

SPAU 133- Lecture 2

Phonetics

What is phonetics?

- It is the study of the minimal units of language which are the sounds of speech.

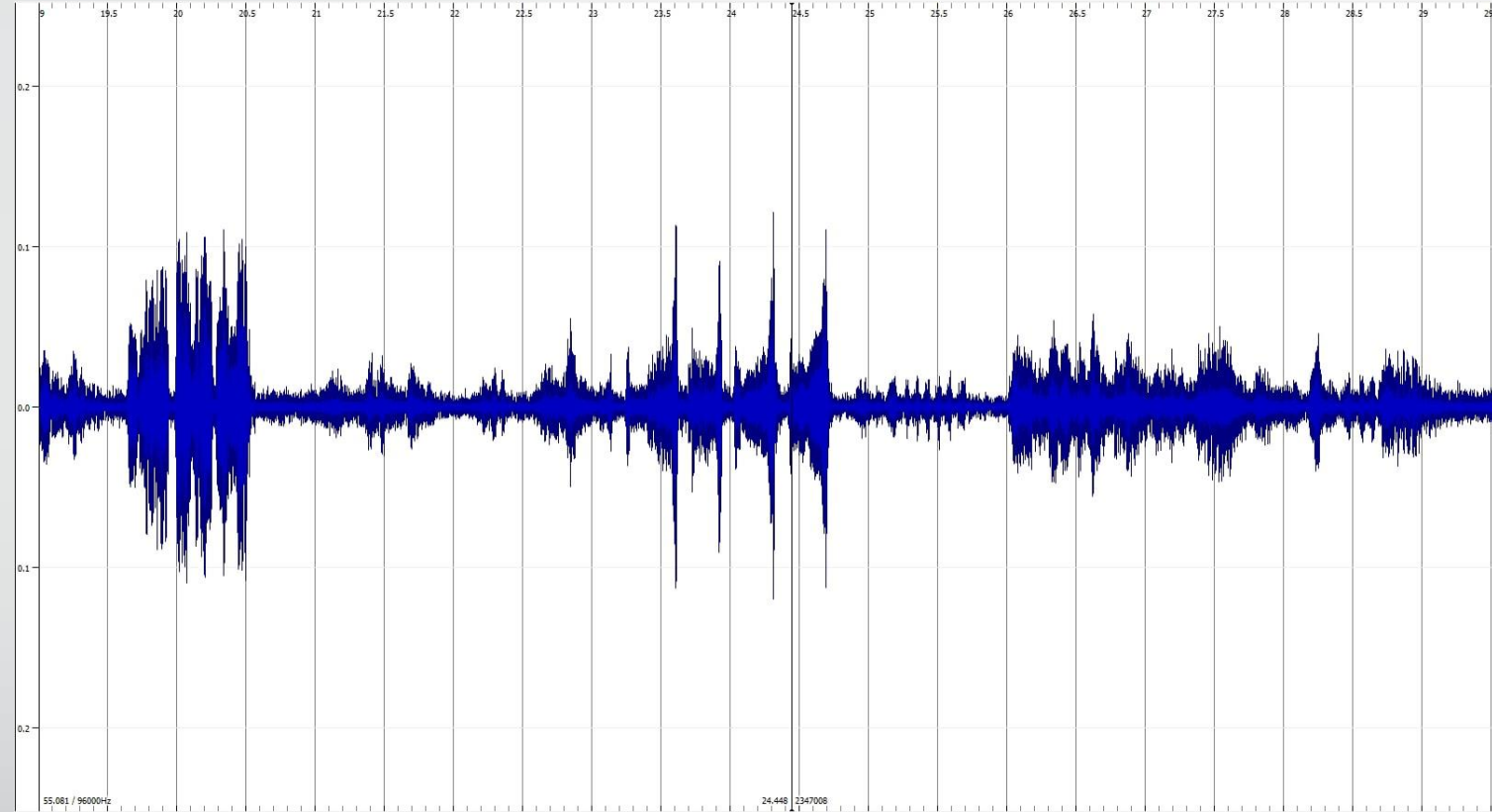
There are three aspects of studying phonetics:

