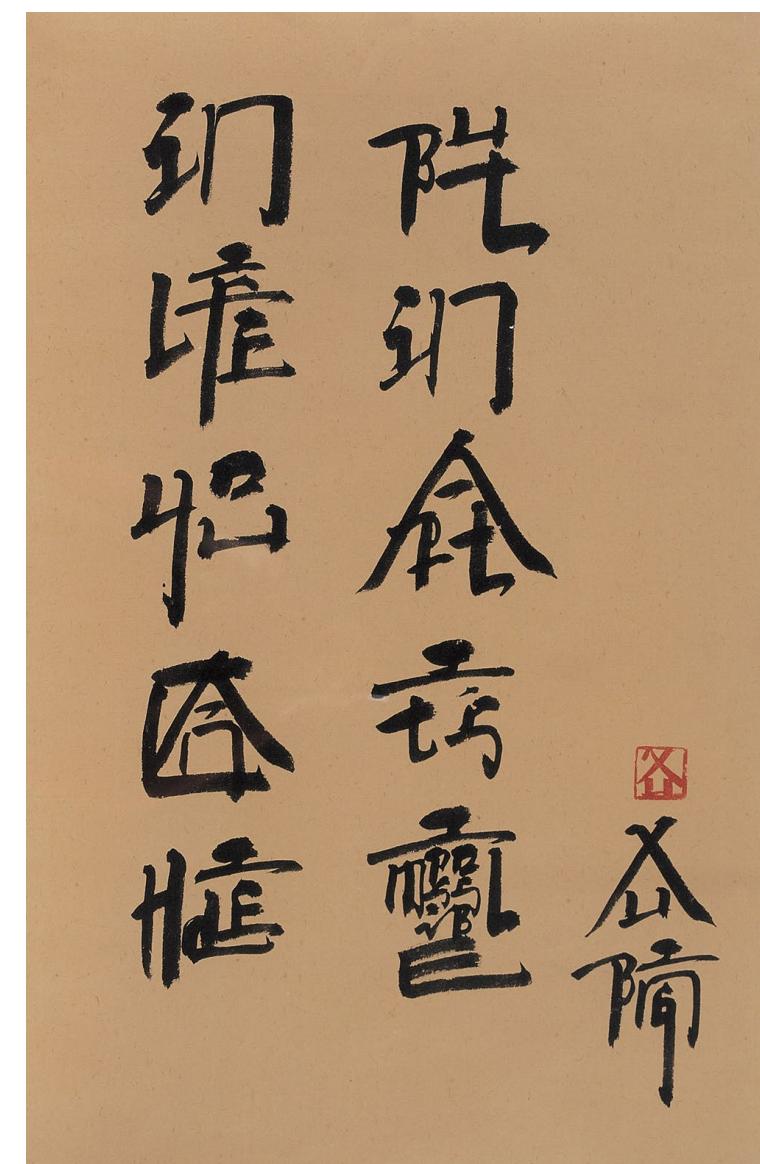
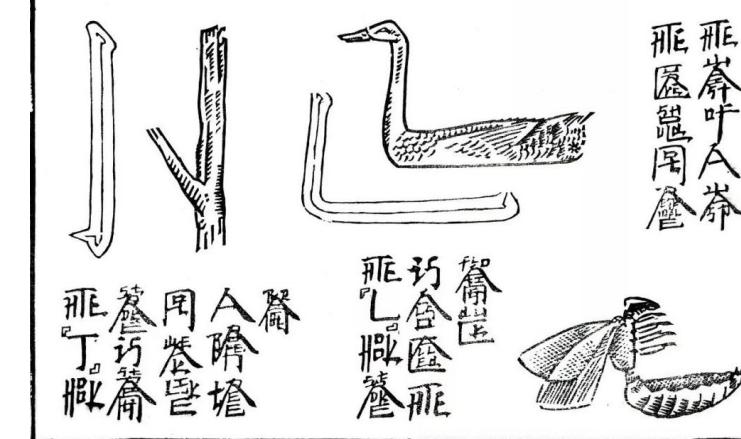


New English Calligraphy

Bing Xu

Xu Bing attempted to fuse written English and written Chinese. He designed a system whereby English words are written in the format of a square, so as to resemble the consistent size of all Chinese characters.

龠	𠂔	F	𠂔	M	𠂔	T
𦥑	𠂔	G	𠂔	N	𠂔	U
𦥑	𠂔	A	𠂔	H	𠂔	V
𦥑	𠂔	B	𠂔	I	𠂔	P
𦥑	𠂔	C	𠂔	J	𠂔	Q
𦥑	𠂔	D	𠂔	K	𠂔	R
𦥑	𠂔	E	𠂔	L	𠂔	S
						Z



5 universal language

*Esperanto is the most widely spoken constructed international auxiliary language. L. L. Zamenhof, a Polish-Jewish ophthalmologist, created Esperanto in the late 19th century and published the first book detailing it, *Unua Libro*, in 1887 under the pseudonym Dr. Esperanto, Esperanto translating as “one who hopes”.*

Aim:

1: “To render the study of the language so easy as to make its acquisition mere play to the learner.”

2: “To enable the learner to make direct use of his knowledge with people of any nationality, whether the language be universally accepted or not; in other words, the language is to be directly a means of international communication.”

3: “To find some means of overcoming the natural indifference of mankind, and disposing them, in the quickest manner possible, and

en masse, to learn and use the proposed language as a living one, and not only in last extremities, and with the key at hand.”

Esperanto is such a sentiment, an ideal, a community far more important than the language itself. But too much out of the attributes of the tool and too much attention to feelings and ideals, every Esperanto may have to put up a lifetime, whether it is contrary to an international auxiliary language the most important original intention?

English as a real global language

The pace of English going to the world lingua franca or the international lingua franca is further accelerating, and at the same time accelerating the weak cultural system to a stronger culture (mainly English culture) process. In this process, the linguistic and cultural diversity between different ethnic groups will undoubtedly be weakened. The language and culture of a politically and economically influential nation often have a much greater impact on the language and culture of a politically and economically disadvantaged nation. This influence is particularly evident in the era of globalization.

On the one hand, the achievements of the economic powers will induce the people in the poorer countries to abandon their own language, and turn to the language of the economic power.

On the other hand, economic achievement itself makes publication and schooling and the improvement of teachers' conditions easier, especially to make radio, television, The penetration of the Internet, which is closely related to language and culture, has become even higher. - Changzhu Huang

6 Endangered languages

Endangered languages usually refer to those languages that use a small population and are unable to perform effectively the communicative functions of the language, whose survival is threatened.

Language is the carrier of culture and also an important part of culture. The inheritance of a culture is mainly achieved by language (whether written or spoken), so we say that language itself is a cultural heritage. The disappearance of a language often leads to the disappearance of the culture that the language inherits.

Endangered Accents

Tangier	Cajun
Forest of Dean	Lincolnshire
Cockney	Yola
New York	Philadelphia
<i>"One of the most distinctive features of traditional New York speech is that r isn't pronounced, except where the sound comes before a vowel. This is called "non-rhoticity", and can be heard in the "Noo Yawk" accent we know from the movies. William Labov gathered evidence in Saks, an upscale department store, and compared it to data taken from Macy's (middling) and S Klein (working class). He found that, the higher you went, the more the r was pronounced. When his study was repeated in 2009, the same pattern was found, but non-rhoticity was even harder to find. That aspect of the accent has been stigmatised – and may not last another generation." - David Shariatmadari</i>	We are not only losing language diversity, we are losing accent diversity too.

7 Tools for learning languages

Project 2: Flash fiction

Dream?

There are so many means to learn a new language especially with the help of internet.

When I was preparing for Tofel test, I remembered that there's several times that the language context is in English. What's more, my English speaking is much better than that in reality.

So I pictured what if we can learn language during our dream?

"Maybe dreaming in another language is an expression of our desire for linguistic and cultural 'insiderness', tapping into the sense of belonging that a new language can bring." -James Lane

Based on the result of research, I found out that we can not learn new things but we can have some control during the lucid dream. What if we can review everyday

new phrase during the dream? Wouldn't it be so appealing to use the precious sleeping time to multitasking?



Effortless learning device



Practicing during lucid dream

8 Language shapes how we think

Orientation

Numbering things

Color specturm

...

It is so amazing that you can't even imagine how big the difference between language could be. And those languages shapes how we think.

For example:

1: “*bridge*” happens to be grammatically feminine in German, grammatically masculine in Spanish -- German speakers are more likely to say bridges are “beautiful,” “elegant” and stereotypically feminine words. Whereas Spanish speakers will be more likely to say they’re “strong” or “long,” these masculine words.’

-Lera Boroditsky

2: There's different way of answering to the question of “Don’t you think..?” between Chinese and English.

If you don't think so, you will say:

Chinese: yes, I don't think so.
(translation)

English: no, I don't think so.

3: How Japanese and Chinese approach to lucky number is quite different?

Japanese - odds
Chinese - Even

It's about belief and tradition though these two culture even share something in common.

In the more grammatical and rigorous society, the higher the social order, because people are used to the rules of thinking in all things in language acquisition, such as Germany, if language does not emphasize grammar, it is difficult for the society to establish order, such as the emphasis of China, we often use “Chinese characteristics” to describe a phenomenon is the abstraction of the rules.

Does the tortuous change of verbs indicate Westerners' need for the accuracy of information transmission? Is it because of the subtlety that the east need parataxis?

Language is affected by the culture and culture is affected by language as well.

9 Pronunciation - Sound Meaning Association

Project 3:

Experiment1 - Translation

In different language, phonemes are different. They have different phoneme system. So, normally, sound and meaning association is usually arbitrary.

But.....

“Huh”

is a universal sound. But when someone utter an “Huh”, without context sometime even with context, it is confused.

A sign

is also a universal sound. It normally means that someone is depressed, anxious, feeble..

Ding, Yangyang

is my name. In no matter which country, when someone utter the sound of “Ding, Yangyang” on the street, I will think that they called me.

But...

When I pronounce the sound into translation app in different language mode without Chinese. “Ding, Yangyang” has different meanings.

