

February 11, 2013

Day 8: Vowel Features, Practice, And Natural Classes

Announcements: online quiz due on Wednesday before class, do not need to know the names just know the charts. We are responsible for consonants and vowel charts in the book, not IPA chart.

- I. Features of vowels
  - a. We cannot use the same features for vowels as we do consonants.
  - b. The shape of the oral cavity determines quality of each vowel. We can change the shape of the oral cavity in 4 ways:
    - i. Raise or lower the body of the tongue
    - ii. Advance or retract the body of the tongue
    - iii. Make these movements with tense or lax gesture
    - iv. Round the lips or not
  - c. Chart of page 55
  - d. Every vowel is a combination of 4 features
    - i. Example: a mid front lax unrounded
- II. Consonant Practice
  - a. Voiceless post-alveolar affricate? [tʃ] (combined together...cant find symbol)
  - b. Voiceless interdental fricative? [θ]
  - c. Voiced velar nasal? [ŋ]
  - d. [ʒ]? Voiced post- alveolar fricative
  - e. [k]? voiceless velar stop
- III. Each sound is composed of a matrix of features
  - a. The combination of features translates into a set of commands to the speech muscles
  - b. Humans need precise timing to articulate speech sounds
  - c. English multiplies out these combinations to 40 sounds (a little higher than the average of all languages)
    - i. Polynesian has 11; Khoisin "Bushman" has 141.
  - d. The features define natural classes
    - i. [t,d,z,n,l,r]= alveolar sounds
    - ii. [f,θ,s,ʃ,h]= voiceless fricatives
    - iii. [u, oʊ, ɔ, ɔ̃]= back, rounded vowels
    - iv. Nasals= [m,n,ŋ]
    - v. Stops= [p, t, k, g, d, b]
    - vi. Front Vowels= [i, I, ε, æ]
- IV. Why do we care about the features of vowels and consonants?
  - a. Things are not always what they seem