

INTRODUCTION

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the frame, creating a modern, layered effect. The rest of the background is plain white.

What is phonetics?

- ❑ **Phonetics is the study of human speech sounds. It is a branch of linguistics studying the production, the physical nature, the perception and other aspects of human speech sounds.**
- ❑ **There are different areas of phonetics such as**
 - articulatory phonetics,**
 - acoustic phonetics,**
 - auditory phonetics,**
 - generative phonetics and**
 - experimental phonetics**

→ three main areas of which we often focus on are articulatory phonetics, acoustic phonetics, and auditory phonetics.

1.2. Articulatory phonetics

Articulatory phonetics is the study of the way in which speech sounds are produced (articulated) by the organs of speech. The organs of speech are the parts of the body that are used to modify the stream of air in order to produce different sounds. The production of different speech sounds through the use of the organs of speech is known as **articulation.**

□ **An articulator is a part of the mouth, nose, or throat which is used in producing speech.** It is usual for the learners to distinguish between those articulators that can move under the control of the speaker (**active articulators**) and those that can not be moved (**passive articulators**).

According to David Crystal [5, p.130]:

- the passive articulators are:

a - the **upper teeth**, b- the **teeth ridge** (the **alveolar ridge**), and c- the **hard palate**.

- The active articulators are:

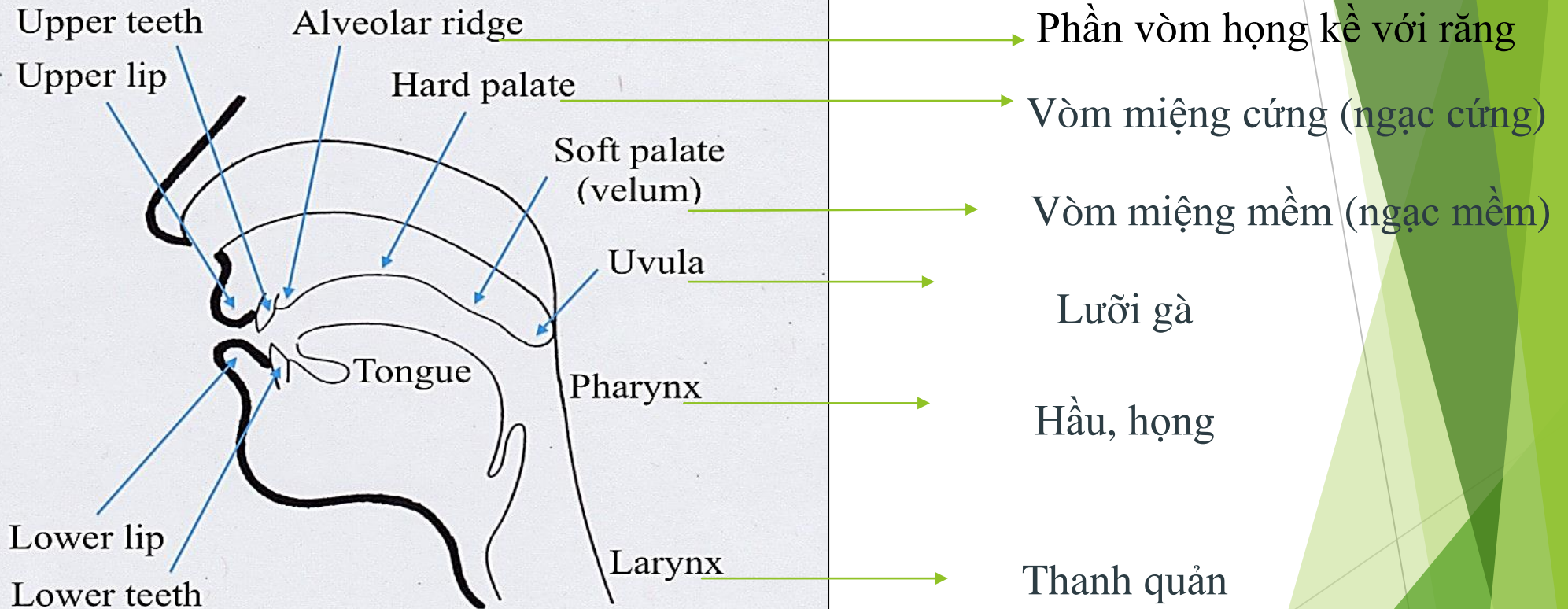
a- **pharynx**, b- **soft palate** or **velum**, c- **lips**, d- **jaws**, e- **the tongue**, and f- **the vocal cords**.

