Announcements:

- Added to recommended readings: Rubin, Gayle S. 1984. Thinking sex: Notes for a radical theory of the politics of sexuality. Pleasure and danger: exploring female sexuality, ed. by C.S. Vance, 3-44. Boston: Routledge & Kegan Paul.

Today:

- Some social theory
- Theories of the relation between language and gender
- The linguistic system as a resource for social construction
  - Vowels, consonants and stuff like that

Structure and Agency

- **Agency:** The individual's capacity to act independently and to choose freely.

- **Structure:** A system, larger than the sum of its parts, that organizes human activity.

- **The Issue**: To what extent does structure constrain or determine individual agency?

Structuralism

- Goal of Sociology - to explain internal cohesion that allows societies to be stable.

- Society as a bounded relational construct (much like language)
  - Its parts (social institutions) work together, constituting social equilibrium.
  - Focus on institutions
    - Family, religion, media, schools, government …

- Individuals as temporary inhabitants of enduring roles
  - The individual is significant not in and of themself but in terms of place in the system.
  - Exceptions as noise.

"Un système où tout se tient"   Ferdinand de Saussure

Social Constructionism

- "Objective" knowledge does not emerge from natural forces, but is derived from, and maintained in, social interaction.

- People interact with the belief that their perceptions of reality are related. Acting on this understanding reinforces a sense of common knowledge, yielding a belief that their understandings are part of an objective reality.

- Over generations, those who have not been involved in the original process of negotiation view these understandings as *common sense*.

BERGER, PETER L. and LUCKMANN, THOMAS. 1966. The social construction of reality: A treatise in the sociology of knowledge. Garden City, NY: Doubleday.

The interplay between structure and practice

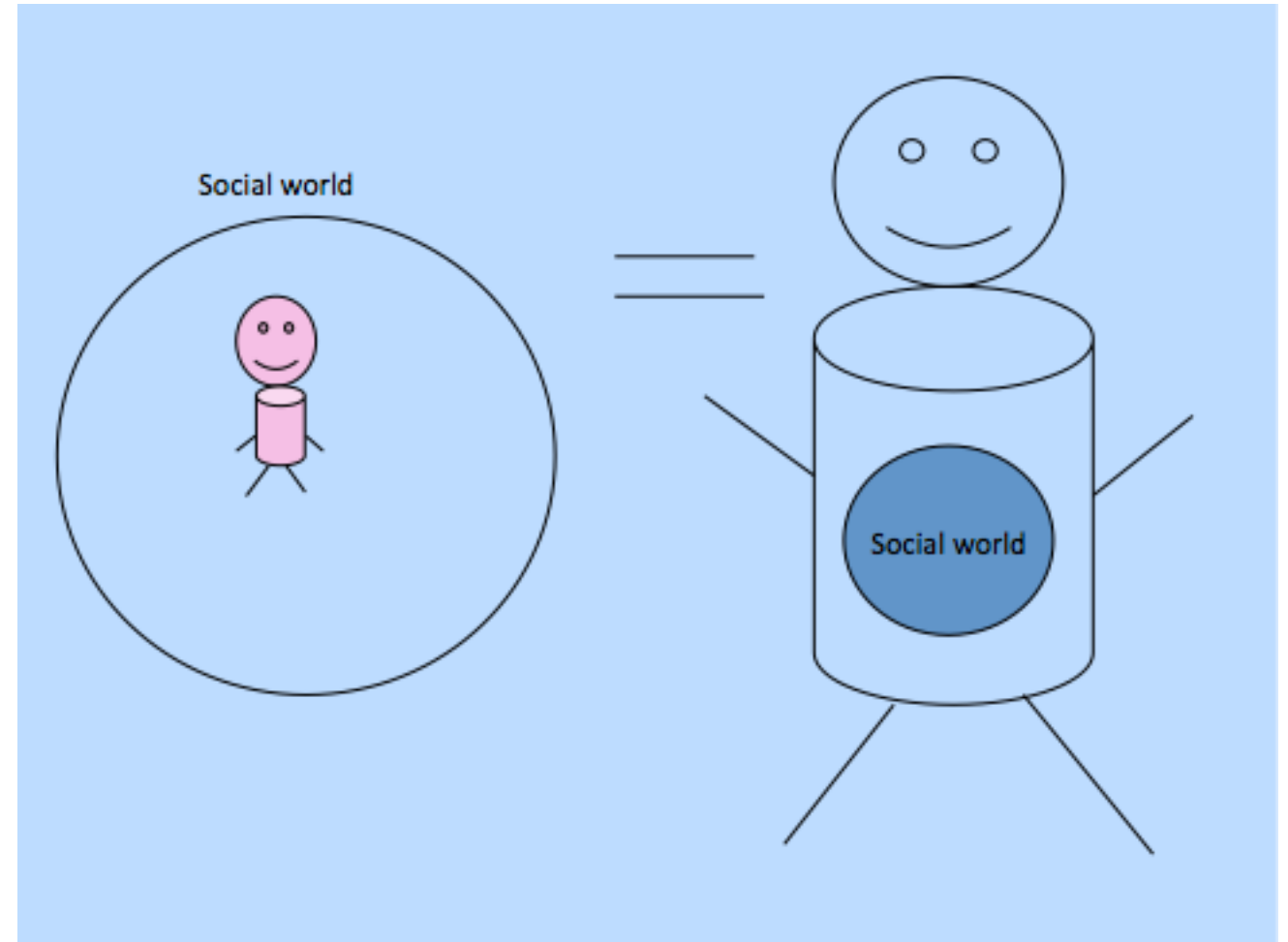Structure creates the basic conditions under which people live.

