

Introduction to Spanish Linguistics

FONOLOGÍA

- BRANCH > SOUND SYSTEM OF A LANGUAGE > BASIC UNIT = PHONEME
- IT CAN DISTINGUISH MEANING BETWEEN WORDS > MINIMAL PAIR
 - PACO/PALO PATO/PAVO TAPA/CAPA PELO/PERRO

FONOLOGÍA: VOCALES

- IN SPANISH > 5 /a/, /e/, /l/, /o/, /u/
- CLASSIFIED BY 3 CRITERIA
 - ALTURA (HIGH/LOW)
 - ANTERIORIDAD (FRONT, BACK, MIDDLE)
 - ROUND

FONOLOGÍA: VOCALES

	anterior	central	posterior
alta	i		u
media	e		o
baja		a	
	vocales no redondeadas		vocales redondeadas

FONOLOGÍA: VOCALES

/i/ vocal alta, anterior, no redondeada

/u/ vocal alta, posterior, redondeada

/e/ vocal media, anterior, no redondeada

/o/ vocal media, posterior, redondeada

/a/ vocal baja, central, no redondeada

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FONOLOGÍA: VOCALES

- EVEN THOUGH THERE IS ONLY 5 VOWELS > WE CAN CLASSIFY THEM IN 2 GROUPS:
 - STRONG /a/, /e/, /o/. (Great bucal opening)
 - WEAK /i/, /u/. (Small bucal opening)

FONOLOGÍA: VOCALES

- DIPHTHONGS!

vocal fuerte (VF) + vocal débil átona (Vd)

pei-ne
VF+Vd

ahu-mar
VF+Vd

vocal débil átona (Vd) + vocal fuerte (VF)

fue-go
Vd+VF

tie-rra
Vd+VF

vocal débil (Vd) + vocal débil (Vd)

triun-fo
Vd+Vd

ruido
Vd+Vd

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FONOLOGÍA: VOCALES

- HIATUSES!

vocal fuerte átona (VF) + vocal débil tónica (Vd')

ra-íz
VF+Vd'

ba-úl
VF+Vd'

vocal débil tónica (Vd')+ vocal fuerte átona (VF)

sa-lí-a
Vd'+VF

bú-ho
Vd'+VF

vocal fuerte (VF) + vocal fuerte (VF)

po-e-ma
VF+VF

a-é-reo
VF+VF

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FONOLOGÍA: VOCALES

- When diphthongs are formed, the weak vowels are actually semiconsonants or semivowels depending on their position. Semiconsonants, whose symbols are /j/ for the letter “i”, and /w/ for the letter “u”, always appear in the first position of the diphthong, thus forming rising or ascending diphthongs, while semivowels, whose symbols are /i̯ /, /u̯ /, appear behind the strong vowel and thus form falling or descending diphthongs.

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FONOLOGÍA: VOCALES

semiconsonante-vocal

ciudad

c/ju/dad

miel

m/je/l

semiconsonante-vocal

buenos

b/wé/nos

huevo

h/wé/vo

) vocal-semivocal

aires

/áj/res

hay

h/áj/

) vocal-semivocal

rauda

r/áu/da

Europa

/eü/ropa

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FONOLOGÍA: VOCALES

- Later in the chapter we will deal with syllable structure and then return to the concept of diphthongs. We will also describe the rules of accentuation taking into account the two phenomena of vowel character that we have just explained.
- Finally, a triptone is the sequence composed of three vowels forming the same syllable with the compositional scheme: weak unstressed vowel (Vd) + strong vowel (VF) + weak unstressed vowel (Vd). To transcribe a triplet we must take into account that the third vowel is a semivowel

FONOLOGÍA: VOCALES

) vocal débil átona (Vd) + vocal fuerte (VF) + vocal débil átona (Vd)

Uruguay

Urug/wáí/

Vd+VF+Vd

limpiáis

limp/jáí/s

Vd+VF+Vd

gau

g/wáu/

Vd+VF+Vd

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ACTIVITY

- Identify whether the group of vowels in boldface form a diphthong (D), a hiatus (H) or a triphthong (T). In the case of diphthongs, determine whether they are ascending or descending.
 - EXAMPLE: C**IU**DAD > SEMICONSONANT + WEAK VOWEL > ASCENDENT DIPHTHONG

ACTIVITY

- Identify whether the group of vowels in boldface form a diphthong (D), a hiatus (H) or a triphthong (T). In the case of diphthongs, determine whether they are ascending or descending.
 - EXAMPLE: **CIUDAD** > SEMICONSONANT + WEAK VOWEL > ASCENDENT DIPHTHONG