دنيا هنية

[Donia Haniyeh](#)

Arabic

Det er ingen gang Jørgen
[It's not even a Jorgen](#)

Danish

Tinc ja ja

[I have HA HA](#)

Catalan

10 jaren jaren
[10 Years](#)

Dutch

癲人人

[The polynesium](#)

Cantonese

Thing ja on ja on
[Thing and is and is](#)

Finnish

Thing ja ja

[Thing I do](#)

Croatian

Y'a rien
[There's nothing](#)

French

Tý and young young

[Th and Young Young](#)

Czech

Den Yangyang
[The Yangyang](#)

German

טעים גם ים

[Delicious also Sea](#)

Greek

תְּנֵנָנִינָן
[Yan Yan](#)

Hebrew

Experiment 1- Translation

Soramimi

Soramimi(“mishearing; (feigned) deafness”, literally “air ear”) or soramimi kashi(misheard lyrics); is a Japanese term for **homophonic translation of song lyrics, that is, interpreting lyrics in one language as similar-sounding lyrics in another language**. A bilingual soramimi word play contrasts with a monolingual monodegreen or homophonic transformation, and is usually caused by pareidolia. Soramimi transcription is also commonly used in animutations for comic effect.

When I am in primary school, my mom had to help with my dictation but she didn't understand and know how to pronounce English, so she write down what ever she heard like this.

But I add one more layer which is that the meaning of chinese phrase has some connection to the original word.

Sound	lifu	beng	shang
-------	------	------	-------

Original word	Leaf	bone	sun
---------------	------	------	-----

Meaning	Leave and land	Crack down	Entropy
---------	----------------	------------	---------

Character	离赴	崩	墮
-----------	----	---	---

Zhan

Meaning	love	mail	the only one	ball	rabbit	climb	Flying food	old louse	Hang down
Chinese word	爱	邮	唯一	丸	兔	攀升	飞食	老虱	垂依
Pronuceation	ai	you	weii	wan	tu	posun	feishi	laoshi	chuii
	I	U	Wey	Van	Two	pension	fish		chewy
Meaning	silk scar	no scratch	rich	crack	Rumbling noise	block	kill	toast	hurt
Chinese word	丝巾	不刺得	富	嘣	轰	碍	弄死	吐司	痛
Pronuceation	sijin	bulade	fu	beng	hong	ai	nongsi	tusi	tong
	sing	Blood	Fool	Bong	Horn	I	nurse	Toose	Tone
Meaning	drowing	sweat hand	leave and land	filter radiation	all good	wrench	bask	close to blac	evil
Chinese word	溺	汗的	离赴	沥辐	均可	扭	熙	黑迩	歹
Pronuceation	ni	hande	lifu	lifu	junke	niu	xi	heier	dai
	Knee	Hand	leaf	Leef	drink	new	see	here	die
Meaning	Entropy	A debater I like.	high fertility	grotto	happen in wild	fare of death	cat village	neon special	lowdown
Chinese word	墮	思达	沃特	石洞	发野	怕死	猫屯	氖特	内幕
Pronuceation	shang	sida	wote	shidong	faye	pasi	maotun	naite	neimu
	Sun	star	vote walt	Stone	Fire	pass	mountain	night	name

Quiz result

Experiment 2 - Sound mixing

Sound-meaning association biases evidenced across thousands of languages

Damián E. Blasi, Søren Wichmann, Harald Hammarström, Peter F. Stadler, and Morten H. Christiansen

It is widely assumed that one of the fundamental properties of spoken language is the **arbitrary relation between sound and meaning**. Some exceptions in the form of nonarbitrary associations have been documented in linguistics, cognitive science, and anthropology, but these studies only involved small subsets of the **6,000+ languages** spoken in the world today. By analyzing word lists covering nearly two-thirds of the world's languages, we demonstrate that a considerable proportion of **100 basic vocabulary items carry strong associations with specific kinds of human speech sounds**, occurring persistently across continents and linguistic lineages (linguistic families or isolates). Prominently among these relations, we find property words ("small" and i, "full" and p or b) and body part terms ("tongue" and l, "nose" and n). The areal and historical distribution of these associations suggests that they often emerge independently rather than being inherited or borrowed. Our results therefore have important implications for the language sciences, given that nonarbitrary associations have been proposed to play a critical role in the emergence of cross-modal mappings, the acquisition of language, and the evolution of our species' unique communication system.

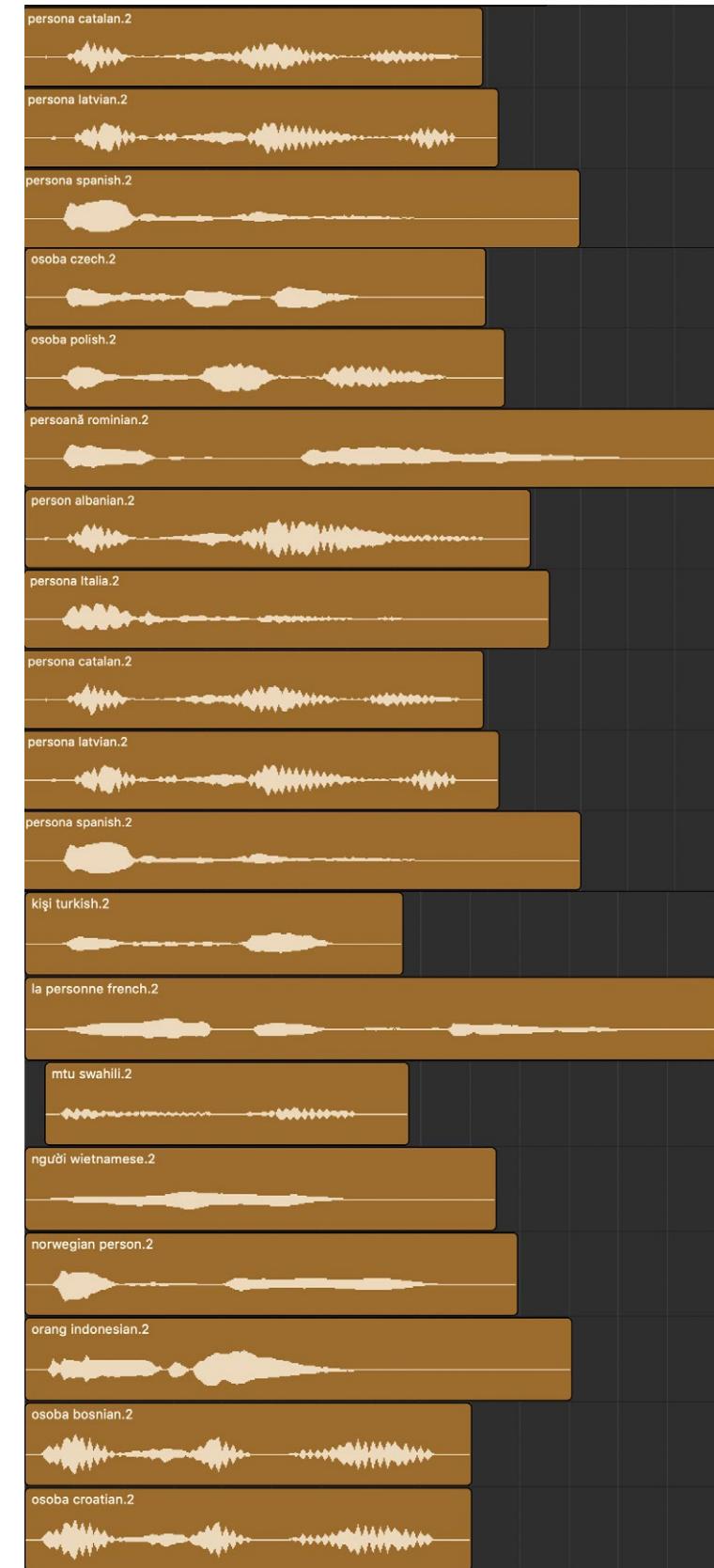
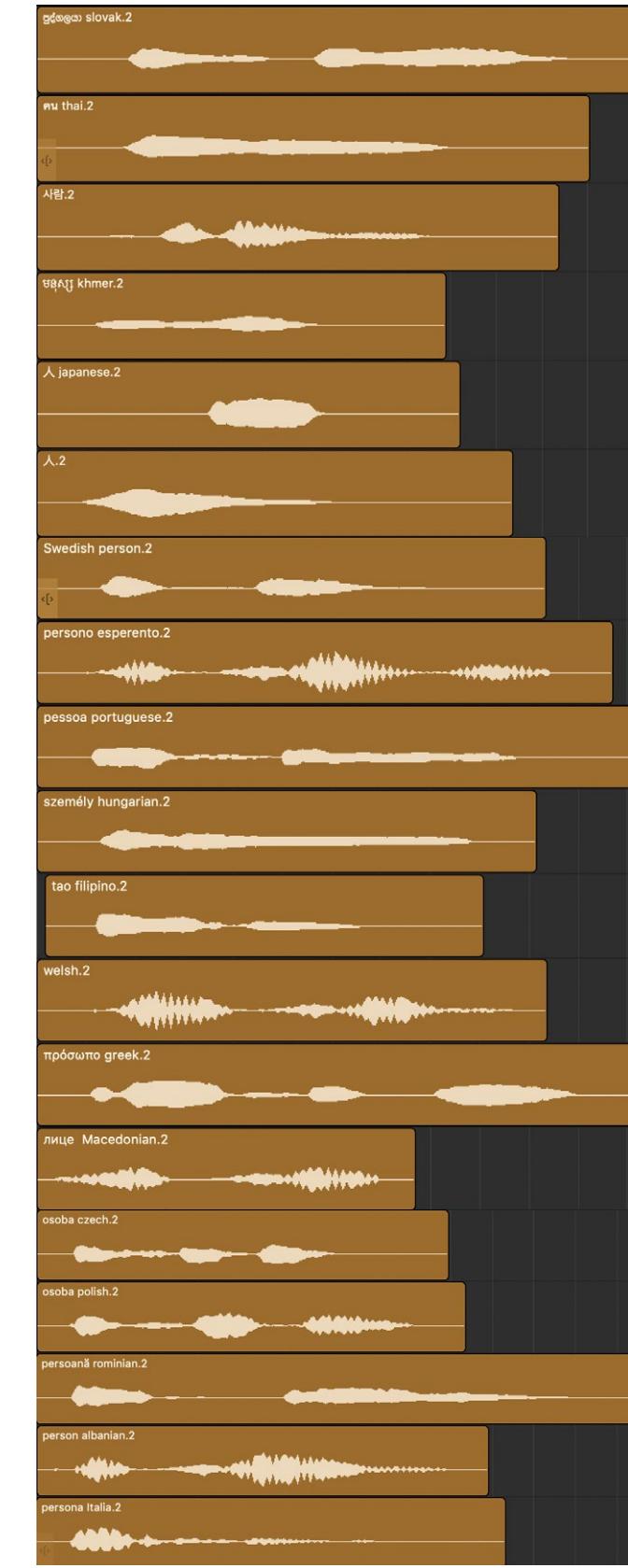
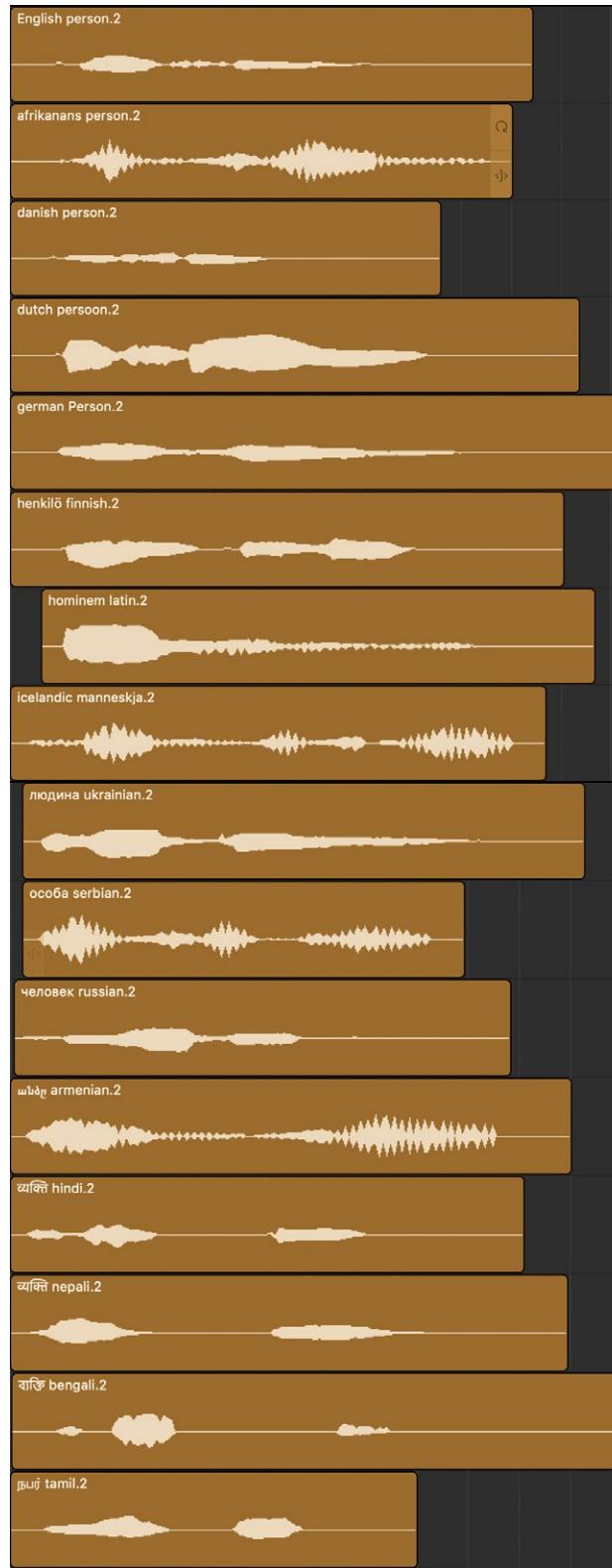
Vocabulary List:	61	die
	66	come
1	72	sun
2	74	star
3	75	water
11	77	stone
12	82	fire
18	85	path
19	86	mountain
21	92	night
22	95	full
23	96	new
25	100	name
28		
30		
31		
34		
39		
40		
41		
43		
44		
47		
48		
51		
53		
54		
57		
58		