□ **The vocal tract is the air passages which are above the vocal cords and which are involved in the production of speech sounds.**

The vocal tract can be divided into the **nasal cavity** (which is the air passage within and behind the nose), and the **oral cavity** (which is the air passage within the mouth and the throat). The shape of the vocal tract can be changed by changing the position of the tongue or the lips. The change in the shapes of the cavities in the vocal tract causes differences in speech sounds.

HOW ARE SPEECH SOUNDS PRONOUNCED?

ORGAN OF SPEECH





1.3. Acoustic phonetics

Acoustic phonetics studies the physical properties of speech sounds as transmitted in the form of the sound waves through the air. it.

1.4. Auditory phonetics

Auditory phonetics deals with how speech sounds are perceived by the listener [22, p.215]. It is the study of speech sounds from the point of view of the listener, concerned with the way the ears and brains process and perceive the speech sounds reaching the ears.

1.5. Phonemics

The term **phonemics** has been used by American linguists, particularly in structural linguistics. Lately, the term **phonology** has been preferred. The term **phonemics** has been used to refer to:

- a-**the study or description of the distinctive sound units (phonemes) of a language and their relationship to one another.
- b-** procedures for finding the phonemes of a language. **c-** the phonemic system of a language.

1.6. Phonetics and phonology

As seen above, phonetics is the study of pronunciation, that is, the study of human speech sounds. The study of pronunciation consists of two fields, namely **phonetics** and **phonology**.

The phonetics of a language concerns the concrete characteristics (articulatory, acoustic and auditory) of the sounds used in a language

while phonology concerns how sounds function in a systematic way in a particular language.

Phonetics, as used in this course of study, is the study of all speech sounds and the ways in which they are produced. The main aim of phonetics is to describe and to classify human speech sounds. Phonology is the study and identification of the **distinctive units of sound in a language**. Phonology can mean the phonemic system (the system of distinctive units of sound) in a language.

2. TYPES OF PRONUNCIATION

- ❑ A language usually has different types of pronunciation (different **accents**). Some of its phonemes are pronounced differently by people from different geographical places, from different social classes, of different ages and of different educational backgrounds.
- ❑ The term **accent** is often confused with the term **dialect**.
 - We use the term **dialect** to refer to a variety of a language which is different from others not just in pronunciation but also in such matters as vocabulary, grammar and word-order. Differences in accents are differences in pronunciation only.
 - The term **accent** is often used to refer to a **particular type of pronunciation**.

2. TYPES OF PRONUNCIATION

- ❑ In the case of the English language, there exist different native standard types of pronunciation such as British English, American English, Australian English, New Zealand English. Two major standard Englishes are British English and American English.
- ❑ → **Received Pronunciation** (usually abbreviated to its initials, **RP**).
- ❑ RP was the pronunciation model of the educated people in the capital city of England. This pronunciation model has also been referred to as **BBC English**, **Queen's English** or **King's English**.

I- MULTIPLE CHOICE: Choose either A, B, C or D

1 deals with how speech sounds are produced, transmitted and perceived.			
	A- Grammar	B- Phonotactics	C- Phonetics	D- Textlinguistics
2 phonetics deals with how speech sounds are perceived by the listener.			
	A- Articulatory	B- Acoustic	C- Experimental	D- Auditory
3 phonetics deals with the transmission of speech sounds through the air?			
	A-Articulatory	B-Acoustic	C- Experimental	D- Auditory
4	Which of the following is not considered as (an) articulator(s)?			
	A- the tongue	B- the lips	C- the velum	D- The ears
5is the study or description of the distinctive sound units of a language and their relationship to one another.			
	A- Phonetics	B- Phonology	C- Semantics	D- Pragmatics
6	The production of different speech sounds through the use of the organs of speech is known as.....			
	A-assimilation	B- dissimilation	C-articulation	D-syllabification
7	Which of the following is not an aspect of the speech sounds as a physical event?			
	A- Physiological	B- Acoustic	C- Articulatory	D- Comprehensive
8	Besides having the physical properties, the speech sounds also have.....function when they are used as distinctive units of sounds in a language.			
	A- thematic	B- stylistic	C- affective	D- distinctive
9	The term.....is applied for the study of the more abstract, the more psychological aspects of speech.			
	A- phonetics	B- phonology	C- grammar	D- semantics

thank you

