

VOICE QUALITY

The first phonetic description of voice quality production in 40 years, this book provides a new framework for its analysis: The Laryngeal Articulator Model. Informed by instrumental examinations of the laryngeal articulatory mechanism, it revises our understanding of articulatory postures to explain the actions, vibrations and resonances generated in the epilarynx and pharynx. It focuses on the long-term auditory-articulatory component of accent in the languages of the world, explaining how voice quality relates to segmental and syllabic sounds. Phonetic illustrations of phonation types and of laryngeal and oral vocal tract articulatory postures are provided. Extensive video and audio material is available on a companion website. The book presents computational simulations, the laryngeal and voice quality foundations of infant speech acquisition, speech/voice disorders and surgeries that entail compensatory laryngeal articulator adjustment, and an exploration of the role of voice quality in sound change and of the larynx in the evolution of speech.

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THE LARYNGEAL ARTICULATOR MODEL

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Contents

	<i>List of Figures</i>	page xi
	<i>List of Tables</i>	xiv
	<i>Preface</i>	xv
	<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xviii
	<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	xxi
1	Voice and Voice Quality	1
1.1	Voice Quality Defined	1
1.2	The Laryngeal Articulator	4
1.3	Origins of Voice Quality Theory	9
1.4	Articulatory Parameters	13
	1.4.1 Phonation Types	13
	1.4.2 Elaborations of the Laryngeal Articulator	15
1.5	Supralaryngeal Categories	19
	1.5.1 Velopharyngeal Settings	19
	1.5.2 Lingual Settings	20
	1.5.3 Mandibular Settings	24
	1.5.4 Labial Settings	26
1.6	The Pharyngeal Argument	28
	1.6.1 How the Pharynx Relates to the Larynx	28
	1.6.2 Methods of Observing the Pharynx and Larynx	32
	1.6.3 Categorization of Pharyngeals and Their Relationship to the Larynx	34
2	Laryngeal Voice Quality Classification	37
2.1	States of the Larynx and Phonation Types	37
2.2	Canonical States and Movements	38
2.3	Laryngeal Categories	40
	2.3.1 Breathing/Inspiration	40
	2.3.2 Breath	41
	2.3.3 Modal Voice	44
	2.3.4 Prephonation	47
		vii

viii *Contents*

2.3.5	Glottal Stop	48
2.3.6	Epiglottal Stop	51
2.3.7	Whisper	53
2.3.8	Breathy Voice	56
2.3.9	Whispery Voice	58
2.3.10	Falsetto	60
2.3.11	Creaky Voice	63
2.3.12	Harsh Voice	67
2.3.13	Ventricular Voice	71
2.3.14	Aryepiglottic Trilling	73
2.3.15	Laryngeal Constriction at High Pitch	75
2.4	Tense Voice and Lax Voice	78
2.5	Unconstricted vs. Constricted Laryngeal States	79
3	Instrumental Case Studies and Computational Simulations of Voice Quality	83
3.1	Techniques to Examine Long-Term Voice Qualities	83
3.2	Techniques to Image the Larynx	85
3.2.1	Laryngoscopy: The Example of Aryepiglottic Trilling	88
3.2.2	Cineradiography	91
3.2.3	Laryngoscopy + Laryngeal Ultrasound	95
3.2.4	Magnetic Resonance Imaging	105
3.3	Computer Models of the Larynx and Laryngeal Constriction	110
3.3.1	A 3D Laryngeal Constrictor Model	110
3.3.2	A Two-Trapdoor Model of Aryepiglottic Trilling	110
3.3.3	A Model of Vocal-Ventricular Fold Contact	115
3.3.4	The ArtiSynth Model of the Larynx	119
4	Linguistic, Paralinguistic, and Extralinguistic Illustrations of Voice Quality	123
4.1	Laryngeal Categories	124
4.1.1	Glottal Phonation Types	124
4.1.2	Phonation Types with Laryngeal Constrictor Effects	126
4.1.3	Laryngeal Constrictor and Larynx Height Settings	132
4.2	Supralaryngeal (Oral) Categories	134
4.2.1	Velopharyngeal Port Settings	134
4.2.2	Tongue-Body Lingual Settings	135
4.2.3	Tongue-Front Lingual Settings	137
4.2.4	Jaw Settings	138
4.2.5	Labial Settings	140
4.3	Other Realizations of Laryngeal Constriction	143
4.3.1	Glottalization and Laryngealization	143
4.3.2	Laryngeal Constriction in Segmental Contrast	144