Experiment 2 - Sound mixing

Person:

Language resource from google
translate.

Afrikaans	Japanese
Albanian	Khmer
Arabic	Korean
Armenian	Latin
Bengali	Latvian
Bosnian	Macedonian
Catalan	Nepali
Chinese	Norwegian
Croatian	Polish
Czech	Portuguese
Danish	Romanian
Dutch	Russian
English	Swedish
Esperanto	Serbian
Filipino	Sinhala
Finnish	Slovak
French	Spanish
German	Swahili
Greek	Tamil
Hindi	Turkish
Hungarian	Ukrainian
Icelandic	Vietnamese
Indonesian	Welsh
Italian	

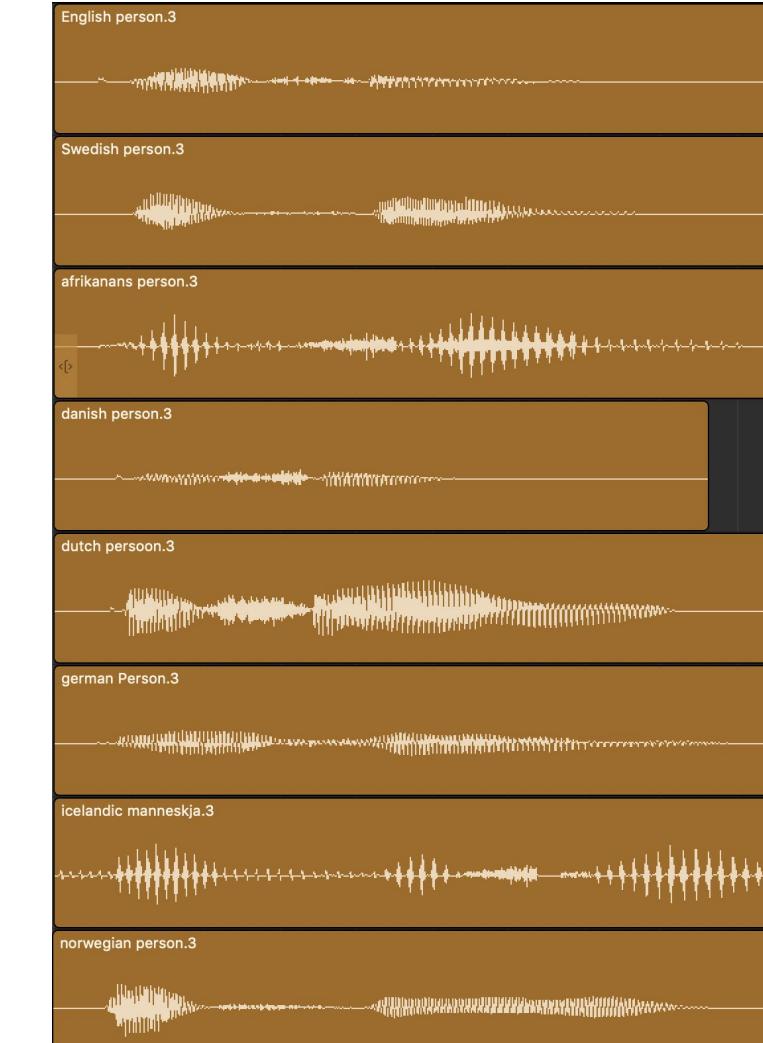


Experiment 2 - Sound mixing

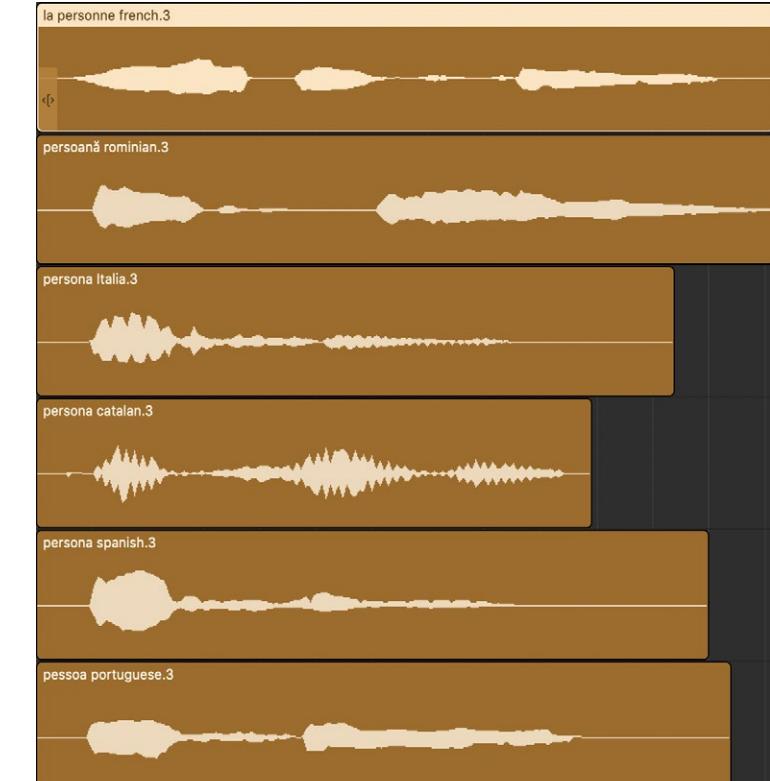
Family language tree



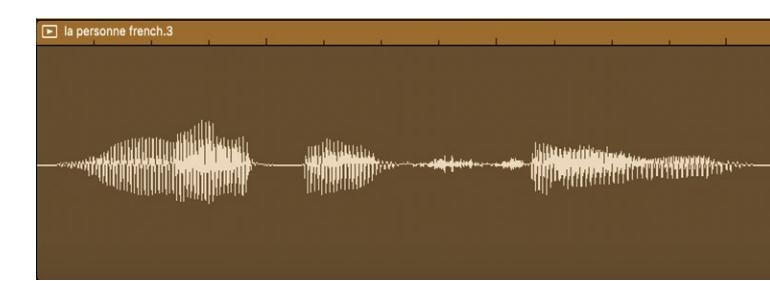
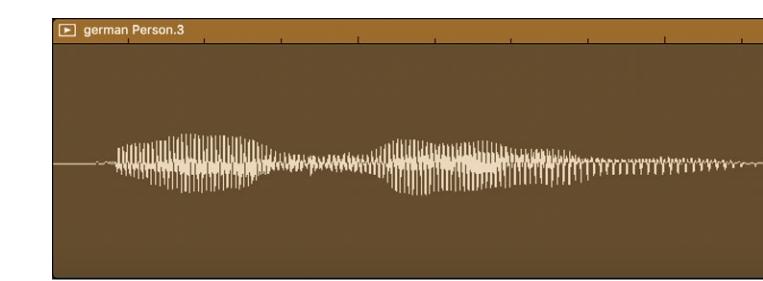
Germani



Romance



Mixing result



Conclusion

1: Translation

To start a poetic and imaginary conversation with different language.

..... path(pasi).....

怕死('pasi'/fear death) 垂依('chuiyi'hang down)
Tree.....

