

الصوتيات والنظام الصوتي

Phonetics and phonology

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إعداد الفقير إلى الله ملك بلا مملكة

First Lecture.

Phonetics and Phonology

Phonetics and Phonology

1. All the sounds we make when we speak are the result of muscles contracting. The muscles in the chest that we use for breathing produce the flow of air that is needed for almost all speech sounds; muscles in the **larynx** produce many different modifications in the flow of air from the chest to the mouth.
2. After passing through the larynx, the air goes through what we call the **vocal tract**, which ends at the mouth and nostrils. Here the air from the lungs escapes into the atmosphere.
3. We have a large and complex set of muscles that can produce changes in the shape of the vocal tract, and in order to learn how the sounds of speech are produced it is necessary to become familiar with the different parts of the vocal tract. These different parts are called articulators, and the study of them is called articulatory phonetics. These parts are:
 4. i) The **pharynx** is a tube which begins just above the larynx. It is about 7cm long in women and about 8 cm in men, and at its top end it is divided into two, one part being the back of the mouth and the other being the beginning of the way through the nasal cavity.
 - ii) The **velum** or **soft palate** is seen in any diagram in a position that allows air to pass through the nose and through the mouth. In speech it is raised so that air cannot escape through the nose.
 - iii) The **hard palate** is often called 'the roof of the mouth'. You can feel its smooth curved surface with your tongue.
 - iv) The **alveolar ridge** is between the top front teeth and the hard palate. You can feel its shape with your tongue. Sounds made with the tongue touching here (such as t and d) are called alveolar.

We have also to remember that the nose and the nasal cavity, are a very important part of our equipment for making sounds. But we cannot describe the nose and the nasal cavity as articulators in the same sense as (i) to (vii) above.