4.3.3	Laryngeal Constriction in Syllabic Contrast	148
4.3.4	Throat Singing	153
5	Phonological Implications of Voice Quality Theory	155
5.1	Voice Quality in Phonological Theory: Previous Approaches	156
5.2	Phonological Potentials, the Laryngeal Articulator, and Voice Quality	161
5.3	Synergistic Relations Network	164
5.4	Voice Quality and Register Contrasts: A Unified Approach	166
5.5	Voice Quality in Sound Change: The Case of Southern Wakashan Pharyngeal Genesis	178
5.6	Voice Quality in Phonology	182
6	Infant Acquisition of Speech and Voice Quality	185
6.1	The Infant Vocal Tract	186
6.2	Vocal Exploration in Infancy	187
6.3	Laryngeal Voice Quality in the First Year of Life	191
6.3.1	Laryngeal Quality	191
6.3.2	Utterance Types	194
6.3.3	Distribution of Laryngeal Constriction by Utterance Type	196
6.4	Laryngeal Components of Early Babbling	200
6.5	Early Laryngeal Sounds as Foundations of Speech Development	202
7	Clinical Illustrations of Voice Quality	205
7.1	Vocal Fold Vibration	207
7.1.1	Human Laryngeal Tissues	207
7.1.2	The Vibratory Pattern at the Glottis (Oscillatory-Impedance Theories)	208
7.1.3	Nonlinear Dynamic Theories	210
7.2	Benign Pathology of the Vocal Folds with Dysphonia	211
7.2.1	Functional: Muscle Tension Dysphonia, Hyper- or Hypofunction	211
7.2.2	Anterior Vocal Fold Lesions: Benign Lesions: Reinke's Edema, Vocal Nodules, Polyps, Cysts, Sulci	213
7.2.3	Posterior Vocal Fold Lesions: Contact Ulcers, Granulomata, Laryngopharyngeal Reflux	216
7.3	Malignant Laryngopharyngeal Lesions	217
7.3.1	Total Laryngectomy	217
7.3.2	Partial Laryngectomies and Laryngopharyngeal Surgery	219
7.3.3	Endoscopic Laser Surgery (Corpectomy)	227
7.4	Movement Disorders	229
7.4.1	Vocal Fold Paralysis	229
7.4.2	Parkinson's Disease	231
7.4.3	Tremor, Dystonia, Spasmodic Dysphonia, Myoclonus	232

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Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

x	<i>Contents</i>	
7.5	The Professional Voice: Adaptive Laryngeal Articulator Possibilities	234
7.5.1	Mongolian Long Song	234
7.5.2	Human Beatboxing	236
8	Laryngeal Articulation and Voice Quality in Sound Change, Language Ontogeny and Phylogeny	239
8.1	Saliency and Context	240
8.2	The Axis of [e/o]	241
8.3	Sound Change	244
8.4	Phylogeny	246
	<i>References</i>	257
	<i>Author/Artist Index</i>	295
	<i>Subject Index</i>	298

Figures

1.1	The Laryngeal Articulator Model, or the two-part vocal tract	<i>page</i> 6
1.2	The epilarynx as a tube-within-a-tube	9
1.3	An adapted IPA vowel chart	22
1.4	X-ray photographs of the lower vocal tract by Tony Traill	31
2.1	The laryngeal articulator viewed through the fiberoptic laryngoscope, during breath and voicing	39
2.2	The larynx during quiet breathing (inspiratory phase)	41
2.3	The larynx in the state of breath (aspiration of a plosive; voiceless fricative)	42
2.4	The larynx in the state of voice (modal voice)	45
2.5	The larynx in the state of prephonation	45
2.6	The larynx in the state of glottal stop	49
2.7	The larynx in a strong (reinforced) glottal stop (ventricular stop)	50
2.8	The larynx in the state of epiglottal stop	52
2.9	The larynx in the state of whisper	54
2.10	The larynx in the state of breathy voice	57
2.11	The larynx in the state of whispery voice	59
2.12	The larynx in the state of falsetto	61
2.13	The larynx in the state of creaky voice	65
2.14	The larynx in the state of harsh voice, at mid pitch	69
2.15	The larynx in the state of ventricular voice	71
2.16	The larynx in the state of harsh voice at low pitch (generating aryepiglottic trilling)	73
2.17	The larynx in the state of harsh voice at high pitch ('pressed voice')	77
2.18	Montage of laryngeal states on a continuum of openness from open to closed	79
2.19	Comparison of laryngeal states by parameter	80

