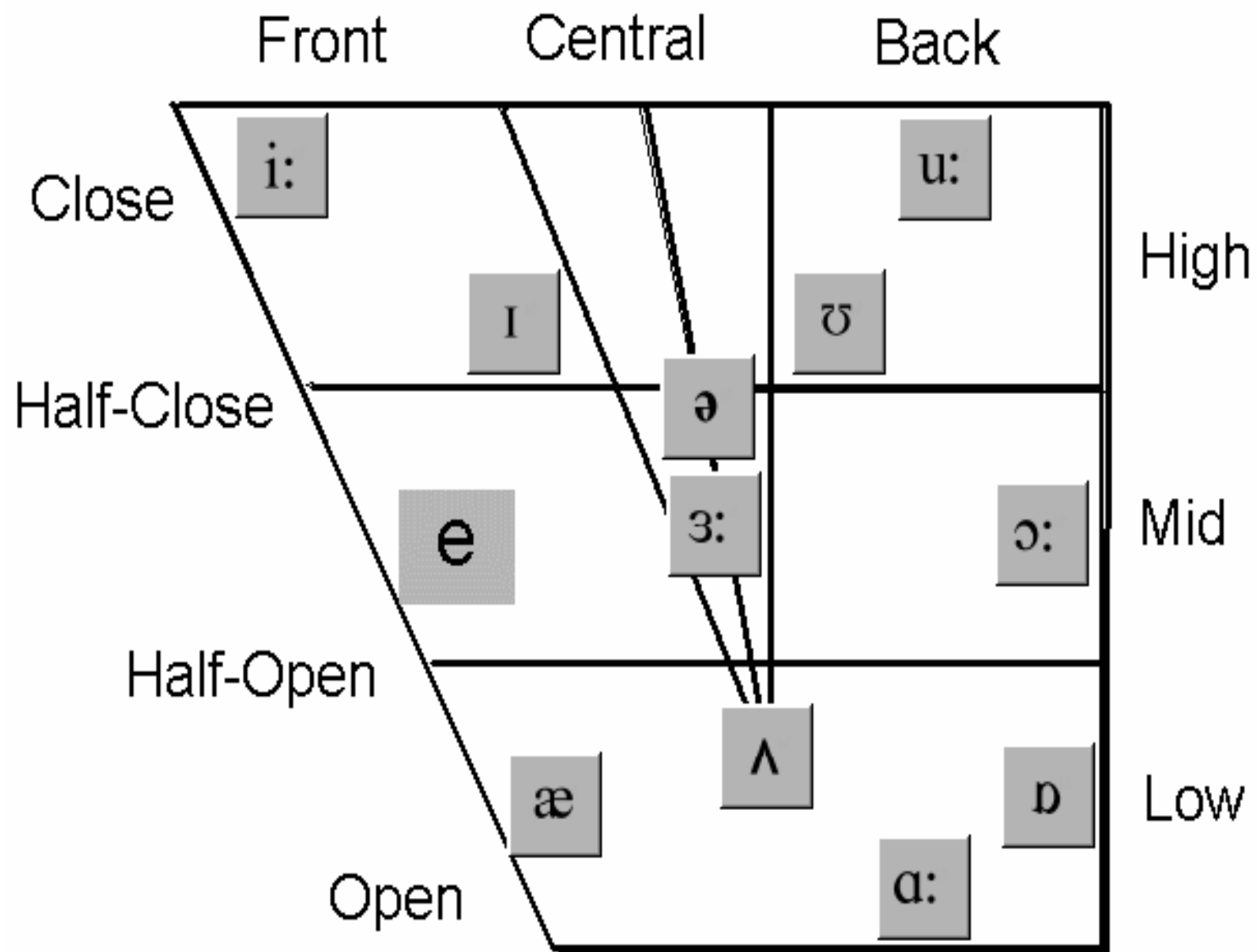


Lecture 2: Vowels

1. Definition
2. Classification
 - According to the height to which the tongue is raised
 - According to the part of the tongue which is raised
 - According to the degree of lip rounding
3. Describing vowels
4. Identifying vowels
5. Diphthongs
6. Triphthongs

Definition

- Vowels are the sounds in the production of which none of the articulators come very close together so the passage of air-stream is relatively unobstructed and the air can get out freely.
- Vowels are the type of sounds that depend mainly on the variations in the position of the tongue. They are normally voiced.
- Vowels can be classified according to three variables:
 - a. Tongue height.
 - b. Part of the tongue which is raised
 - c. Degree of lip rounding



According to tongue height

- According to the height to which the tongue is raised we have:
 1. **High vowels:** are those in the production of which the tongue is high in the mouth. It is raised above its rest position.
e.g.:
 2. **Low vowels:** are those made with the tongue below its rest position.
e.g.:
 3. **Mid vowels:** are those made with the tongue neither high nor low in the mouth.
e.g.:

According to the part of the tongue raised

- According to the part of the tongue which is raised we have:
 1. **Front vowels:** are those in the production of which the front of the tongue is the highest point.
e.g.
 2. **Back vowels:** are those in the production of which the back of the tongue is the highest point.
e.g.
 3. **Central vowels:** are those made with neither the front nor the back of the tongue. The tongue is neither high nor low in the mouth when central vowels are produced.
e.g.