2: Sound Mixing

To preserve the language diversity - exist in the remixed sound

To create a collective sound based language

To push the limit of the universal language

Gesture
Facial expression
Context
Sound
Written language

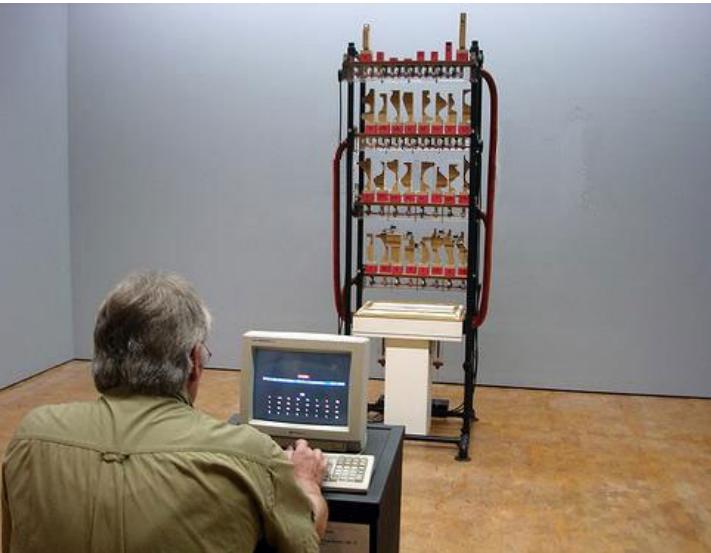
Speaking Machines

The Talking Machine (1989-1991)

MotorMouth (1994-1999)

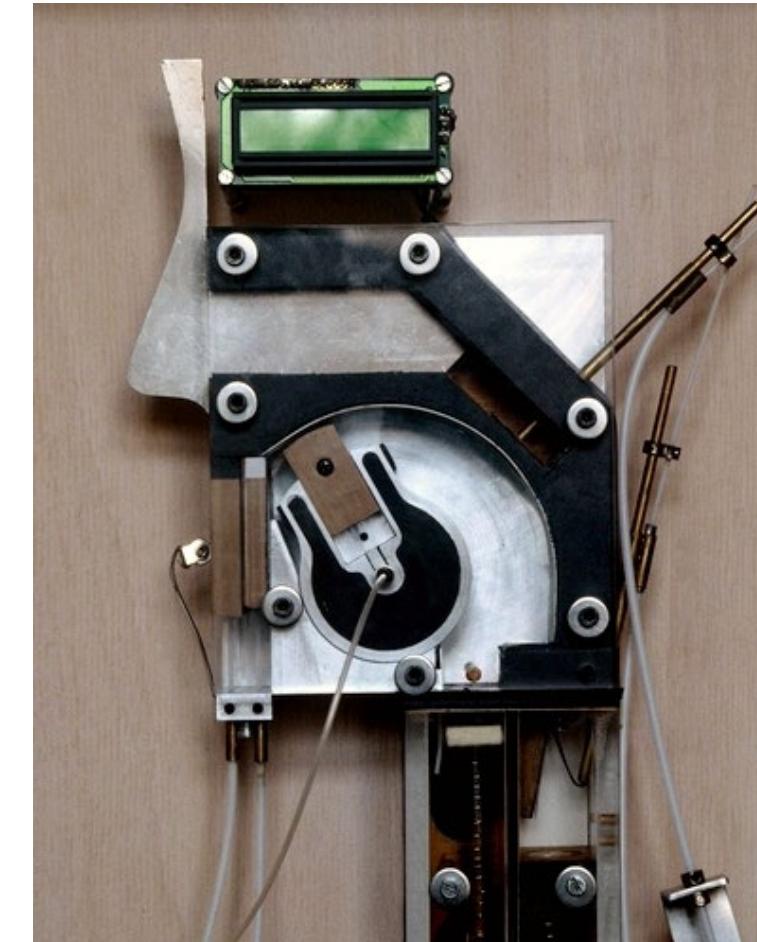
Singing Machine (2010-2013)

Martin Riches



The Talking Machine

The machine is arranged like an organ, with a pipe for each speech sound. Each pipe consists of a noise-maker - a reed or whistle - and a resonator formed like the inside of a human mouth. This resonator filters the noise into a speech sound.



MotorMouth

is an acoustic speech synthesizer with just one voice pipe. It is a mechanical version of the human mouth with moving lips, teeth, tongue, tip of the tongue, larynx and a blower which serves as the lungs.



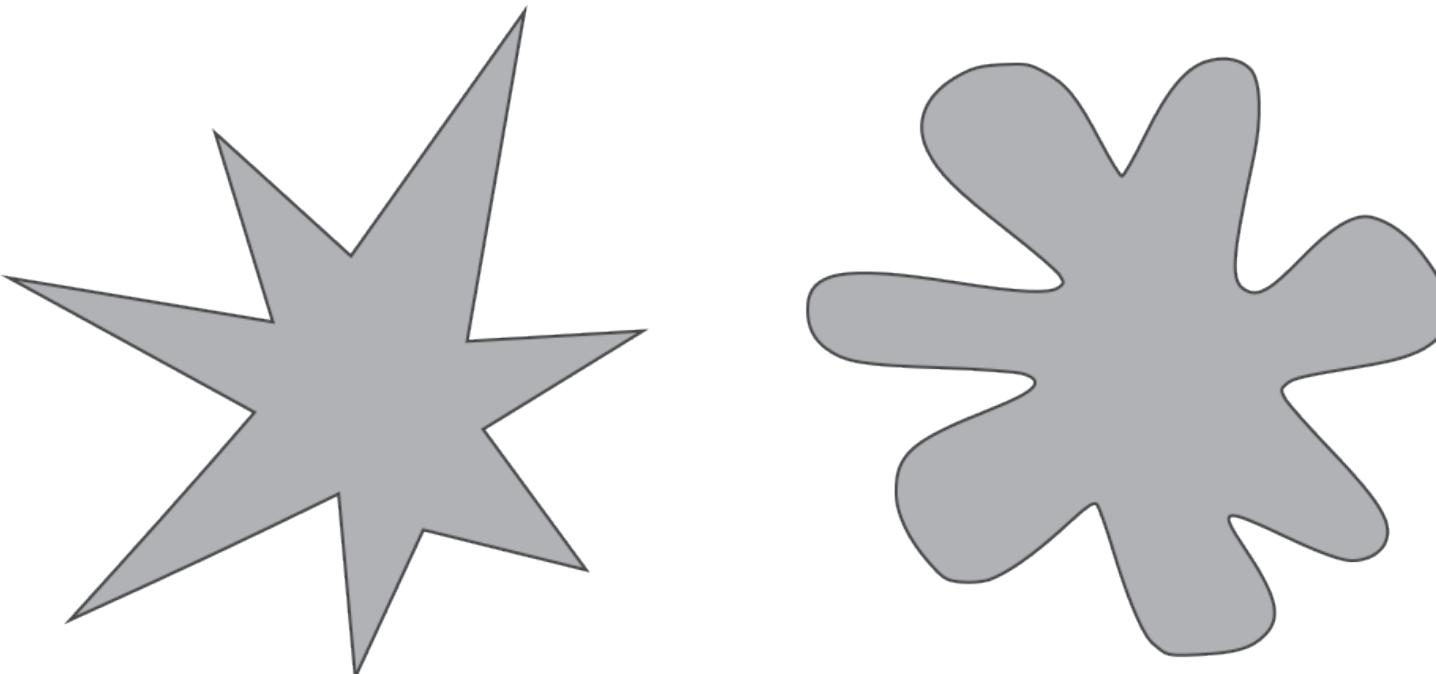
Singing Machine

Here the sound of the larynx is produced by an air-blown reed with adjustable pitch instead of a buzzer.

Sound Meaning Association

Bouba/kiki effect

The bouba/kiki effect is a non-arbitrary mapping between speech sounds and the visual shape of objects.



In 2001, Vilayanur S. Ramachandran and Edward Hubbard repeated Köhler's experiment using the words "kiki" and "bouba" and asked American college undergraduates and Tamil speakers in India "Which of these shapes is bouba and which is kiki?" In both groups, 95% to 98% selected the curvy shape as "bouba" and the jagged one as "kiki", suggesting that the human brain somehow attaches abstract meanings to the shapes.

and sounds in a consistent way. Work by Daphne Maurer and colleagues shows that even children as young as 2½ years old may show this effect as well. The effect does not occur in all communities, and it appears that the effect breaks if the sounds do not make licit words in the language.

The effect has also been shown to emerge when the words to be paired are existing first names, suggesting that some familiarity with the linguistic stimuli does not eliminate the effect. A study showed that individuals will pair names such as "Molly" with round silhouettes, and names such as "Kate" with sharp silhouettes. Moreover, individuals will associate different personality traits with either group of names (e.g., easy-goingness with "round names"; determination with "sharp names"). This may hint at a role of abstract concepts in the effect.

Pronunciation - Accent

Final project

critical object: Pronunciation tools

First of all, the stereotype that people have on the accent seems to be more serious than the stereotype of the language.

This is a phenomenon in China. The majority of the crowd are pursuing certain accent of English. But in some areas with higher proficiency of English, such as Singapore, India, and even Australia and Canada, they have their own accents, unlike RP and GAP. They feel proud of it. In China, a country with a relatively lower average English proficiency, everyone is quite demanding on accents. Not long ago, a celebrity spoke for an advertisement for a luxury brand, and said a few words in English, but with a heavy accent. Later, she received a lot of taunts on the Internet. I think it's a strange phenomenon, the accent is just one element of the language, the accent does not represent a person's language ability.

There is no specific standard accent according to BBC.

"An accent is simply a way of speaking shaped by a combination of geography, social class, education, ethnicity and first language. I have one; you have one; everybody has one. There is no such thing as perfect, neutral or unaccented English — or Spanish, for that matter, or any other language. To say that someone does not have an accent is as believable as saying that someone does not have any facial features." - Roberto Rey Agudo

The BBC radio's accent first chose the perfect flawless mark basis evaluating English (Received pronunciation, RP), often referred to as the Queen's English, which is considered to be the language of the elite, the Kwon and the royal family.

To set up standard is a tool for unifying. Before the power of the

media was largely controlled in the ruling class, they spread and disseminate their value through the power of the media, so their accents became standard accents. And as the network grew, diversity became more prominent, and the BBC began to demand the use of local accents to broadcast it. Accents will change not only with the theme of society, but also with other factors. Like in northeastern China and Japan, more lovely voices are easier to spread and develop. That's because with urbanization, low fertility, and the evolution of the environment in which children grow up, the development of accents has become more neutral.

But no matter how the accent changes, it essentially affects the vocal ability we have. That's the amazing ability we have as human beings.

