

ENGLISH GRAMMAR

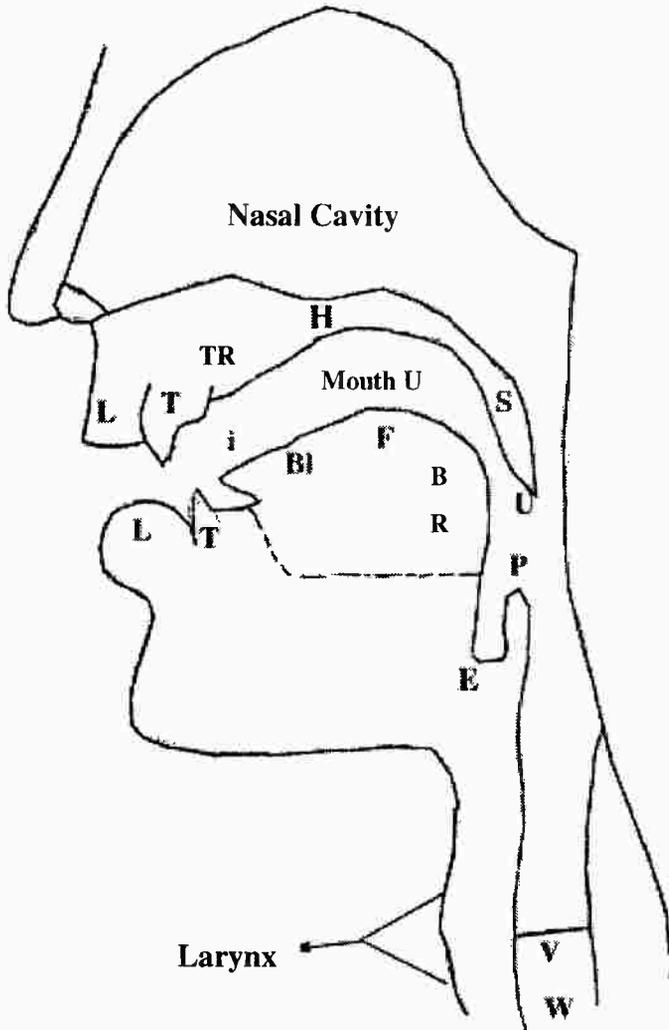
English Phonology

The study of phonology is the study of the sounds of language. These sounds may be studied in detail; such a study deals with the articulation and production of these sounds. In English, for example, the consonant sounds are produced from the lungs, and then go through the vocal tract, and finally out of the mouth. Such sounds are mostly stops or fricatives; but there are other sounds which come out of the nose; and such sounds are nasals. Such a detailed study of sounds is called *phonetics*.

But language is a means of communication; and communication involves meaning. Here, when we study sounds, we are mainly concerned with sounds which distinguish meanings. Such distinctive sounds are called *phonemes*; and the study of such distinctive sounds is called *phonemics*.

The word *phonology* is generally used to include both phonetics and phonemics.

THE ORGANS OF SPEECH



B- Back of tongue.

Bl- Blade of tongue.

E- Epiglottis.

F- Front of tongue.

H- Hard palate.

L- Lips.

P- Pharyngeal cavity, (Pharynx)

R- Root of tongue.

S- Soft palate.

TR- Teeth-ridge.

U- Uvula.

V - Position of vocal chords.

W- Windpipe.

- 1- The tongue is the major organ in the mouth. It is convenient to divide the surface of the tongue into: blade, front, and back. The blade includes the tip of the tongue, and these are active in the pronunciation of some stop (plosive) consonants.
- 2- The front of the tongue is also used in the production of front vowels; while the back of the tongue is active in the production of back vowels and back consonants.
- 3- The epiglottis is a small flap that serves to prevent food from falling into the larynx when swallowing.
- 4- The mouth or oral cavity is bounded in front by the lips, on the sides by the inner walls of the cheeks, and in the back by the throat cavity.
- 5- The upper jaw contains: the upper teeth, the teeth-ridge (alveolar) ridge, the hard palate, the soft palate, the velum, and the uvula: (lahā) in Arabic.
- 6- The lower jaw is the only movable bone of the face; and its movements change the size of the mouth cavity considerably.
- 7- When the velum and uvula are raised, they close the nasal cavity, and the breath coming from the lungs goes into the mouth. Such a sound is called an oral sound.
- 8- The breath comes from the lungs; when the velum and uvula are lowered the sound comes from the nose, and it is called a nasal sound.