Module: Phonetics

Level: L1-FILA

Time Allotted: 90 min

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Lecture 4: Fricatives and Affricates

**Fricatives**

**Description**

During the production of fricative consonants, the air is not stopped, but continues to flow through a narrow passage between the articulators making a kind of *friction.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Place of articulation | | | | |
| Labio-dental | dental | alveolar | Palato-alveolar | glottal |
| Fortis (voiceless) | f | Ɵ | s | ʃ | h |
| Lenis (voiced) | v | ð | z | Ʒ |

**/f/, /v/**are labio-dental: lower lip with the upper teeth.

**/Ɵ/, / ð/** are dental: the tip of the tongue is raised against the upper teeth.

**/s/, /z/**are alveolar: the tip of the tongue is raised against the alveolar ridge.

**/ʃ/, /Ʒ/** are palato-alveolar (post-alveolar): the front of the tongue is raised against the alveolar ridge and the front of the palate.

**Minimal pairs:** are pairs of words in which a difference in meaning depends on the difference of just one phoneme. We consider the following pairs of words:

Fan/van life/live refuse/ reviews rice/rise sip/zip

Just like plosives, fortis fricatives are realised with more force than the lenis ones.

**/f, Ɵ, s, ʃ/ vs. /v, ð, z, Ʒ/**

**Fortis Lenis**

The lenis fricatives lose their voicing in final position. E.g. alive [ǝ’laɪv̥] free variation.

The lenis fricatives have the effect of lengthening a preceding vowel: in ‘eyes’ [aɪ] sounds longer than [aɪ] in ‘ice’.

**The sound - h-**

The voicing of /h/ depends on its position in the word. It is usually voiceless in initial position as in heart, he. But, it is voiced between vowels like in ‘ahead’- ‘myhead’- ‘the hat’.

/h/ is never found in final position in English.

\*Phonetic realisation of [h]: there is no real obstruction to the flow of air. More or less, it is like vowels but it must be considered as consonantal distribution [h] followed by a vowel.

**-Affricates**

They start like plosives in the beginning and then end like fricatives:

Church /tʃ3: tʃ/ judge /dƷʌdƷ/ teacher /’ti:tʃǝ/

Transcribe: wish, witch, large, jam, fashion, and region.

We have a fortis/lenis pair in affricates. Both /tʃ/ - /dƷ/ have the same place of articulation: palate-alveolar.

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