xii *List of Figures*

3.1	Different styles of x-ray tracing	86
3.2	High-speed laryngoscopic images and synchronized data for the geminate voiceless aryepiglottic trill [ɸ:] in /rahhi:l/ ‘to travel a lot’	90
3.3	Radiographic epilarynx images	93
3.4	Analysis of cineradiographic data for epiglottal stop [ɑʔɑ]	94
3.5	SLLUS data for glottal stop	98
3.6	SLLUS data for creaky voice without larynx height suppression	99
3.7	SLLUS data for creaky voice with deliberate larynx height suppression (larynx lowering)	100
3.8	Longitudinal nature of the effect of the epilarynx on the vocal folds	102
3.9	The relationship amongst larynx height, constriction, and pitch control	103
3.10	The effect of larynx height on vocal-ventricular fold compression	104
3.11	MRI: three vowels in modal, glottal stop, and epiglottal stop conditions	107
3.12	MRI: three vowels in modal, creaky, and raised-larynx conditions	108
3.13	Larynx height for three vowels in varying larynx-state conditions, based on MRI	109
3.14	Mechanical ‘trapdoor’ model of the aryepiglottic folds	112
3.15	Trapdoor model simulation of voiced aryepiglottic trilling	113
3.16	Trapdoor model comparison of glottal source spectra	114
3.17	Abstraction of VVFC into a low-dimensional model	116
3.18	Spatial abstraction and mass movement during the glottal cycle	118
3.19	Model performance as a function of percentage-wise increasing VVFC	119
5.1	Five variations on guttural/post-velar feature geometry	159
5.2	Key components of epilarynx operations	162
5.3	Network of synergistic and anti-synergistic physiological relations among vocal tract states	166
5.4	Potential unconstricted and constricted registers	167
5.5	Cross-height harmony (‘ATR’) in the PPM	174
5.6	From consonantal to register to cross-height contrast in the PPM	177

5.7	Potential pharyngeal genesis for uvular stops, uvular fricatives, and uvular ejectives	181
6.1	The vocal tract of a newborn infant and a 7-month-old infant	188
6.2	A dynamic non-syllabic utterance, 6-month old, English context, on an open vowel	192
6.3	Laryngeal voice quality in Bai infant utterances, by age and percentage of production	192
6.4	Laryngeal voice quality in English infant utterances, by age and percentage of production	193
6.5	Utterance types produced by Bai infants, by age and percentage	194
6.6	Utterance types produced by English infants, by age and percentage	195
6.7	Laryngeal voice quality in mixed utterances of Bai infants, by percentage	197
6.8	Laryngeal voice quality in mixed utterances of English infants, by percentage	197
6.9	Laryngeal voice quality in syllabic utterances of Bai infants, by percentage	198
6.10	Laryngeal voice quality in syllabic utterances of English infants, by percentage	199
7.1	Initiatory degrees of closure of the laryngeal mechanism	213
7.2	Vocal nodules	214
7.3	An angiomatous polyp of the left vocal fold	215
7.4	Reinke's edema of the vocal folds	215
7.5	Phonatory mechanisms in voice production by the neoglottis after SCPL	220
7.6	Progression of closure of the neoglottis following CHEP	222
7.7	Schema of the resection line for a supraglottic partial laryngectomy	225
7.8	Transverse schematic of progressive vertical surgical resectioning	226
7.9	Types of cordectomies	228

Tables

1.1	Pharyngeal consonantal distinctions of the laryngeal articulator	<i>page 35</i>
5.1	Definitions of the components of epilaryngeal control	163
5.2	Typical concomitant phonetic properties of epilaryngeal states	164
5.3	Physiological states of the Lower Vocal Tract	165
5.4	Vowel subsets in N uu, !Xóǒ, and Ju 'hoansi	168
5.5	Phonetics of register in Bor Dinka	171
5.6	Vowel alternations in Bor Dinka	172
5.7	'ATR' systems	173
5.8	Pharyngeal genesis in the history of Southern Wakashan	179
5.9	Gradient of uvular proneness to inducing epilaryngeal stricture	180

Preface

This book presents a revised approach to phonetic voice quality description through the introduction of the Laryngeal Articulator Model, a new approach to vocal-tract articulatory function. Our model supersedes the simple glottal phonation paradigm of the lower vocal tract that has guided a century of phonetic and linguistic research. The Laryngeal Articulator Model presents the larynx as a complex articulator that shapes resonances and generates multiple vibration sources. This model has important consequences for the interpretation of basic places of articulation as well as for how voice quality interacts with the other elements of speech.

