

## Phonetics: Consonants of Japanese

### I. Terms for classifying consonants

**Reading:** Tsujimura (2014), chapter 2 — chapter intro & §1.0–1.1 [*§1.1.7: skim only*]

Try to use the Tsujimura (2014) reading to learn these terms; we will follow up in class discussion

- (1) Parts of the vocal tract:
  - (a) alveolar ridge
  - (b) (hard) palate
  - (c) velum (as place of articulation)
  - (d) velar port (can open and close to control nasal airflow)
  - (e) uvula
  - (f) glottis
  
- (2) Terms for classifying consonants (§1, §1.1)
  - (a) consonant
  - (b) vowel
  
  - (c) voicing
    - (d) voiced
    - (e) voiceless
  
  - (f) nasality
    - (g) oral
    - (h) nasal
  
  - (i) place of articulation
    - (j) bilabial
    - (k) labiodental [not used for Japanese]
    - (l) dental
    - (m) alveolar
    - (n) alveopalatal (aka post-alveolar, palato-alveolar)
    - (o) velar
    - (p) uvular
    - (q) glottal

- (r) manner of articulation
  - (s) (oral) stop
  - (t) fricative
  - (u) affricate
  - (v) liquid
  - (w) tap/flap
  - (x) glide
  - (y) approximant [not in reading] — useful term covering liquids and glides
  - (z) nasal (stop)

(3) Some notes on phonetic symbols

- Tsujimura uses a few phonetic symbols that are not recognized by the IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet), but we will use IPA conventions

Tsujimura uses:

We will use:

[ š ]	[ ɕ ] (compare Eng. [ ʃ ])
[ ž ]	[ ʒ ] (compare Eng. [ ʒ ])
[ č ]	[ tʃ ] (compare Eng. [ tʃ ])
[ ǰ ]	[ dʒ ] (compare Eng. [ dʒ ])
[ y ]	[ j ]

<b>For class discussion</b>
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II. Phonetics vs. orthography (spelling)

- (4) Phonetics: The study of the more-or-less physical aspects of speech sounds
  - how speech sounds are articulated
  - their acoustic characteristics
  - how they are perceived
  - which speech sounds audibly occur in a language
- (5) Why we need **phonetic transcription** (a phonetic alphabet) to represent speech sounds
  - (a) The spelling system of a language very rarely represents the sounds of the spoken language in detail. Example: How do you write the name of the capital of Japan?
  - (b) Without a standard system of phonetic transcription, it is hard to explain to speakers of other languages—or even other dialects—what speech sound you are talking about

III. Consonant properties; basic consonants of Japanese

- (6) Fit the following Japanese phonetic consonant categories into the chart;  
 put voiceless sounds in the left half of a cell, and voiced sounds in the right half

b ɸ ç d dz ɸ g h j k m n ŋ ɳ p r s t tɕ ts w z

		bilabial	alveolar	alveo-palatal	palatal	velar	uvular	glottal
(oral) stops								
fricatives								
affricates								
approximants	liquids							
	glides							
nasal (stop)s								