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Glossary

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GLOSSARY

accent	1/ indicates pronunciation features common to a group of people 2/ see word stress
affricate	is a consonant that starts as a stop but is finished with characteristic friction
age-grading	refers to variation that repeats itself generation after generation at an early stage of one's life and disappears later
allophone	refers to a variant used to produce a single phoneme, this variant does not bring about a change in meaning, e.g. [ʔ] in <i>later</i>
alveolar	refers to articulation close or against the alveolar ridge, e.g. alveolar plosive [t] in <i>sit</i>
approximant	refers to a consonant that is articulated with the articulators approaching (but not touching) each other, e.g. lateral approximant [l] in <i>less</i>
aspirated	refers to the release stage of a consonant that is released with a burst of air, e.g. [t ^h] in <i>tin</i>
bilabial	refers to a consonant that is articulated with both lips, e.g. [b] in <i>butter</i>
cluster	is a group of consonants with no vowel, e.g. [stɹ] in <i>string</i>
coalescence	refers to articulation that merges two adjacent phonemes into one, sometimes producing a completely different one, e.g. [tʃ] in <i>tune</i>
continuant	refers to a consonant that is produced with an incomplete closure of the articulators; often a term that encompasses both fricatives and approximants
dental	refers to articulation that involves the tongue against the upper teeth, e.g. [ð] in <i>this</i>

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diachronic	is that part of linguistics that investigates variation and change over time
dialect	a term indicating grammar, lexis and pronunciation features common to a group of people
diffusion	is the regional and social spread of linguistic innovations
diphthong	combines two adjacent vowels within one syllable, e.g. [aʊ] in <i>mouth</i>
dropping	refers to what is popularly believed to be the disappearance of a sound, where in fact the sound is realised differently, e.g. /g/-dropping: an alveolar rather than velar realisation of word-final /ŋ/ in <i>shooting</i> . In spelling the 'missing' sound is often indicated by means of an apostrophe, thus <i>shootin'</i> .
fronting	refers to articulation which is closer to the front of the vocal tract than some reference point, e.g. fronted [ʌ] in <i>foot</i>
glide	a synonym for a semivowel; a sound phonetically similar to a vowel but performs the role of a syllable boundary
glottal	is a sound articulated by means of the glottis, i.e. the opening of the vocal folds, e.g. the glottal fricative [h] in <i>house</i>
hiatus	refers to adjacent vowels in two syllables that are not separated by a consonant, e.g. [sɔ:ɪt] in <i>saw it</i>
idiolect	refers to an individual's distinctive pronunciation (or the use of language)
indicator	is a variant that demonstrates considerable variation but with little or no social import
intrusive	refers to the process of including a sound where it is not supported by orthography, e.g. intrusive /r/ in [sɔ:ɪt] <i>saw it</i>
isogloss	is a geographic boundary of a particular linguistic variable, e.g. the short and long BATH vowels in the South and the North of England
langue	refers to the abstract, systematic set rules that govern <i>parole</i> , i.e. language in use in the form of specific utterances
lax	is articulation that lacks tenseness, e.g. [ɪ] in <i>kit</i>
levelling	refers to the assimilation and eradication of certain distinctive dialect or accent features
lexical set	is a set of words that share one feature, originally devised by Wells (1982), marked with capital letters, e.g. the TRAP vowel
liaison	refers to articulation of a word-final consonant that is otherwise silent; generally, the purpose is to enable easier pronunciation
linking	is a synonym to liaison
liquid	is a type of a consonant that is either lateral (/l/) or rhotic (/r/)

lowering	Is articulation with the tongue lower than some reference point, e.g. lowered TRAP [a]
marker	is a variant that demonstrates considerable variation but with significant social import, i.e. it is sharply socially stratified
merger	refers to the act of joining two sounds into one, e.g. <i>whale</i> and <i>wale</i> merger
monophthong	is a sound that consists of only one vowel
non-regional	refers to features that do not indicate the regional background of the speaker
nasal	is a type of consonant that is articulated with a lowered velum so that the air is allowed to escape through the nose
obstruent	refers to such consonants whose articulation involves obstructing the airflow; they include plosives, fricatives and affricates
orthography	is a set of rules and conventions that apply to written discourse
orthoepy	is a set of rules and conventions that define the ‘correct’ pronunciation
parole	refers to language in use, i.e. specific utterances governed by the abstract system called <i>langue</i>
phoneme	is one of the smallest sounds that distinguish one word from another; if there is only one different phoneme in a pair of words, it is a minimal pair, e.g. <i>tap</i> and <i>lap</i> .
plosive	refers to a consonant that is produced by stopping the airflow by an articulator, sometimes it is also called a stop
raised	refers to articulation with the tongue raised higher than some reference point
retracted	refers to articulation that is pronounced farther to the back of the vocal tract than some reference point
rhoticity	refers to the pronunciation that includes the historical rhotic consonant /r/ in postvocalic (i.e. immediately after a vowel) positions
rounding	refers to articulation of vowels with round lips
segment	is a discrete unit that can be identified and analysed in pronunciation, typically a phoneme
semivowel	a sound phonetically similar to a vowel but performs the role of a syllable boundary
shibboleth	is a variable whose variants are used to differentiate between groups of speakers, typically with a great amount of values attendant upon them
smoothing	refers to monophthongal articulation of diphthongs and triphthongs, e.g. traditional RP [fa:] <i>fire</i>

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sociolect	is a variety of language that is associated with a particular social group
sonorant	is a sound produced with continuous airflow in the vocal tract, here they include approximants and nasals
speech event	is a social interaction involving communication (the use of language)
stereotype	is a variant that users are especially aware of; i.e. it has become part of common knowledge
supraregional	refers to features that are common to more regions, especially in opposition to some more localised variants, e.g. supraregional northern [e:] in FACE rather than more localised, traditional [ɪə].
suprasegmentals	sometimes called prosodic features; they are contrastive elements that apply to larger units of speech than segments (e.g. syllables and words). They typically include intonation, stress, tone and rhythm.
synchronic	is that part of linguistics that investigates variation and change at a specific time in the past
tensing	refers to articulation of vowels with narrower mouth width, e.g. word-final [i] in <i>happy</i>
unrounding	refers to articulation of vowels with lips not rounded, i.e. spread or neutral
uvular	refers to articulation with the back of the tongue touching the uvula, i.e. further back in the mouth than the velum
variable	is a linguistic feature that has at least two possible realisations (i.e. variants) that have social significance
variant	is one of at least possible realisations of variable, e.g. -ing endings are typically realised as alveolar nasal [ŋ], velar nasal [ŋ], or velar nasal + /g/ [ŋg] in various English regional and social accents
variety	A term covering both 'accent' and 'dialect' without further specification to what features (grammar, lexis or pronunciation) the reference is made
velar	refers to articulation with the back part of the tongue touching the soft palate, i.e. the back of the roof of the mouth
vocalisation	refers to the change of a consonant into a vowel, e.g. vocalised /l/ [mɪʊk] in south-eastern <i>milk</i>
voiced	refers to articulation which involves the vibration of vocal cords, all vowels and some consonants are voiced, e.g. /b/, /d/, /g/, and /z/
voiceless	refers to articulation which does not involve the vibration of vocal cords, some consonants are voiceless, e.g. /p/, /t/, /k/, and /s/
word stress	refers to relative emphasis placed upon some syllables in a word symbolised by [ˈ] in phonetics, e.g. <i>admit</i> is stressed on the second syllable, thus [ədˈmɪt]