Our aim is to provide the groundwork for generating new hypotheses for experimental phonetic and linguistic research into speech-sound production in the lower vocal tract. We introduce new structures and movements to clarify and simplify the process we identify as laryngeal constriction. We present many examples of speech production (phonetic, extralinguistic, paralinguistic, and linguistic) to demonstrate how the laryngeal articulator works and case studies that illustrate the application of the model to linguistic analysis. The model is particularly relevant to the analysis of voice quality, as the lower vocal tract is the primary shaper of sound quality that is transferred through the rest of the vocal tract. This work is part of an ongoing attempt to construct an auditory portrait of what the laryngeal articulator produces.

The account of the structure of voice quality settings presented here follows the phonetic theories of Abercrombie (1967) and Laver (1980). The major and novel difference is in how the vocal tract is described. Rather than defining the larynx as only the glottis, generating phonation types but not articulations, with an open pharynx above it in which the tongue is the main articulator, the Laryngeal Articulator Model (LAM) introduces the ‘two-part vocal tract’, comprising a laryngeal and an oral articulator (Esling 2005). The glottis is still the opening from the lungs, bronchi and trachea into the vocal tract, but instead of it being the only site at which periodic energy is generated as a function of vibrating tissues, the laryngeal articulator contains multiple sites of

xvi *Preface*

potential vibration. The role of the tongue is also redefined. Instead of the tongue being the principal articulator in the laryngeal vocal tract, the epilaryngeal tube, incorporating the ventricular folds and aryepiglottic folds, is identified as the ‘first articulator’ above the glottis, which exerts changes, together with lingual retraction and larynx raising, on the shape of the rest of the pharynx and of the oral vocal tract. Above the velopharyngeal port, the nasal tract acts primarily as a resonating cavity rather than as an articulator. The oral articulator, from the uvula to the lips, generates the complex articulations and resonances that characterize most sounds in the world’s languages. The important distinction in the LAM lies in the interaction between the laryngeal and oral regions, affecting the balance of overlapping secondary articulation and sequential coarticulation. In order to define linguistic, paralinguistic, and extralinguistic phonetic sound qualities, this auditory balance must be dissected and attributed to the relevant regions of the vocal tract.

In the simplest deconstruction of the Laryngeal Articulator Model, the vocal tract is divided into two parts – the laryngeal vocal tract and the oral vocal tract. At the next level of complexity, the vocal tract can be divided economically into five major articulators: larynx, velopharyngeal port, tongue, jaw, and lips. The model is relevant at any level of phonetic description, but our primary aim is to demonstrate how the laryngeal region of the vocal tract shapes the longest-term construct of speech – voice quality. In describing a speaker’s voice quality, the five articulators can serve as a checklist to identify the key settings or postures that best characterize each region. The laryngeal articulator is considerably larger in the LAM than in previous models of vocal-tract function. This is telling for phonetic theory. The larynx in the LAM incorporates the pharynx, that is, those multiple cavities between the glottis and the uvula, and, in a departure from previous models, the larynx is an articulator. The laryngeal articulator is critical for speech acquisition by infants, as well as having implications for the origin of speech and for the rehabilitation of speech in the event of speech disorders and surgical repair. The number and types of sounds that can be produced by the articulating structures in the larynx are far greater than in traditional interpretations, and they are more closely co-related to the articulations produced in the oral part of the vocal tract than previously thought. The articulatory decision at the velopharyngeal port is basically whether a sound is nasal (with an open port) or oral (with a closed port), with gradations that are important when distinguishing the segmental, dynamic, and long-term strands of accent. The tongue is arguably the primary articulator of the majority of sound contrasts across the languages of the world, making up the large repertory of lingual sounds evident in the various tableaux of speech