So I designed a set of tools to help Chinese people pronounce "standard English." In essence, it is actually the ability to exercise the human tongue and other organs of the mouth to cooperate, to recover the person's original vocal ability. At the same time, the project present such a phenomenon, satirizing the stereotype of accents.

Final project

critical object: Pronunciation tools

"The pronunciation of that unknown language, deduced from theoretical rules, not transmitted by the hearing of voices with their individual accents, not marked by the traces of use that shapes and transforms, acquired the absoluteness of sounds that expect no reply, like the song of the last bird of an extinct species or the strident roar of a just-invented jet plane that shatters in the sky on its first test flight."

- If on a Winter's Night a Traveler
Italo Calvino'

Design Statement

In the future, the linguistic diversity in the world has almost vanished. Everyone could speak one or more 'international language'. Those who speak 'international language' as their second language are also trying to speak just as good as those who speak 'international language' as their first language.

The majority of Chinese people still use one single language - mandarin in their daily life. Although they began to learn English (one of the 'international language') when they are young, they lacked daily practice. Their innate ability to pronounce every sound was lost at the same time and the only part left is to serve daily language - mandarin. Among those who want to go abroad, a set of intrusive tools that go into their mouth became famous, and they use it help themselves to pronounce perfect English.

This set of tools mainly dissolve the difference between Chinese and English pronunciation. The tools focus on the relationship between lips, tongue and the front side of the upper and lower jaws. For example, the tool #10 is a handle connected to a semicircle made of steel wire. Tool #10 is specifically designed to help pronounce the sound of /ei/. When using, the user needs to open his mouth and then place the both sides of the semicircle in between the upper left and right gums and lips. After being placed, the user's lips are always in a horizontal rectangle shape, which is the shape needed for the /ei/ sound.

Pronunciation Tools

Analysis:



Differences between English and Chinese

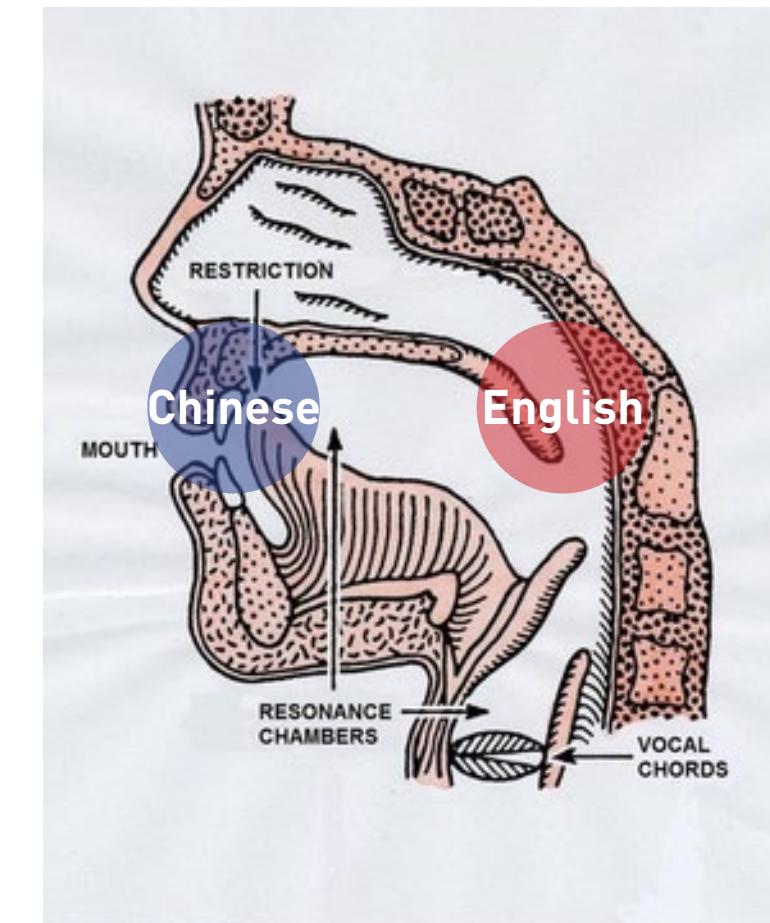
Alphabet: Chinese does not have an alphabet but uses a logographic system for its written language. In logographic systems symbols represent the words themselves

words are not made up of various letters as in alphabetic systems. Because of this fundamental difference, Chinese learners may have great difficulty reading English texts and spelling words correctly.

Phonology: Most aspects of the English phonological system cause difficulties for Chinese learners. Some English phonemes do not exist in Chinese; stress and intonation patterns are different.

Chinese learners find it difficult to hear the difference between l and r, and so may mispronounce rake and rice as lake and lice. Southern Chinese speakers have a similar difficulty in distinguishing l and n.

A major problem is with the common final consonant in English. This feature is much less frequent in Chinese and results in learners either failing to produce the consonant or adding an extra vowel at the end of the word. For example, hill may be pronounced as if without the double ll but with a drawn out i, or as rhyming with killer.



The difficulties of pronouncing individual English words, compounded by problems with intonation, result in the heavily accented English of many Chinese learners. In some cases, even learners with perfect grammar may be very hard to understand.

Pronunciation Tools

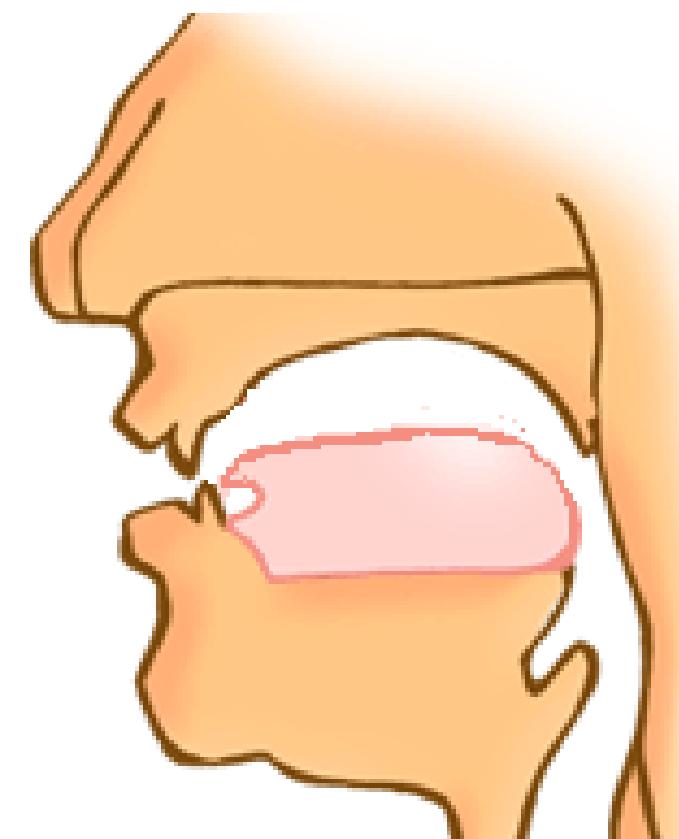
Development:

I collect 12 commonly seen mistakes that most of chinese will have. Some of them is they don't exist in chinese phonemes system. Some of them is because there's similar phoneme so that it's hard to change the habit of pronunciation.

- 1 Λ / love
- 2 θ / idea
- 3 ι / lit
- 4 $e\iota$ / strange
- 5 $ju:$ / new
- 6 Λ / punk
- 7 δ / this
- 8 $t\mathcal{f}$ / change
- 9 r / three
- 10 v / very
- 11 \mathfrak{z} / usual
- 12 \mathfrak{l} / all

Pronunciation difference.

- 1 Λ / love



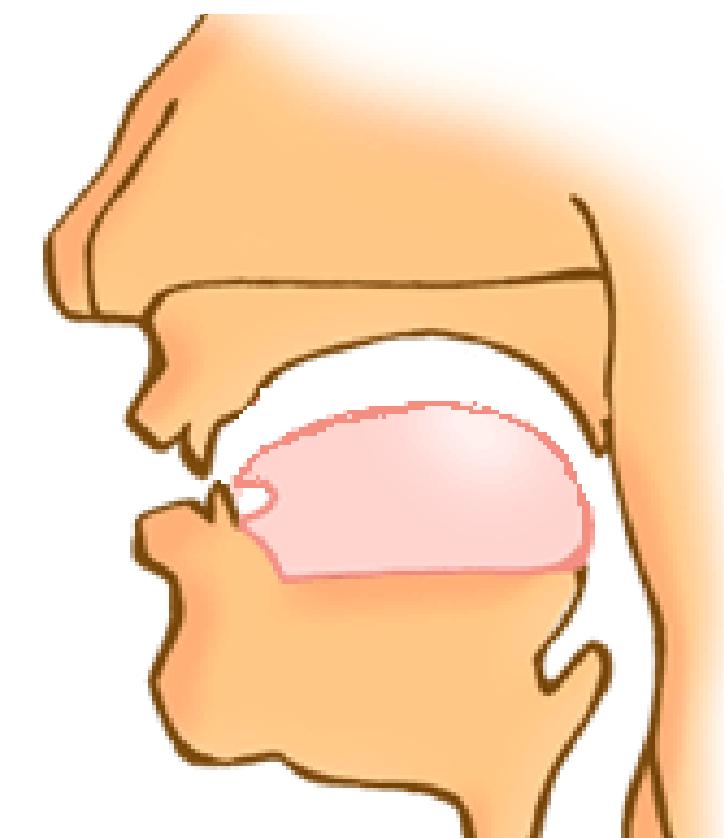
Λ (English) - The short open central vowel



a (Chinese)
big mouth

Because these two phonemes have almost the same sound effect, chinese people will replace a with Λ . But a is big mouth while Λ is small mouth.