1. **cauto**

2. descon**fiéis**

3. **saeta**

4. **buey**

5. **Suiza**

6. desag**üe**

7. **siempre**

8. **búho**

9. **alergia**

10. **aeropuerto**

FONOLOGÍA: CONSONANTES

- The pronunciation of all consonant sounds involves at least two articulatory organs.
- When a consonant sound is uttered, an obstruction occurs in the oral cavity when one of the articulatory organs touches or approaches the other. To describe the point of articulation, the two main organs that come into contact or are activated during the production of the sound are taken into account: one of them acts as the active organ and the other as the passive one. The active articulatory organs are those that move to approach the passive ones, while the latter remain static.

FONOLOGÍA: CONSONANTES

- In the articulation of bilabial consonants, the upper lip is the active articulatory organ and the lower lip is the passive organ. The bilabial consonants are: /p/ *pato*, /b/ *burro, vaca* and /m/ *mar*.
- In Spanish there is also a labiodental phoneme, whose active organ is the lower lip and passive organs are the upper teeth, as is the case with the phoneme /f/ *foca*.
- The only interdental phoneme that exists in Spanish is /θ/, common among the speakers of the northern half of the Iberian Peninsula, in some places of the southern half and in Central America.

FONOLOGÍA: CONSONANTES

- The dental phonemes are /t/ *taza* and /d/ *dado*, and their pronunciation involves the tongue as the active organ and the upper teeth as the passive articulator.
- Alveolar phonemes are those in which the active articulator is the front part of the tongue and the passive articulator is the alveolar area of the mouth, just behind the upper teeth: /l/ *lado*, /s/ *soso*, /r/ *cara*, /r/ *barro*, *ratón* and /n/ *nariz*.

FONOLOGÍA: CONSONANTES

- In the alveopalatal or palatoalveolar area the phoneme /tʃ/ is articulated, which corresponds orthographically to the digraph “ch”, that is, two letters with which the same phoneme is represented, as in the word chocolate. The organs involved in the pronunciation of this phoneme are the tongue as the active articulator and the posterior area of the alveoli or anterior area of the palate as the passive organ.
- The palatal phonemes in Spanish are /ɲ/, corresponding to the letter “ñ” in Spanish, as in *niño*, /j/ as in *vaya* or *yema*, and /ʎ/ corresponding to the digraph “ll” in words such as *valla* or *llama*.

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FONOLOGÍA: CONSONANTES

- Finally, we reach the posterior end of the buccal cavity with the velar phonemes /k/ as in *casa*, *kilo* or *queso*, /g/ gato or *guerra* and /x/ *geranio* or *jirafa*. As we can see in the examples, these phonemes correspond to more than one spelling, so special attention must be paid when transcribing them. As active articulator we have once again the tongue, in this case its dorsal part, and as passive articulator the soft palate or soft palate.

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FONOLOGÍA: CONSONANTES

Punto de articulación	Fonema	Ejemplo
Bilabial	/p/ /b/ /m/	p ato b urro, v aca m ar
Labiodental	/f/	f oca
Interdental (norte, centro y determinadas áreas del sur de la península ibérica, y algunas zonas de Centroamérica [Resnick y Hammond 2011, 265])	/θ/	cerdo , zapato
Dental	/t/ /d/	t aza d ado
Alveolar	/l/ /s/ /r/ /r/ /n/	l ado s oso p uro c orral, r atón n ariz
Alveopalatal	/tʃ/	ch ocolate
Palatal	/ɲ/ /j/ /ʎ/	niño y ema llama
Velar	/k/ /g/ /x/	c asa, k ilo, q ueso g ato, g uerra g eranio, j irafa, México

ACTIVITY

- Write the phonological symbol of the letters that appear in **bold** and identify their point of articulation. For the graphemes “z”, “ce” and “ci”, you must identify the two possible points of articulation.

1. cast**illo**
2. salv**aje**
3. qu**ite**ño
4. l**ento**
5. fel**ic**idad
6. rel**aci**ón
7. p**er**o
8. s**oga**
9. an**cho**
10. y**ema**

FONOLOGÍA: CONSONANTES

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- A sound is occlusive when the articulatory organs touch until they close and an occlusion is produced followed by a small explosion so that the air can finally escape. The occlusive phonemes in Spanish are: /p/, /t/, /k/, /b/, /d/ and /g/.

