



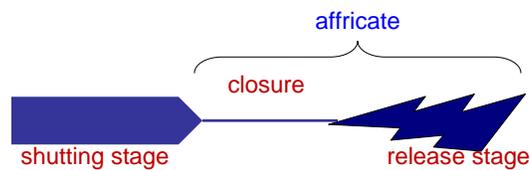
An Animated and Narrated Glossary of
Terms used in Linguistics
presents

Affricate



Definition

- An affricate is a **single** unit consonant made up of a **stop** and a period of **fricative** release.



As with stops, affricates begin with an articulatory closure at the first stage.

After the stop release burst, there will be a more prolonged period of frication.



Affricates in the IPA

- Affricates in the IPA can be transcribed with the symbols for their **stops** and **fricative** components.

[tʃ]

stop fricative

If necessary, a tie bar can be used to join the symbols

In this case, a tie bar may be necessary

Polish (Kenstowicz 1994:31)

[tʃi] “three”

a stop-fricative sequence

[tʃ̺i] “whether”

an affricate

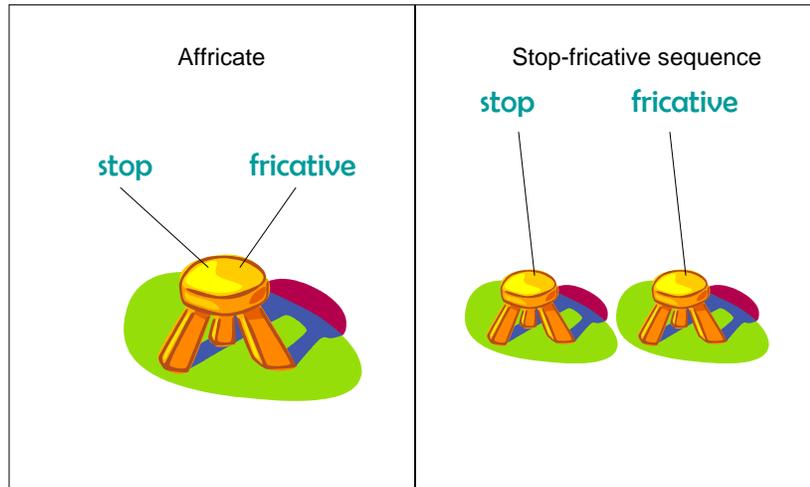
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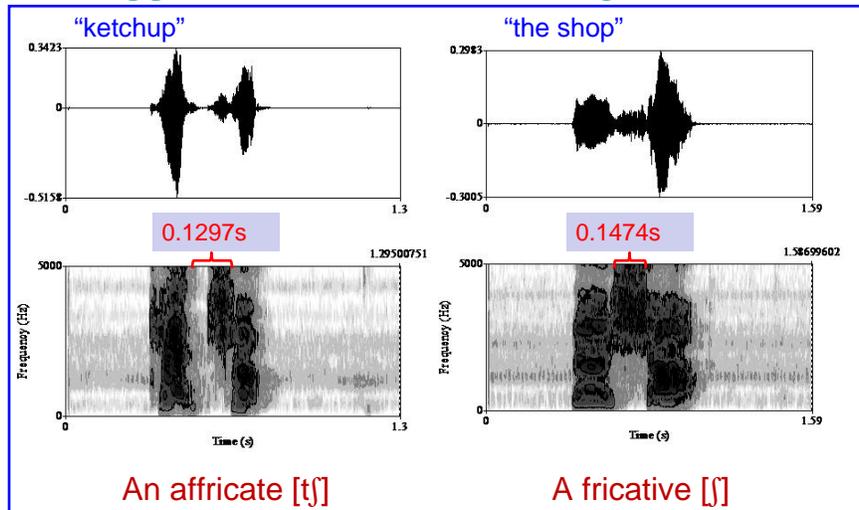
Affricates as a segment

- Apparently, an affricate is just a production of a sequence of a stop and a fricative.
- However, **affricates** occupies a **single** phonetic/phonological unit (often called a **segment**) identical to a single obstruent.
- A **stop-fricative sequence** would be two segments rather than one.
- Hence, a sequence of a stop and a fricative does not necessarily form an affricate.

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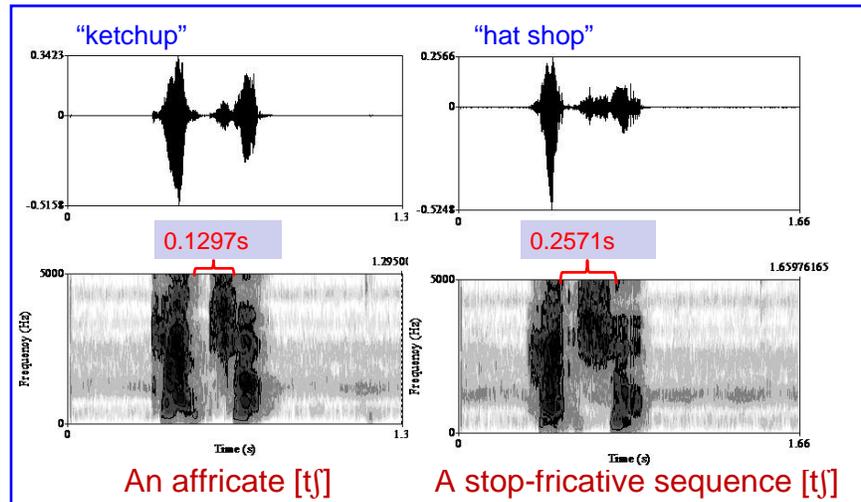


Affricates as a segment





Affricates as a segment



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- Apart from acoustic measurements, **phonological** considerations must be taken in determining whether a combination of a stop and a fricative is an affricate.

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Comparisons

	Affricate	Fricative	Plosive
Fricative rising time	short	long	-
Friction/stop interval	short	long	long
Release after stop	None, friction is part of the release	-	Yes, there is a release interval

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Homorganicity

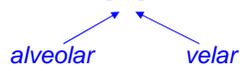
The stop and fricative intervals in most affricates are **homorganic**

Place of articulation of the fricative release is near or identical to place of articulation of the stop

- Alveolar: [ts] (Cantonese and German)
- Post-alveolar: [tʃ, dʒ] (English)

Heterorganic affricates exist too.

- Velar affricates: [tx] as in Najavo



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Further reading

- Davenport, Mike and S. J. Hannahs (2005) *Introducing Phonetics and Phonology*, 2nd edition, . New York: Hodder Arnold Publication.
- Johnson, Keith (2003) *Acoustic and Auditory Phonetics*, 2nd edition, Chapter 8. Blackwell Publishers.
- Kenstowicz, Michael J. (1994) *Phonology in Generative Grammar*. Blackwell Publishers.
- Kim, Hyunsoon (1997) The Phonological Representation of Affricates: Evidence from Korean and Other Languages. *PhD. dissertation*, Cornell University.
- Ladefoged, Peter and Ian Maddieson (1996) *The Sounds of the World's Languages*, pp.90-91. Blackwell Publishers.
- Mitani, Shigeki, Toshihiro Kitama and Yu Sato (2006) Voiceless Affricate/Fricative Distinction by Frication Duration and Amplitude Rise Slope. *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 120(3):1600-1607.

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The End

Wee, Lian-Hee and Winnie H.Y. Cheung (2009)
An animated and narrated glossary of terms used in Linguistics.
Hong Kong Baptist University.