- 2 θ / idea

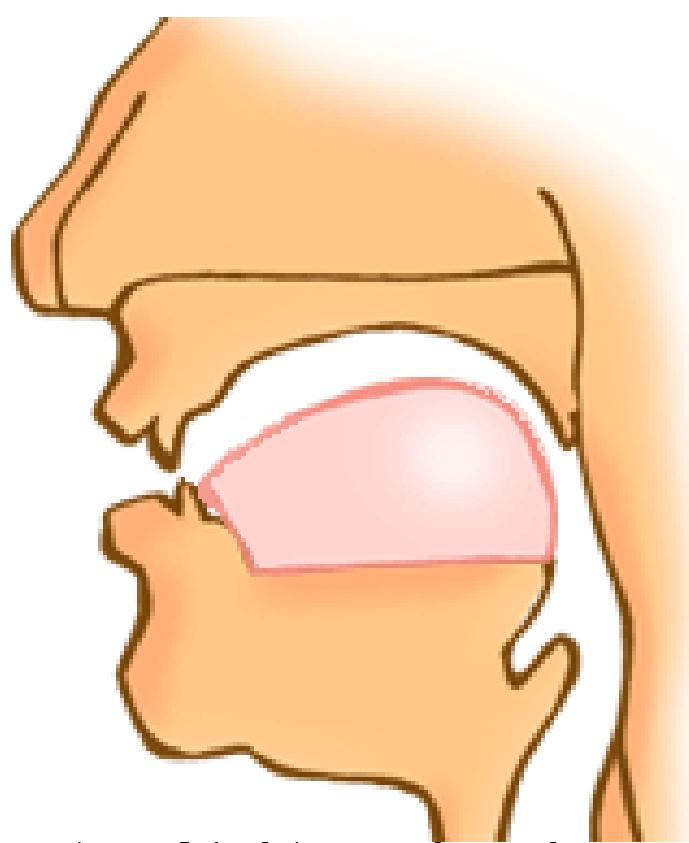


θ (English) - The short central vowel

This normally happened because of stereotype. Some people was impressed with the American

English is full of r's so that they would add or end some word with r's intentionally.

3 ɪ / lit



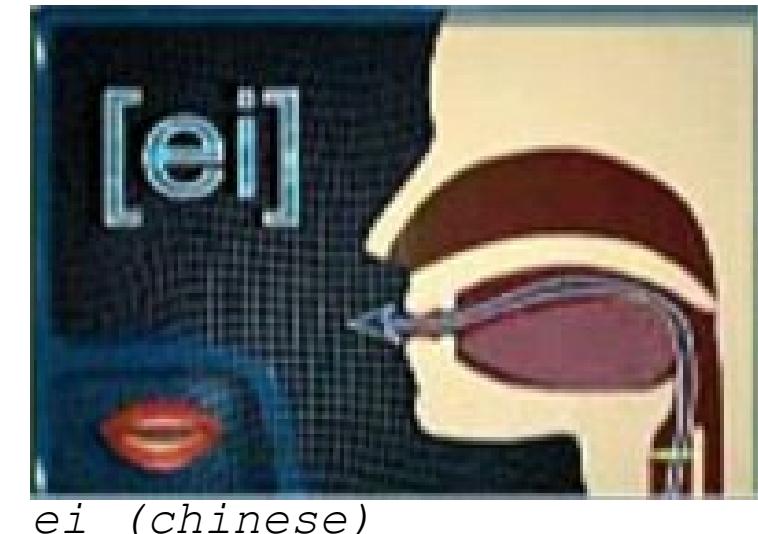
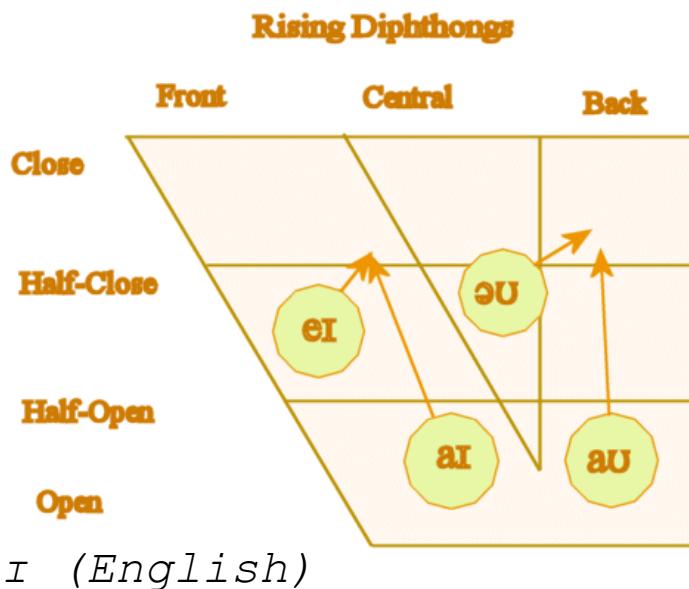
ɪ (English) - The short half-close front vowel



i (chinese)

In chinese, there is also a similar vowel which is ɪ. It a long vowel compared to the English one.

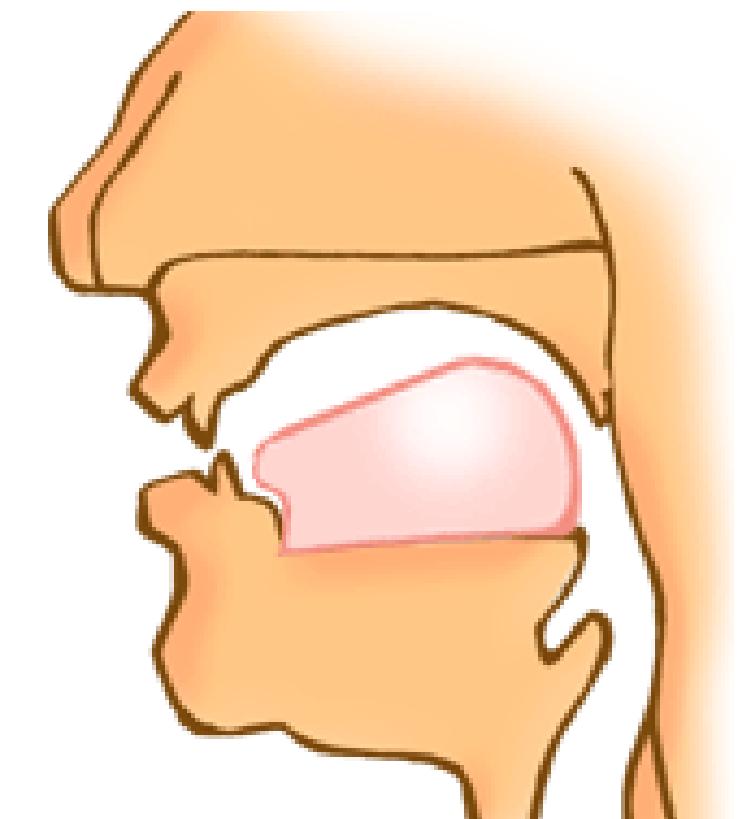
4 eɪ / strange



ei (chinese)

In chinese, there is also a similar vowel which is ei. It a short double vowel compared to the English one.

5 ju: / new



ju: (English) - The long close back vowel

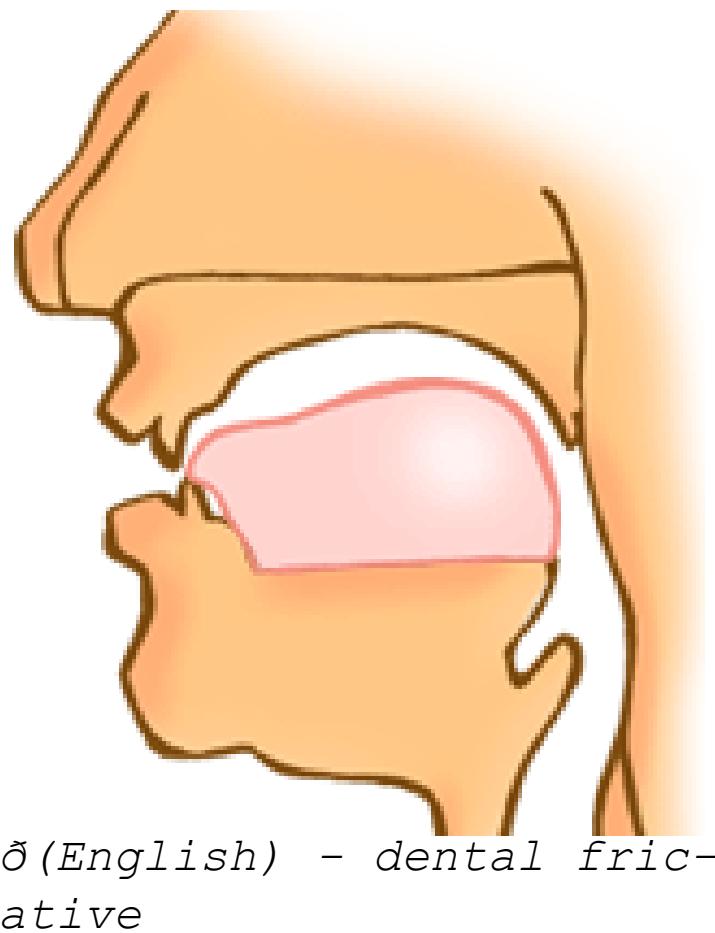


u: (chinese)

Though they are all long vowel, they are pronounced differently. The *ju:* in English sounds like oo. The *u:* in Chinese sounds like *iü*.

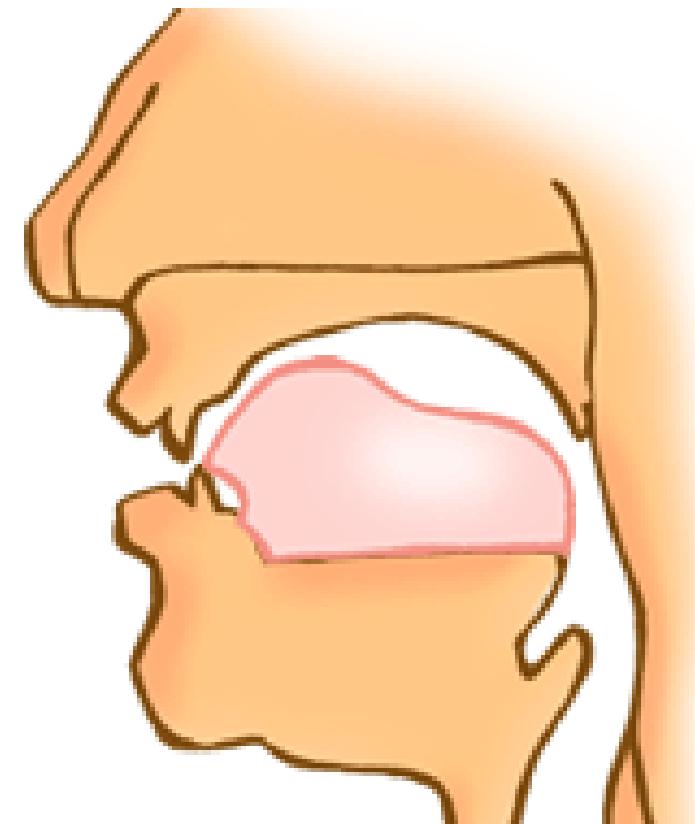
6 Λ / punk
same as 1.

