



An Animated and Narrated Glossary of
Terms used in Linguistics
presents

[voice]



Basic Idea

- **[voice]** is a **phonological feature**.
- It is used as a **distinctive feature** for distinguishing different phones/phonemes/segments.
- It is also used as a distinctive feature for capturing a **natural class** of segments.

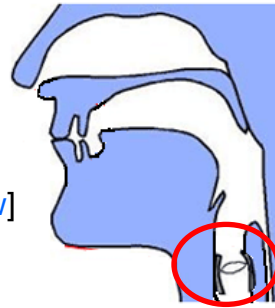


Definition

A phone/phoneme X is [voice] if in the articulation of X under normal phonation, there is **vocal fold vibration**.

By the definition given,

- Obstruents like [b, g, z]
- Sonorant consonants like [l, n, r, w]
- Typical vowels like [u, o]



Slide 3



[voice] as distinctive feature

Evidence 1: Voicing is semantically relevant.

nab [næ**b**] nap [næ**p**]
dog [dɒ**g**] dock [dɒ**k**]
bad [bæ**d**] bat [bæ**t**]

In each pair, everything is the same except for the [voice] of the final consonant.

Slide 4



[voice] as distinctive feature

Evidence 2: Relevance of [voice] in phonological alternation.

Russian (Padgett 2002)

Prefix /ot-/		Prefix /pod-/	
ot-stupit ^j	“to step back”	pod- ʒe tʃ	“to set fire to”
od-brosit ^j	“to throw aside”	pot-pisat ^j	“to sign”

The final obstruent of a prefix must agree with the following obstruent in [voice].

Slide 5



Further reading

- Chomsky, Noam and Morris Halle (1968) *The Sound Pattern of English*. MIT Press.
- Gussenhoven, Carlos and Haïke Jacobs (2005) *Understanding Phonology*, 2nd edition, Chapter 5. New York: Hodder Arnold.
- Kenstowicz, Michael J. (1994) *Phonology in Generative Grammar*. Blackwell Publishers.
- Ladefoged, Peter (2001) *Vowels and Consonants: an introduction to the sounds of languages*. Chapter 12. Blackwell.
- Padgett, Jaye (2002) Russian Voicing assimilation, Final devoicing, and the Problem of [v]. *To appear in Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*. Retrieved 15 June 09 from <http://people.ucsc.edu/~padgett/locker/newvoice.pdf>

Slide 6



香港浸會大學
HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



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.