

## Fieldwork 2 Categories in other Languages

In this fieldwork, I would like you to explore speech sounds that do not exist in your first or second language.

### Step 1

Find 5 examples from at least 3 languages contained in this database.

<http://www.phonetics.ucla.edu/course/languageindex.html>

### Step 2

Describe each sound, the language it comes from, where it is spoken, why you chose it, and how it relates to/differs from categories in your first or second language.

ð - This sound comes from Greek, but I also know that it is used in other languages, like Old Norse and Icelandic, and I believe some Indian languages like Hindi. I chose it because I have seen it before in my Nordic studies courses, but it is not used in any of the languages I speak, and I have trouble enunciating it. It is somewhere between a “th” and a “d” sound. It is labeled as a dental sound.

p’ - This sound comes from Lakhota. It is labeled as an “ejective”. I chose it because I have heard a little bit about these types of sound that are defined more by the absence of sound. It sounds like a special type of stop, almost like a glottal stop, that is released in a puff of air. I do not think English or any of the other languages I speak have any sound close to this in the middle of a word, but maybe at the end of a stop you could find a sound that is somewhat similar.

k<sup>h</sup> - This sound comes from Hindi. It is a voiceless, aspirated, velar sound. In the languages I speak, I cannot hear a difference between this sound and a regular “k”. I chose it because I know that this is a difficult sound for English speakers to tell the difference between, because there is no difference in English.

œ - This sound comes from a French vowel sound. The vowel is close to the Norwegian ø, but not quite the same. I chose it because I wanted to see how different this vowel sound was from English and the other languages I speak.

! - This sound comes from Xhosa, and is a sort of slick sound combined with a consonant sound. It is classified as an alveolopalatal sound. It is similar to p’, but instead of there being a puff of air, there is an actual click sound. I chose this sound because it is very unique, and I do not speak any language that has anything even close to this sound.

### Step 3

I would now like you to characterize each sound using IPA notation. Find where the sound would fit on the IPA chart <https://www.ipachart.com/>, describe the features that are appropriate (place of articulation, manner of articulation, etc for consonants, and mouth aperture and locations for vowels... note that vowels go from front to back, left to right), and contrast it with the closest category in your first or second language (for example, if I am using the prevoiced /t/

from Hindi for example, I would describe the categories that I have in English that are closest to it using the IPA notation).

ð - This sound is a voiced dental fricative. It can be used in English sometimes, upon listening more closely. This can be found in the difference between the two ways to say the word “the” in English, for example. However, this sound is not commonly used in English and is not found in Norwegian or Spanish, to my knowledge. It is closest to the common voiceless dental fricative that we use in English, which is θ.

p’ - This sound is in the category of non-pulmonic consonants, and is classified as an ejective. The ‘ symbol can be combined with different consonants to create that burst of air you hear after the consonant. The closest we have to this in English is p. If you over-enunciated in English, you could make this sound, but it has no meaning outside of “p”.

k<sup>h</sup> - This sound is a voiceless velar stop combined with a voiceless glottal fricative. We could make this sound in English, but we do not distinguish it from k. The closest sound we have is that voiceless velar stop in English and in Spanish and Norwegian.

œ - This vowel is an open-mid rounded vowel. The closest thing we have to it in English is the ε sound, or the ø sound in Norwegian. It sounds more like the ø, but is closest to ε on the chart, which is the same vowel, but unrounded. The Norwegian vowel is a rounded close-mid vowel rather than an open-mid rounded vowel.

! - This sound from Xhosa is classified as a postalveolar click. We really don’t have anything like this in any of the languages I speak. The closest thing I can think of is a glottal stop. This is phonetically very unique.

#### Step 4

Based on the above details, how would you perceive these sounds? Why do you think that? If you could go back in time and test yourself at 3 months old, how would 3 month old you perceive these sounds? Why do you think that?

I would likely perceive all of these sounds as the sound that they are closest to in one of the language I speak. For ð, I would likely hear θ. For p’, I would likely hear an over-enunciated “p”. For k<sup>h</sup>, I would probably hear a “k” sound and ignore the “h” sound, because there is no distinction between “k” and “k<sup>h</sup>” in the languages I speak. For œ, I would probably perceive the Norwegian vowel “ø”, as this is the closest sound that I am familiar with. For !, I think I would probably perceive a speech error, since none of the languages I speak have sounds that are even close to this sound. When I was an infant, I could have distinguished the differences in these sounds. If I was exposed to each sound enough, I would be able to produce it myself. However, even as an infant, I would be able to distinguish “k” from “k<sup>h</sup>”, for example. Instead of grouping these phonemes with other sounds I am familiar with, I would be able to tell the difference between these phonemes, something that I would struggle with now.