

Applied Phonetics and Phonology

Etic vs. Emic Categories

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Phonetics: Some Basic Concepts

Phonetics: The articulation and perception of speech sounds. The inventory and structure of the sounds of speech in a language

Articulatory Phonetics: The study of the physiological mechanisms of speech production

Phone: Any individual speech sound

Phoneme: A distinctive speech sound in the sound system of a language

Phonetic Transcription: A universal system for transcribing the sounds of speech in any language. Phonetic Symbols are enclosed in square brackets [].

Phonetic Feature: One isolated property of a speech sound that can be used to differentiate one sound from another. For example, voicing is a phonetic feature.

Segments: Clusters of phonetic features that occur in sequence in the speech stream.

Consonant: A kind of segment that involves significant obstruction in the vocal tract.

Vowel: A kind of segment that involves little or no obstruction in the vocal tract.

Suprasegmental (or “autosegmental”) features: Phonetic features that may span several segments, and which rely on segments for their expression, e.g., stress, pitch and intonation.

Glide: A glide is a segment that is sort of a vowel and sort of a consonant. The glides of English are [y] as in *yes* and [w] as in *went*. Some varieties also have a voiceless glide [hw], as in *when*.

Etic vs. Emic Categories

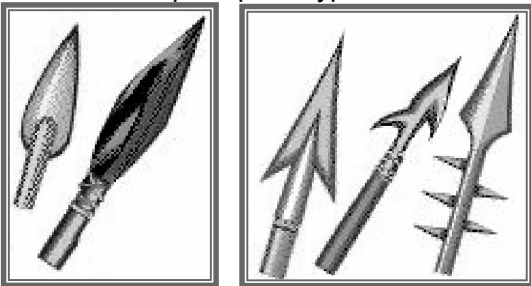
Etic vs. Emic Categories

“etic” spear point shapes:



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“emic” spear point types:



Etic vs. Emic Categories

A Phoneme is a **cognitive category** of speech sounds that contrasts with other phonemes:
/t/, /b/, /f/, /v/

A Phone is an **instance** of a speech sound as it is actually pronounced:

[t], [tʰ], [t̚], [b], [s], [o]

An Allophone is a **variant**, or alternate phonetic form of a phoneme, e.g. [t] and [tʰ] are allophones of the phoneme /t/ in English.

Etic vs. Emic Categories

Linguists use different conventions to express phonetic vs. phonemic data

[] Phonetic transcription:

[kʰænz]

// Phonemic transcription:

/kænz/

{ } Spelling:

{cans}

Classes and Sets

A Natural Class is a group of sounds that have in common at least one property of production, e.g. /m/, /n/ and /ŋ/ all constitute a natural class because they are all [+nasal]. Another example of a natural class would be [+voice]

A Minimal Pair is two words that differ in only a minimal way – by one sound, e.g. *map* and *cap*.

A Minimal Set is three or more words that differ in only a minimal way – by one sound, e.g. *bet*, *met*, *pet*, *set*, *debt*, *get*, *jet*, *let*.