sounds, including the official chart of the International Phonetic Association (IPA 2005) and the charts in the *iPA Phonetics* app, derived from Esling (2010). Significantly linked with lingual articulation is the action of the jaw, which determines the openness of vowels (and of voice quality) in the front part of the vocal tract. The final determinant of voice quality is labial configuration, significantly coordinated with lingual articulation. This reanalysis of the vocal tract prompts a fundamental research question: how does the laryngeal articulator interact with the articulators in the oral vocal tract (and vice versa)? The material presented in this book – voice quality categories, simulation of articulatory interactions, illustrations of auditory qualities, phonological mapping of articulator relationships, characterization of infant speech, description of clinical interventions, and discussions of where laryngeal articulation and voice quality fit within larger phonetic debates – provides an articulatory and auditory framework for addressing that research question. (An inventory of voice quality descriptors, to which this volume makes reference, can be found in the *iPA Phonetics* app on the Apple Store (Coey et al. 2014, Esling et al. 2015).) Audio files of settings on the Voice Qualities page can be compared with videos of articulatory postures at each place along the Consonant Chart.

Notation for the transcription of voice quality has expanded somewhat since Laver (1980: 162–165), mainly in the clinical context. Ball et al. (2000) increased symbol designations to accommodate the description of disordered speech. Ball et al. (2018) expanded and reorganized the inventory and re-evaluated phonation-type symbols to be more compatible with laryngeal articulator behaviour as described in the LAM. Some of these categories are incorporated in the expanded Consonant Chart in the app.

These notes describe material that can be accessed online. A set of media files accompanies this book to illustrate canonical voice quality categories from Chapters 1 and 2, case studies and simulations from Chapter 3, linguistic, paralinguistic, and extralinguistic illustrations from Chapter 4, qualities of infant speech in the progression of ontogenetic phonetic development from Chapter 6, illustrations of voice qualities in disordered speech and post-surgery from Chapter 7, and quality-related phenomena from Chapter 8. The video, audio, and text companion files accompanying each chapter are available on a Google Drive site with a link from CUP. Examples of canonical voice quality categories are also available within the *iPA Phonetics* app.

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xx *Acknowledgements*

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Abbreviations

AD	anterior digastric muscles
AE	aryepiglottic (muscles or folds)
AFPL	anterior frontal partial laryngectomy
+ATR	plus advanced tongue root
–ATR	minus advanced tongue root (i.e. retracted tongue root)
CHEP	cricohyoidoepiglottopexy
CHP	cricohyoidopexy
CN	cranial nerve
CT	cricothyroid muscles
EGG	electroglottography (electroglottogram)
EL	electrolarynx (voice)
EMA	electromagnetic articulography
EMG	electromyography
EV	esophageal voice
f ₀	fundamental frequency
F1	first formant
F2	second formant
FG	Feature Geometry
FLPL	frontolateral partial laryngectomy
GGA	anterior genioglossus muscles
GGM	medial genioglossus muscles
GGP	posterior genioglossus muscles
GH	geniohyoid muscles
HBB	human beatboxing
HG	hyoglossus muscles
(o)IA	(oblique) interarytenoid muscles
(t)IA	(transverse) interarytenoid muscles
ISP	inter-speech posture
LAM	Laryngeal Articulator Model
LCA	lateral cricoarytenoid muscles

xxii *List of Abbreviations*

LI	longitudinalis inferior muscles
LS	longitudinalis superior muscles
LTAS	long-term average spectrum
LVT	lower vocal tract
MRI	magnetic resonance imaging
NMM	neuromuscular module
OO	orbicularis oris muscles
OOIm	orbicularis oris inferior marginalis
OOIp	orbicularis oris inferior peripheralis
PCA	posterior cricoarytenoid muscles
PD	Parkinson's disease
PPM	Phonological Potentials Model
RLN	recurrent laryngeal nerve
rtMRI	real-time magnetic resonance imaging
SCHLP	supracricoid hemilaryngopharyngectomy
SCPL	(horizontal) supracricoid partial laryngectomy
SG	styloglossus muscles
SGPL	supraglottic partial laryngectomy
SLLUS	Simultaneous Laryngoscopy and Laryngeal Ultrasound
SLN	superior laryngeal nerve
TA	thyroarytenoid muscles
TE	thyroepiglottic muscles
TEV	tracheoesophageal voice
TH	thyrohyoid muscles
TL	total laryngectomy
TMJ	temporomandibular joint
UES	upper esophageal sphincter
UFT	Unified Feature Theory
UVT	upper vocal tract
VFP	vocal fold paralysis
VPA	Vocal Profile Analysis
VVFC	Vocal-ventricular fold coupling