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- In the production of fricative phonemes, the articulators approach each other, but at no time is there a total closure of these organs in the oral cavity. The air then produces a friction as it exits, instead of an explosion. The fricative phonemes in Spanish are: /f/, /θ/, /s/, /ʝ/ and /x/.

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- There is a phoneme in Spanish that is the result of the combination of an occlusive and a fricative sound, and it is produced in two beats: the first of occlusion and the second of friction. This sequence of sounds is known as the affricate phoneme /tʃ/, which we find in words such as chocolate /tʃo.ko.lá.te/.

FONOLOGÍA: CONSONANTES

- **NASAL CONSONANTS:** Nasal consonants are those for whose production the air does not exit through the oral cavity, but through the nasal cavity. This occurs when the soft palate moves downward and obstructs the passage of air through the mouth. This movement causes the air to circulate towards the nasal cavity to finally be expelled through the nose. The nasal phonemes are: /m/ *mar*, /n/ *nariz* and /ɲ/ *niño*.

FONOLOGÍA: CONSONANTES

- **LATERAL CONSONANTS:** Lateral consonants are characterized by the tongue, as an active articulator, coming into contact with the alveoli or the palate, depending on the phoneme being articulated, causing air to escape from both sides of the oral cavity. These lateral phonemes are two: /l/ *lado* and /ʎ/ *llama*. As we commented above, the second lateral phoneme is falling into disuse in most of the pan-Hispanic domain.

FONOLOGÍA: CONSONANTES

- **VIBRANT CONSONANTS:** Finally, in the pronunciation of vibrant consonants, the apex of the tongue vibrates against the alveolar region. In the production of the single vibrant /r/, *cara*, *puro*, the apex only strikes once, whereas, in making the multiple vibrant /r/, two or more strikes are produced: *cigarro*, *rápido*, *ruido*, *rizo*.

FONOLOGÍA: CONSONANTES

Tabla 2.10 Las consonantes según su modo de articulación.

Modo de articulación	Fonema	Ejemplo
Oclusivo	/p/ /t/ /k/ /b/ /d/ /g/	pato taza casa, kilo, queso burro dado gato
Fricativo	/f/ /θ/ /s/ /j/ /x/	foca cerilla, zapato (norte, centro y determinadas áreas del sur de la península ibérica, y algunas zonas de Centroamérica [Resnick y Hammond 2011, 265]) soso vaya, yema geranio, jirafa, México
Africado	/tʃ/	chocolate
Nasal	/m/ /n/ /ɲ/	mar niño niño
Lateral	/l/ /ʎ/	lado llama
Vibrante	/r/ /r̄/	puro cigarro, rápido, enredo, alrededor

ACTIVITY

- **WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING SOUNDS DOES NOT BELONG IN THE GROUP?**

1. /m/ /n/ /r/ /ŋ/

2. /f/ /s/ /b/ /θ/

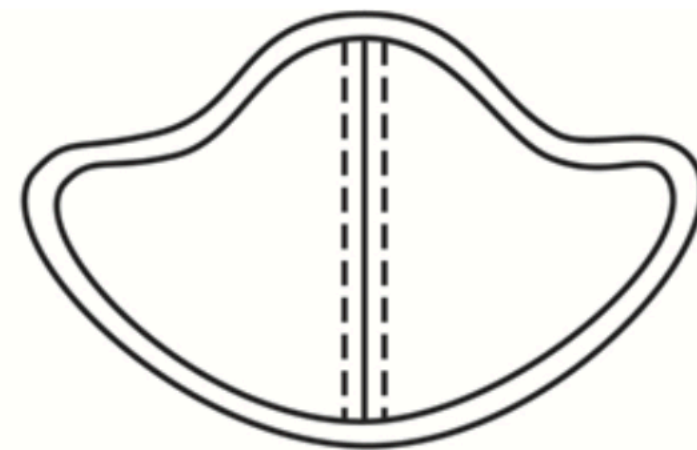
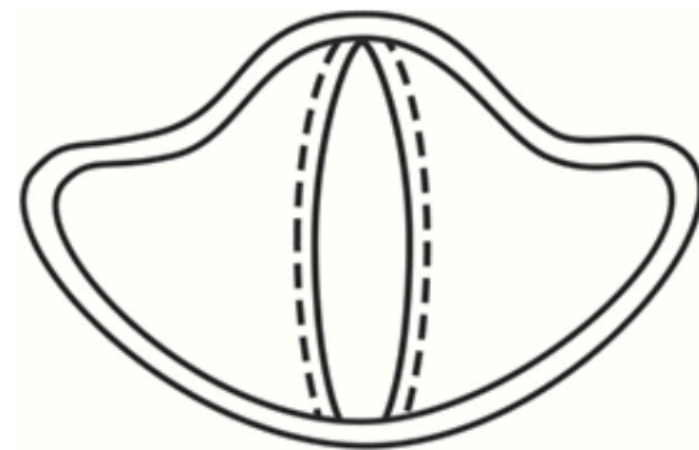
3. /k/ /l/ /ʎ/