7 δ / this



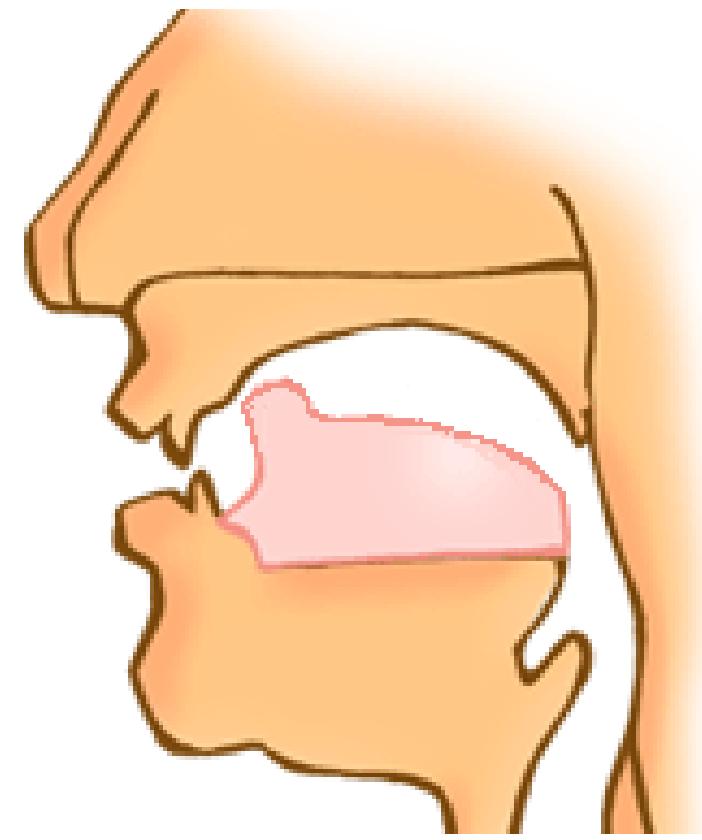
There is no dental fricative in Chinese so that people will replace the δ with the sound of 'd'. The sound will be more crisp.

8 $t\delta$ / change



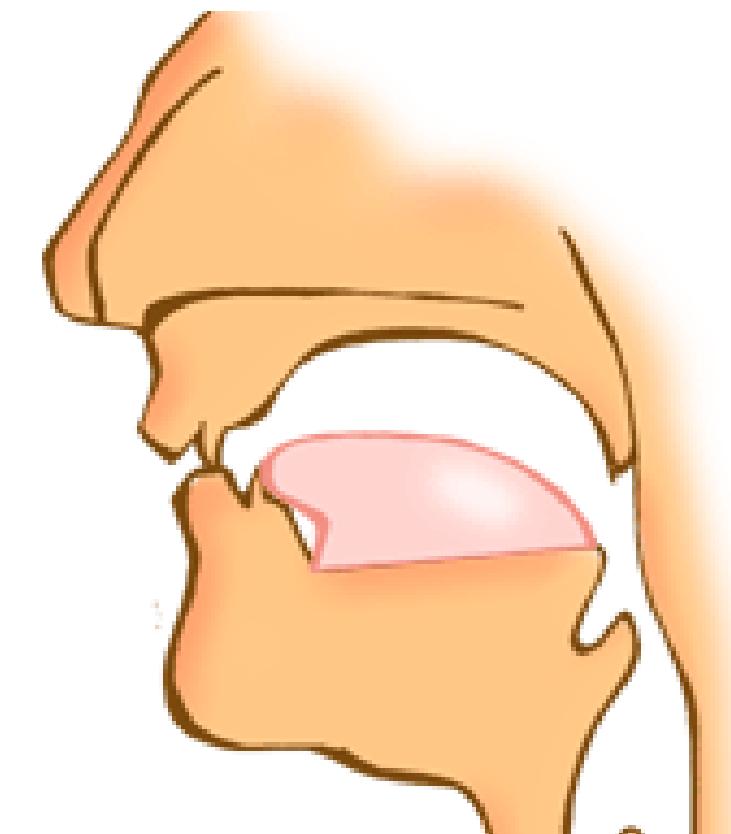
When $t\delta$ follows the $dʒ$, some people would add *ju:* in between them and turn it into *Chuenjü*.

9 r / three



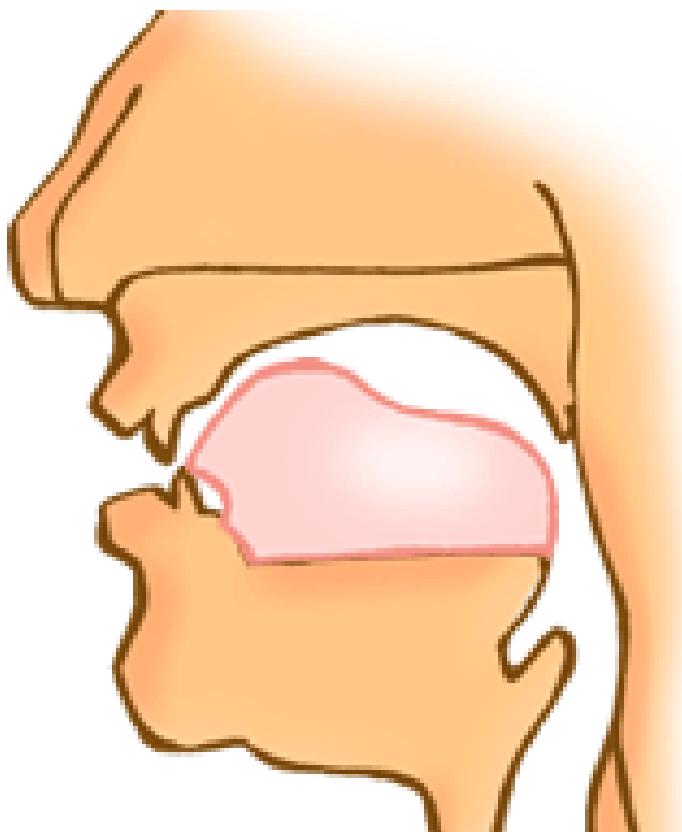
Following the main difference between Chinese and English, r in Chinese is more in the front; r in English is more at the back. Some area in China, people can not even pronounce the r , then *θui* turn *θui*.

10 v / very



There's only *w* in Chinese so that some people would pronounce *v* instead of *w*.

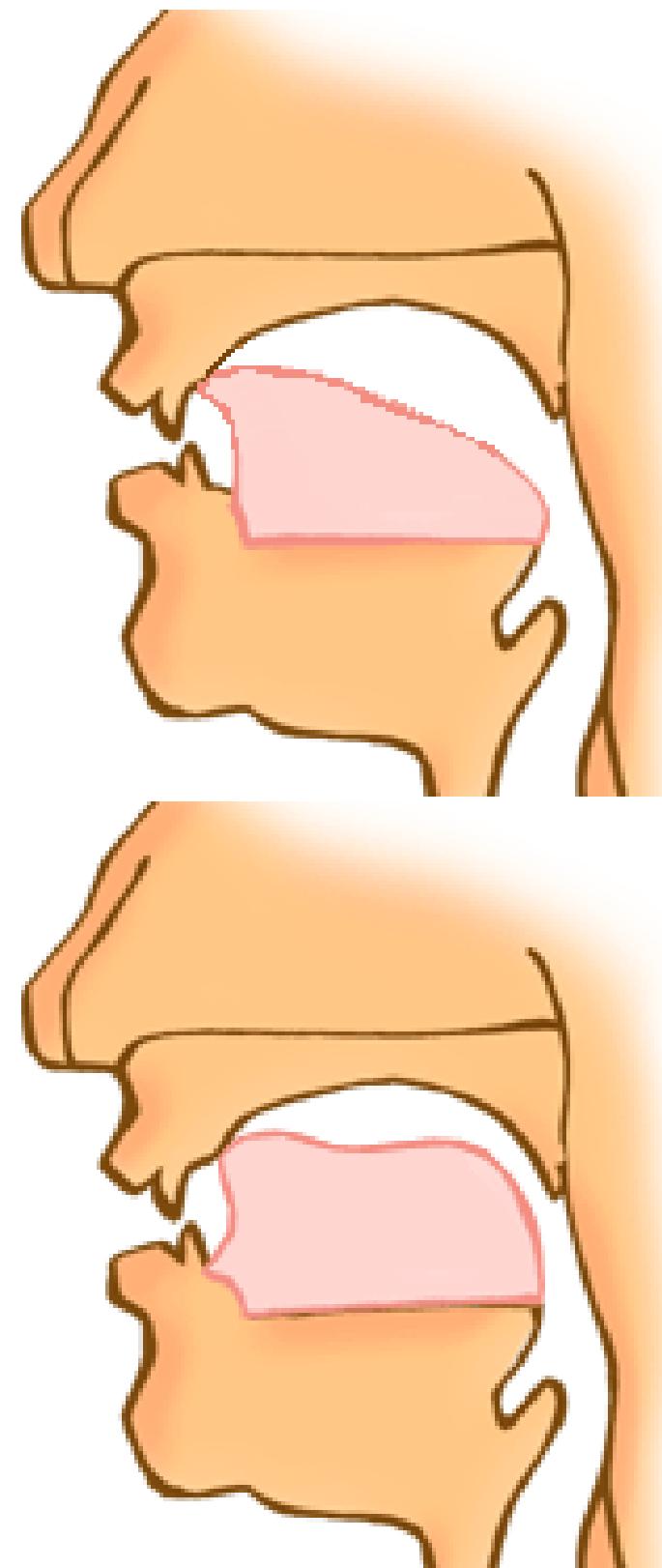
11 ʒ / usual



ʒ (English) - Palatoalveolar fricatives

It is a very complex phoneme for Chinese people. We don't have sound close to ʒ so that we might say *ri* instead.

12 ɿ / all



l (English) - Alveolar approximant

l only appear at the front of the word in Chinese. But it also appear at the rear of the word in English. Most of the people would pronounce *au* or just ignore the ending.

Pronunciation Tools

Final object:

1 Λ / love



#1



It is lock the jaw at certain position so that people can not form a big mouth.

2 \varnothing / idea



#2



It holds the tongue lay down to the jaw when people pronounce the words ended with \varnothing .

3 \imath / lit



#3



The ellipse help two lips form a small oval shape so that people could pronounce a short vowel.

4 $e\imath$ / strange



#3



It keeps two lips forming an elongated ellipse to reach a longer sound.

5 ju: / new



#5



It hold the tongue lay down to the far end of the jaw.

6 ʌ / punk



#6



The circle keeps two lips from opening too big so that people pronounce ʌ with small mouth.