According to degree of lip rounding

- According to the degree of lip rounding we have:
 1. **Rounded vowels:** are those made with rounded lips. The corners of the lips are brought towards each other and the lips are pushed forwards.
e.g.
 2. **Unrounded vowels:** are those made with the lips spread. The corners of the lips are moved away from each other as for a smile.
e.g.
 3. **Neutral vowels:** are those made with the lips neither rounded nor spread.
e.g.

Long vowels and short vowels

- Long vowels: /iː, ɜː, ɑː, ɔː, uː/
- Short vowels: /æ, e, ʊ, ɒ, ʌ, ɪ, ə/
- Long vowels tend to be longer than short vowels in similar contexts. The symbols consist of one single vowel plus a length mark made of two dots. They are different from short vowels not only in length but also in quality, resulting from differences in tongue shapes and lip positions.

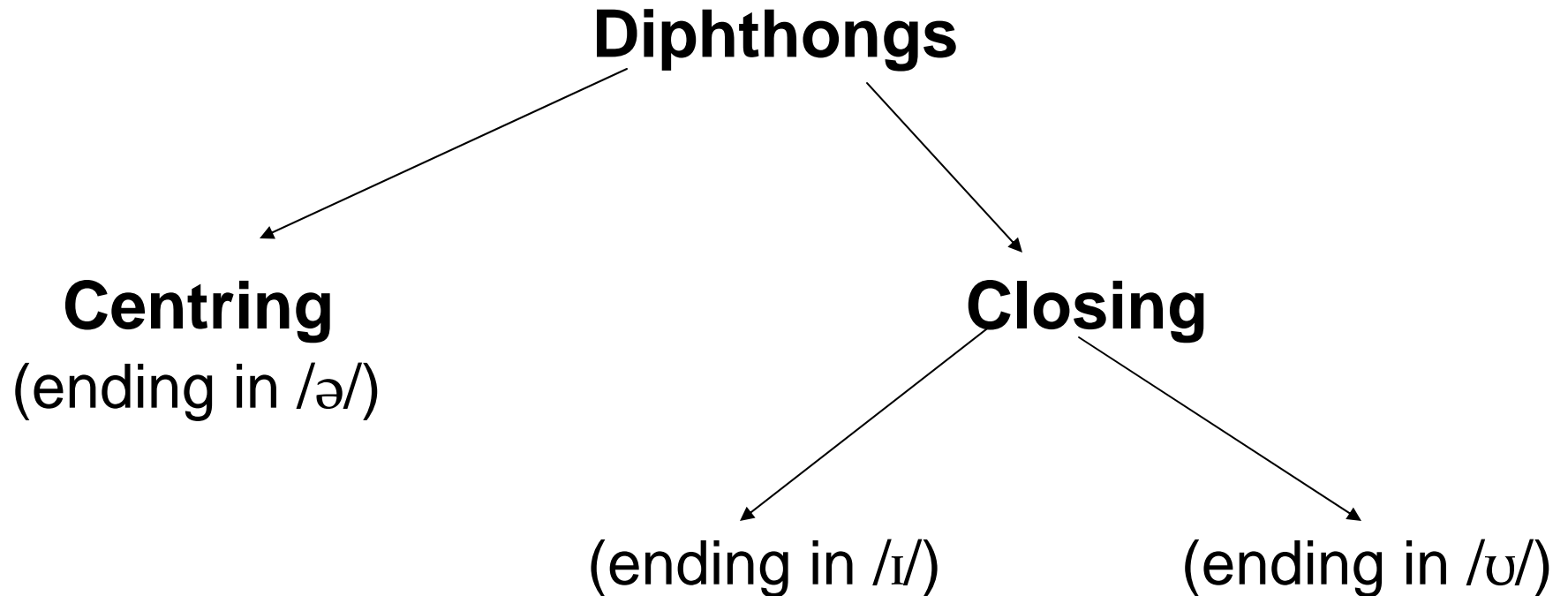
Diphthongs

1. **Definition:** A diphthong is a glide from one vowel to another, and the whole glide acts like one of the long simple vowels.
- In terms of length, diphthongs are like long vowels. The most important thing to remember about all the diphthongs is that the first part is much longer and stronger than the second part. As a result, the second part is shorter and quieter.

e.g. /aɪ/

/eə/

Classification



Examples

- /eə/
- /ɪə/
- /ʊə/
- /aɪ/
- /eɪ/
- /ɔɪ/
- /əʊ/
- /aʊ/