4. /b/ /d/ /ŋ/

5. /x/ /tʃ/ /f/

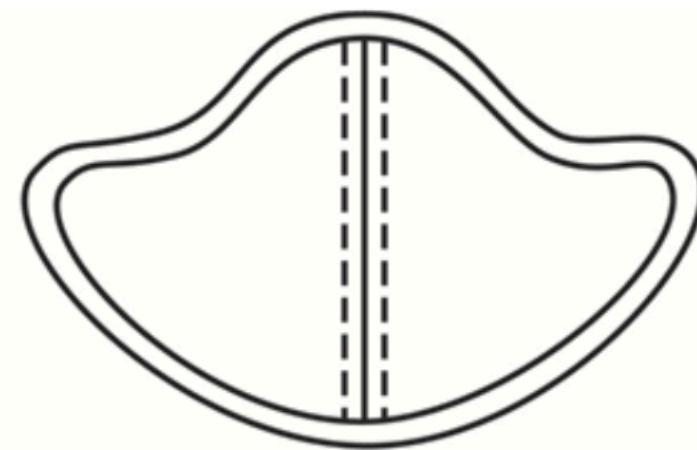
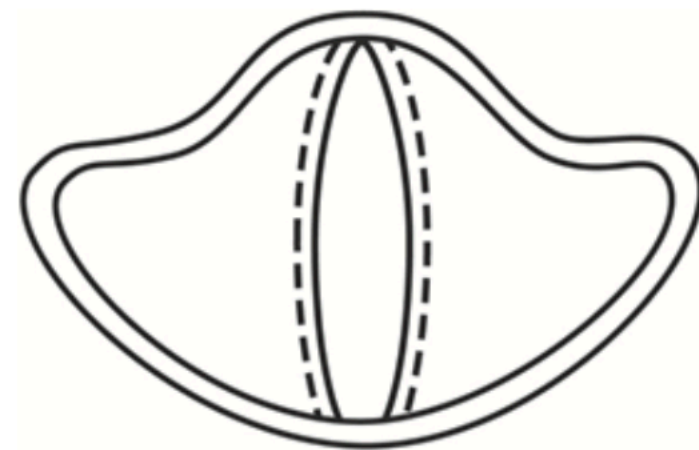
SONORIDAD. VOICING.

- The last parameter we use to classify consonants is voicing. When we breathe, air passes through the glottis, an opening located between the vocal folds, which are also called vocal cords. Then, the air continues through the pharynx and continues its journey, either through the oral cavity or through the nasal cavity.



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SONORIDAD. VOICING.

- WHICH SOUNDS DO YOU THINK ARE VOICED OR VOICELESS?

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Interdental	Dental	Alveolar	Alveopalatal	Palatal	Velar
Oclusiva	/p/ / b/			/t/ d/				/k/ /g/
Fricativa		/f/	/θ/		/s/		/j/	/x/
Africada						/tʃ/		
Nasal	/m/				/n/		/ɲ/	
Lateral					/l/		/ʎ/	
Vibrante simple					/r/			
Vibrante múltiple					/r/			

ACTIVITY

- DETERMINE WHETHER THE UNDERLINED LETTERS CORRESPOND TO A VOICED PHONEME OR TO A VOICELESS PHONEME

1. equipo
2. telefono
3. cuadro
4. reloj
5. estuche
6. goma
7. cerdo
8. brillo
9. año
10. rayo

ACTIVITY

- DESCRIBE THE FOLLOWING PHONEMES BASED ON WHAT WE HAVE LEARNT TODAY
- EXAMPLE: /p/ > bilabial, occlusive, voiceless

ACTIVITY

- DESCRIBE THE FOLLOWING PHONEMES BASED ON WHAT WE HAVE LEARNT TODAY

1. /θ/
2. /ʌ/
3. /tʃ/
4. /x/
5. /t/
6. /r/
7. /m/
8. /j/
9. /f/
10. /s/

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