香港浸會大學
HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

An Animated and Narrated Glossary of
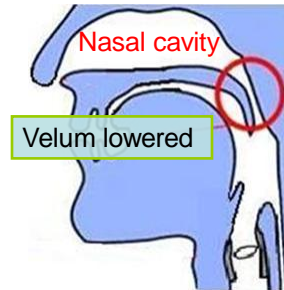Terms used in Linguistics
presents

[nasal]

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Basic Idea

- "Nasal" comes from a Latin word meaning nose.
- Nasal in the IPA chart is a manner of articulation.
- [nasal] is a phonological feature.
- [nasal] is used as a distinctive feature for distinguishing different phones/phonemes/segments.
- It is a distinctive feature for capturing a natural class of segments.

Slide 2

Definition

- A phone/phoneme X is [nasal] if in the articulation of X, the velum is lowered and air flows out through the nasal cavity.

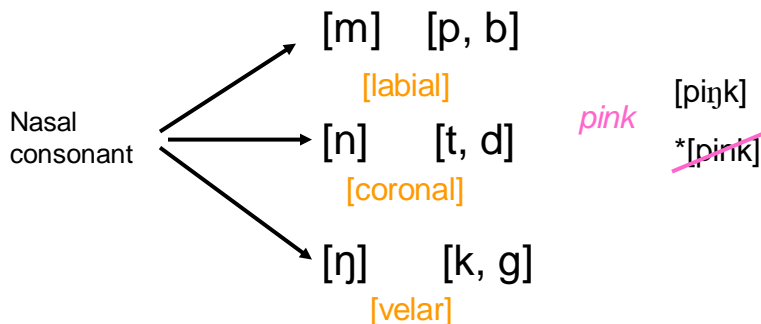 Nasal cavity

  Velum lowered

- By the definition given,
  - [m, n, ŋ] are [nasal]
  - Whether or not fricatives, glides and vowels are [nasal] depend on whether air flows through the nose

Slide 3

[nasal] as a natural class

- Evidence 1

  Across languages nasals assimilate to the place of articulation of the immediately following plosive.

  [m]   [p, b]
  [labial]

  Nasal consonant

  [n]   [t, d]
  [coronal]

  [ŋ]   [k, g]
  [velar]

  pink   [piŋk]
  *[pink]

Slide 4

[nasal] as a natural class

- **Evidence 2**

  Across languages (such as Malay and Sundanese) nasals trigger spreading.

  Sundanese (Odden 2005:57)

abot	"heavy"	luhur	"high"
mãhĩr	"skillful"	anõm	"young"

- More… but we will leave for you to discover

Compatibility of [nasal]

- [nasal] is not compatible with the production of plosives.
  - The velum must be raised to produce plosives since plosives require total obstruction of airflow.
- [nasal] is compatible with vowels
  - we can have nasalized vowels, as in French.
- It is also possible to produce nasalized laterals and fricatives though these are rare.

The End