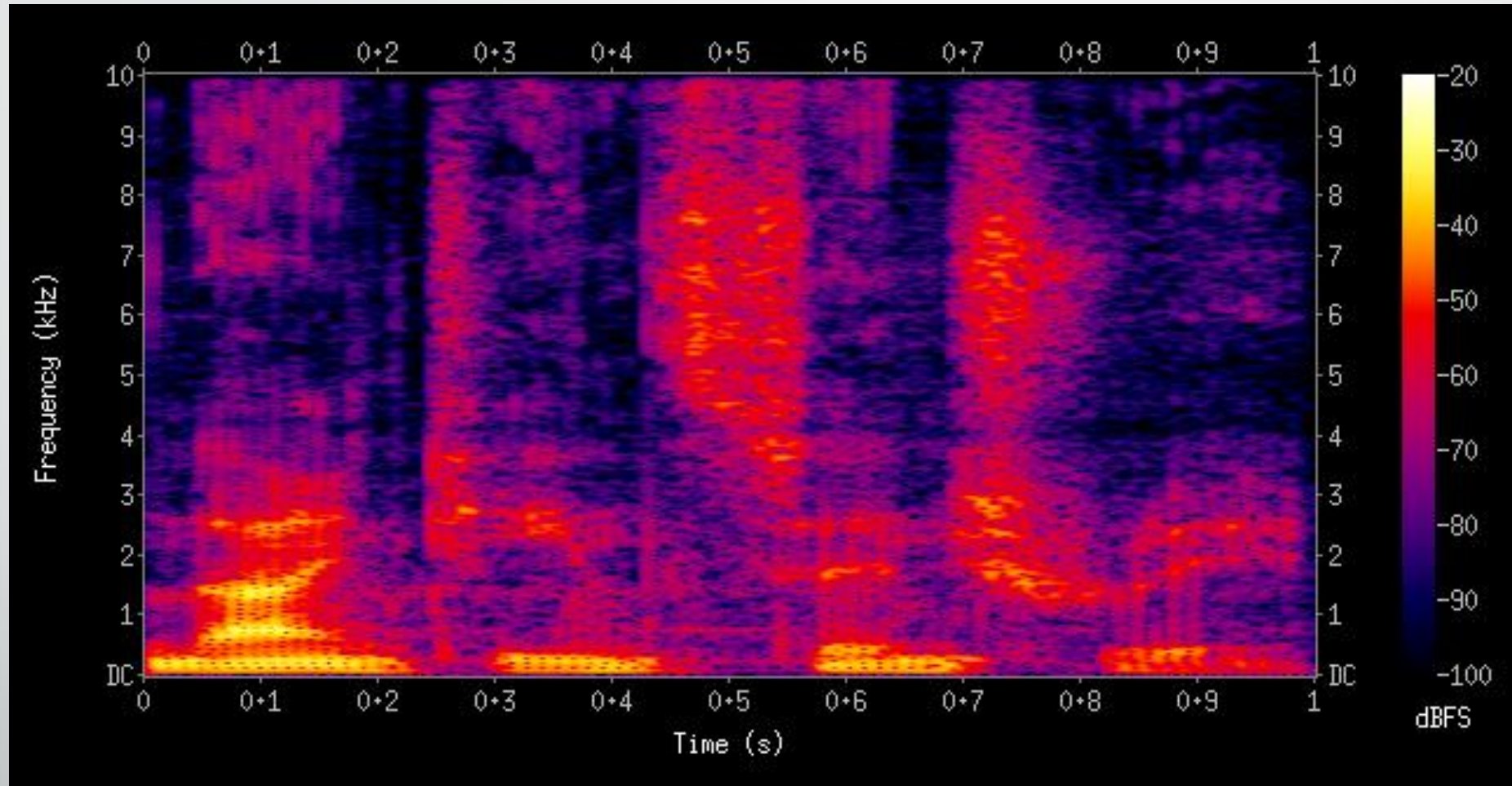
1. Articulatory phonetics: the study of the production of speech sounds.
2. Acoustic phonetics: the study of the transmission and the physical properties of speech sounds.
3. Auditory phonetics: the study of the perception of speech sounds.

