Phonetics

Chapter 1 - Vowels

Recap

- Passive and active articulators
- Criteria for describing consonants
- Places of articulation
- Manner of articulation
Lecture outline

- The articulation of vowels
- Suprasegmentals
- Exercises

Classification of vowels

- Classification of vowels is different than consonants
- Airstream is relatively unobstructed
- Voicing is irrelevant
- Highest point of the tongue
- Position of the lips
Front vowels

Back vowels
Classification of vowels cont.

- Position of the lips
- Say “heed, hid, head, had, father, good, food”
- Lip rounding
- Rounded – back vowels
- Unrounded - front vowels

Classification of vowels cont.

- Described in terms of three factors
  - Tongue height
  - Tongue backness
  - Lip rounding
Classification of vowels cont.

- This description is not satisfactory
  - High vowels but not the same height
  - Back vowels vary in backness
  - Width of the pharynx

Suprasegmental

- Vowels and consonants as segments that form *syllables*
- The *syllable* is a unit of organization
- A syllable consists of a vowel and at least one consonant
- Features of a syllables
  - Stress
  - Pitch
  - Length
Stress

- Variations in stress are caused by an increase in the activity of the respiratory muscles.
- Stress has a grammatical function
  - A present – to present
  - An insult – to insult
  - Noun – stress on first syllables
  - Verbs - on second syllables
- Contrastive emphasis
  - I want a *red* pen, not a black one

Pitch

- Variations in laryngeal activities
- Pitch pattern in a sentence is known as *intonation*
  - This is my father.
  - Is this you father?
  - That’s a cat.
  - That’s a cat?
See you next class 😊