7 ɔ / this



#7



It stays between the lower gums and tongue and two wires leads the tongue moving forward.

8 tʃ / change



#8



The circle keeps two lips from curling up so that people pronounce tʃ.

9 *r* / three



#9

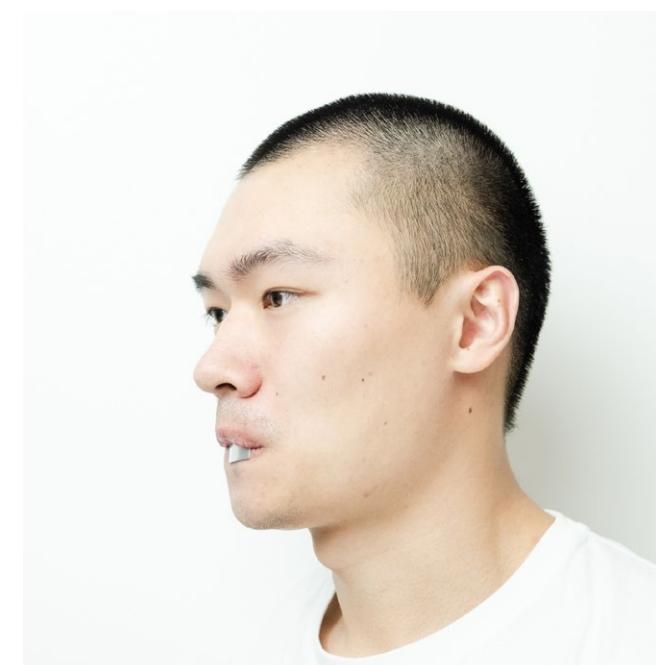


It gives tongue a reference to curl around to pronounce the *r*.

10 *v* / very



#10



It stays in between upper teeth and lip which could align upper teeth with lower lip to pronounce the *v*.

11 *ʒ* / usual



#11



It presses down the tongue and gives lips a small oval shape to pronounce *ʒ*.

12 *l* / all



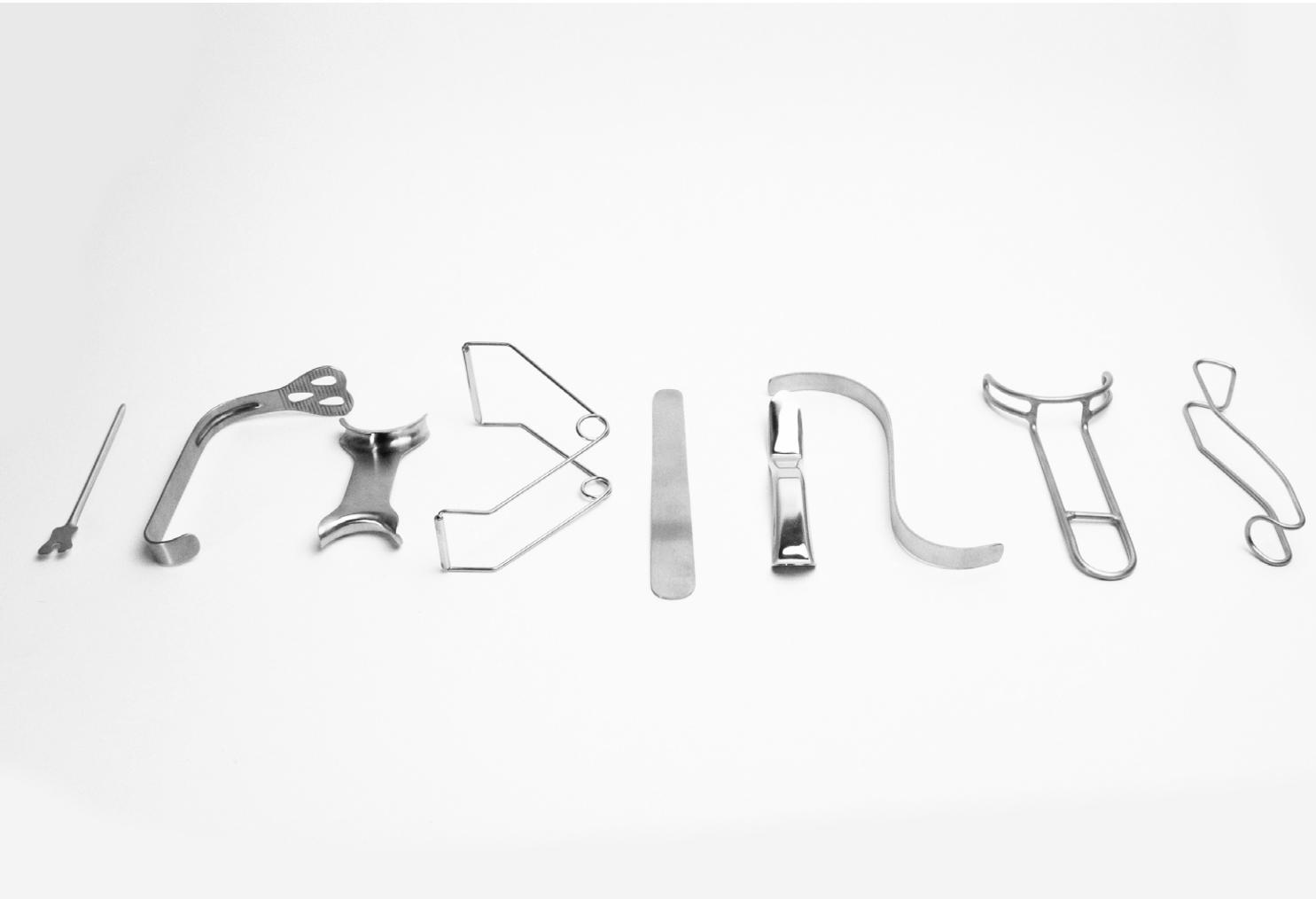
#12



It raise tongue us to touch the upper gums.

Pronunciation Tools

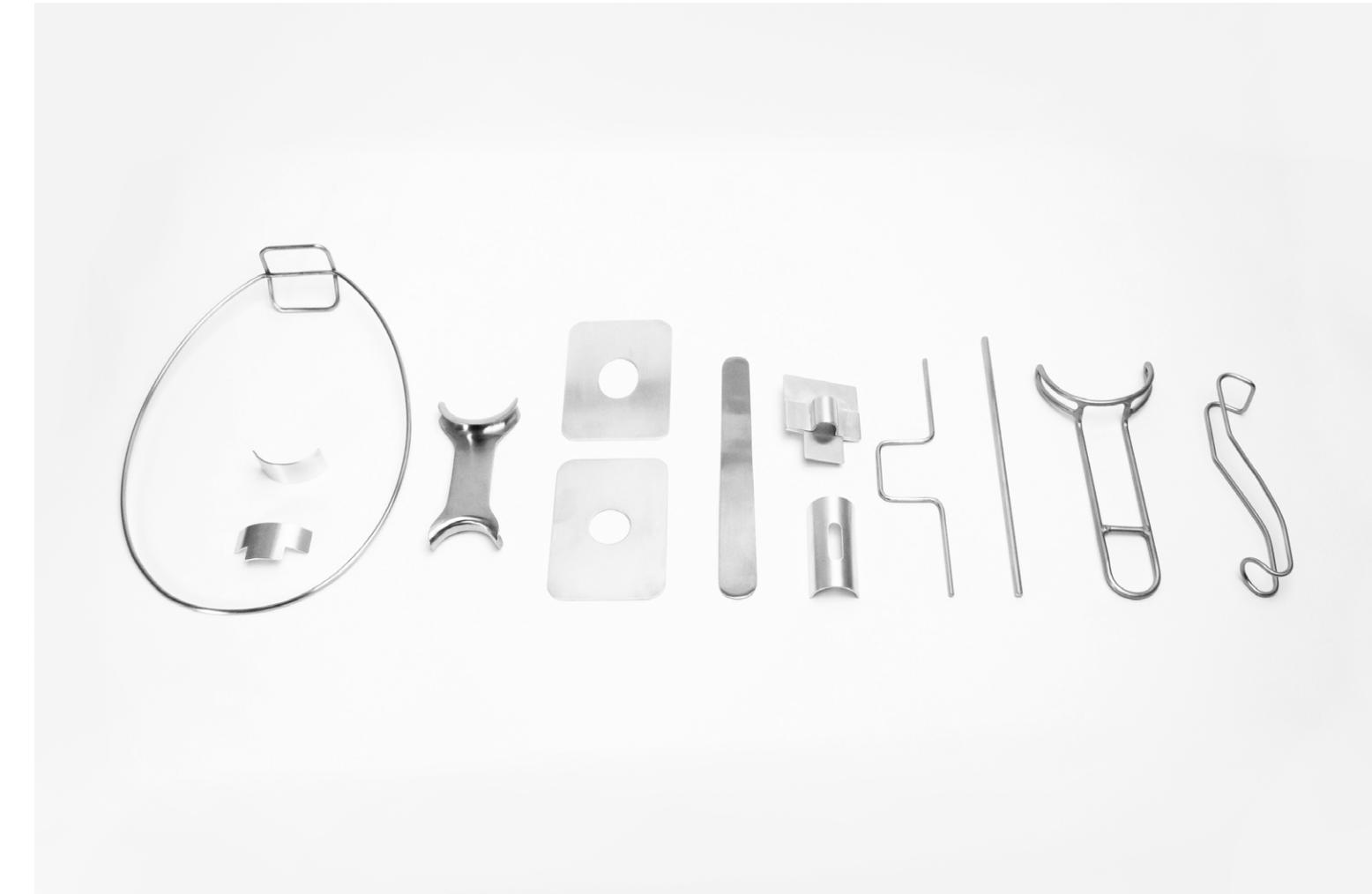
My interpretation



These are a set of dental tools bought from amazon. They looks beautiful. They are well designed to be used for the precious dental surgery. I used four of them in my final project. There are two reasons.

1 Language is a powerful and valuable tool so that I am trying to make these objects looks valuable. So these tools could serve the need of the other tool - language.

2 While I am designing objects, I am doing a set of intrusive tools. It leads me to find out if these dental tools could fit into my context. Not



surprised, some of them works quite well.

So here's the metaphor:

Tools are not the goal, action itself is the goal.

Language is tool, communication is the goal. If the language you use is not perfect but works, then it is the right tool. It's not about if it reach the standard.

Pronunciation Tools

What's the future of them?

A set of tool kit for pronunciation training purpose.

A set of tool kit for B-box training purpose.

A set of tool kit for (....) training purpose.

A set of tool kit for (....) (....).