Things we use to study phonetics









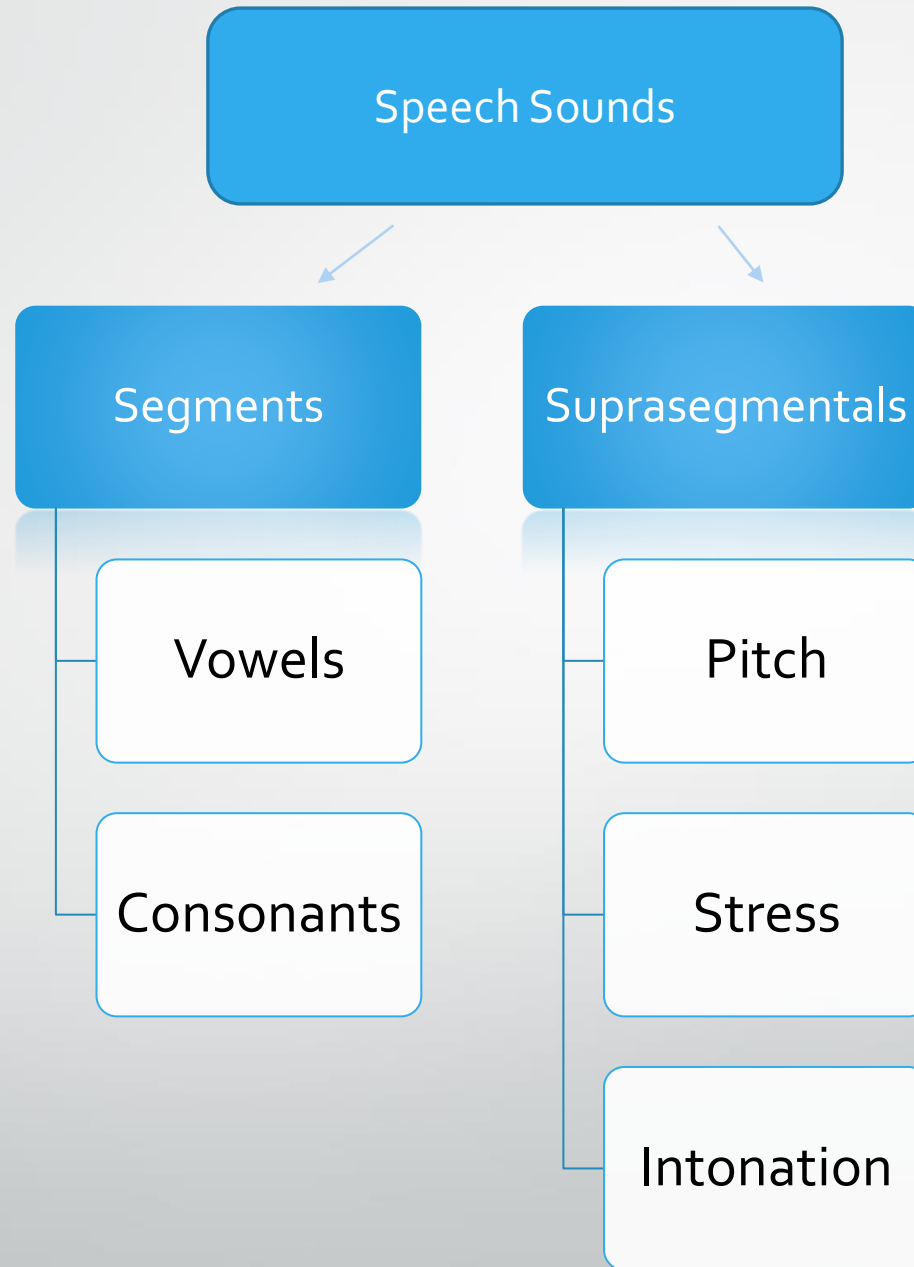





IPA System

International Phonetic alphabet

- Impressionistic phonetic transcription is a way of writing down speech sounds so we can capture what is said and how it is pronounced.



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- Segments: discrete units of speech stream
 - Suprasegmentals: properties that “ride on top of” speech sounds. They often apply to a string of speech sounds, but can also apply to individual speech sounds.

What is the difference between Vowels and Consonants?

- The production of consonants involves a constriction of the airflow somewhere in the vocal tract.
- The production of vowels does not involve any restrictions that hinder the airflow. Sometimes a slight narrowing in the vocal tract can occur but the airflow will still flow freely.
- Vowels and consonants are also different in terms of their roles in a syllable.