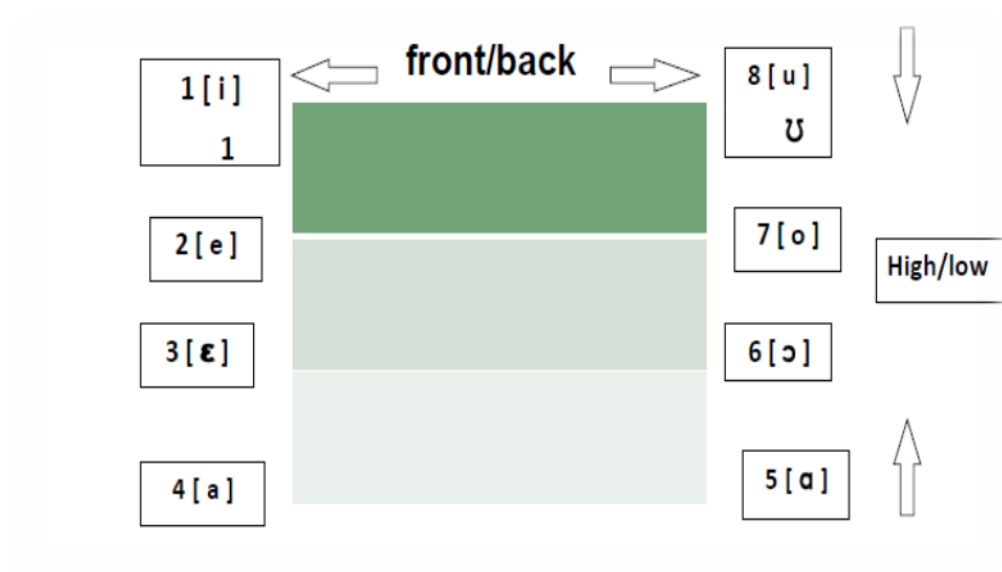# Lecture six
English vowels

Let us begin by assuming that all vowels are voiced and articulated with a constriction of open approximation. We will also assume, for the moment, that all vowels are oral sounds (i.e. that the velum is raised during their production). The range of positions which the tongue can occupy within the oral cavity while remaining in a constriction of open approximation is quite large. Let us call the entire available space for such articulations the vowel space. We will require a means of plotting the point at which a given vowel is articulate in the vowel space.

The vowel space is represented along two dimensions.

1- **High/low**. According to this dimension, the vowel could be high vowel, or low, or high-mid, or low-mid.
2- **Front/back**. According to this dimension, the vowel could be: front, back, or central

We can add a **third parameter**, which is the lip position: we will say, for a given vowel, whether, during its articulation, the lips are rounded or not**. So a vowel could be rounded or unrounded.**

* /i/ = is front, high and unrounded vowel.
  Example see, lead, seed

* /u/= is back, high and rounded vowel.
Example food, soon, loose

* /e/= is high-mid, unrounded vowel.
 Example, pet

* /o/ = high-mid back rounded vowel.

* /a/ = low front unrounded vowel.

* /æ/ = low front unrounded.
Example ant, pat, ban.

* /ɛ/ = front low-mid unrounded.

* /ʊ/ = high back rounded vowel.
 Example: put.

* /ɑ / = low back unrounded vowel.
 Example, aunt [ɑ:nt], car.

* /ɔ/ = low-mid back rounded.
 Example Core.

* /^/ = central unrounded low-mid.
 Example, putt, hub.

* /ə/ = mid-central vowel. It is also called schwa.
 Example About, upper.

Lecture seven
English vowels

/u: / vs / ʊ/ , /ɑ:/ vs /æ/ , //ɔ:/ vs /ɒ/

Example: pool/pull or (/u:/ vs / ʊ/,)
caught/cot or (/ɔ:/ vs /ɒ/)

Wells uses three key words for the [ɔ:]. These are: **thought**, **force** and **north**. He also uses three key words for /ɑ:/. Start, and Balm

Short vowels in English:

I as in pit [pIt], fill, mid,
e as in pet [pet], led, sell [sel],
æ as in pat [pæt],
^ as in putt [p^t] or love,
ʊ as in put [pʊt], full,
ɒ as in pot [pɒt], doll,song,
ə (which is called **schwa**) as in about [əbaʊt]

Long vowels:

i: as in key [ki:]
ɑ: as in car [kɑ:], march [mɑ:tʃ],, park
ɔ: as in core [kɔ:], saw [sɔ:],
u: as in coo [ku:], food
3: as in cur [k3:]

Done by: trook8