



CONTRASTIVE PHONETICS & PHONOLOGY



Phonetics vs. phonology

- **Phonetics:** physical reality of sounds
 - **Articulatory** phonetics: the movement of the speech organs
 - **Acoustic** phonetics: vibration of the air between the speaker's mouth and the listener's ears
 - **Auditory** phonetics: the sensation of hearing
- **Phonology:** how sounds function in a language

Contrastive phonetics

■ 3 approaches:

□ 1st approach

- Detailed description of the sounds of 2 languages
- Comparison of L1 and L2 sounds with a shared articulatory basis (e.g. IPA chart)
- Example:
 - comparing RP C's (L1) to Slovene C's (L2)
 - Labio-dental fricatives
 - RP: /f/ /v/
 - Slo: /f/



□ 2nd approach

- Analysis of **acoustic** properties of speech sounds of 2 languages
- Comparing L1 and L2 sounds which have much in common physically
- Example:
 - RP: /p/ in 'pale' → [p^h] aspirated
 - Slo: /p/ in 'palača' → [p] not aspirated

□ 3rd approach

- Concerns the 'message' the ear transmits to the brain
- Analysis of **auditory** features

Contrastive phonology

- Concerns the analysis and comparison of L1 and L2 phonemes
- Similar sounds of 2 languages can have different functional statuses
- Example:
 - RP: /ŋ/ → functional status: a phoneme
 - Slo: [ŋ] → functional status: an allophone of /n/+/k/; /n/+/g/; /n/+/x/



Contrasting sound systems

- 4 steps in CA of sound systems
 - 1st: draw up a phonemic inventory of L1 and L2
 - 2nd: equate phonemes interlingually
 - 3rd: list the phonemic variants (allophones)
 - 4th: state the distributional restrictions for phonemes and allophones of each language



Steps 1 and 2

- Equate the phonological categories across the two languages
- Use IPA charts for Cs and Vs
- Classify Cs according to the three labels (place and manner of articulation, voicing)
- Classify Vs according to the tongue position, lip rounding, nasality, length

Step 3

- State the allophones of each phoneme of L1 and L2
 - Same phoneme in L1 and L2, but different allophones
 - RP: // → [ɫ]; [l]
 - Slo: // → [l]
 - Phoneme in L1 and allophone in L2
 - RP: /ŋ/
 - Slo: [ŋ]

Step 4

- State the distributional restrictions on the allophones and phonemes of L1 and L2
- Two languages with corresponding phonemes with phonetically similar allophones **but** different environments for their occurrence
 - RP+ Spanish: /ŋ/
 - RP: /ŋ/ before velars: 'sink' 'longist'
 - Spanish: /ŋ/ before /h/ and /w/: **estranjero**
/ŋ'h/; **un huevo** /ŋ w/