People in turn jointly create ways of dealing with those conditions.

Dominant ways of dealing accumulate to feed back into, and potentially to change, structure.

Giddens, Anthony. 1984. The constitution of society: Outline of the theory of structuration. University of California Press.

Social agents *actively* determine, on the basis of these socially and historically constituted categories of perception and appreciation, the situation that determines them

The Habitus

Bourdieu, Pierre and Wacquant, Loic J.D. 1992. An invitation to reflexive sociology. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.1992. p. 136.

In language as well

Structure creates the basic conventions by which people express themselves.

People in turn jointly adapt those conventions to their needs.

Dominant ways of adapting the conventions accumulate to feed back into, and potentially to change, the conventions.

"levels" of Linguistic structure

- Phonetics
- Phonology
- Morphology
- Syntax
- Pragmatics
- Semantics
- Discourse

- **Phonetics**
- **Phonology**
- Morphology
- Syntax
- Pragmatics
- Semantics
- Discourse

THE INTERNATIONAL PHONETIC ALPHABET (revised to 2005)

CONSONANTS (PULMONIC) © 2005 IPA
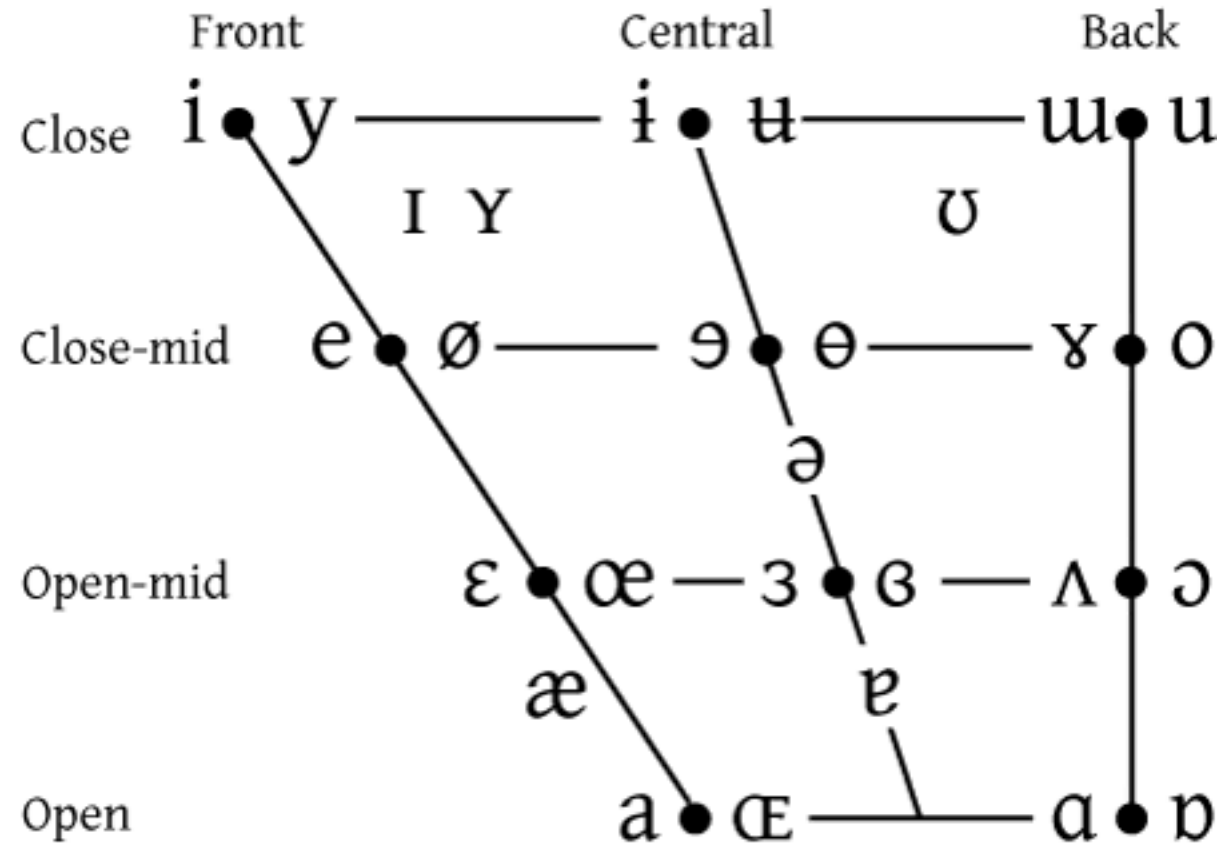
	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Plosive	p b			t d		ʈ ɖ	c ɟ	k ɡ	q ɢ		ʔ
Nasal	m	ɱ		n		ɳ	ɲ	ŋ	N		
Trill	B			r					R		
Tap or Flap		ⱱ		ɾ		ɽ					
Fricative	ɸ β	f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ	ʂ ʐ	ç ʝ	x ɣ	χ ʁ	ħ ʕ	h ɦ
Lateral fricative				ɬ ɮ							
Approximant		ʋ		ɹ		ɻ	j	ɰ			
Lateral approximant				l		ɭ	ʎ	L			

Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a voiced consonant. Shaded areas denote articulations judged impossible.

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Lateral fricative				ɬ ɮ							
Approximant		ʋ		ɹ		ɻ	j	ɰ			
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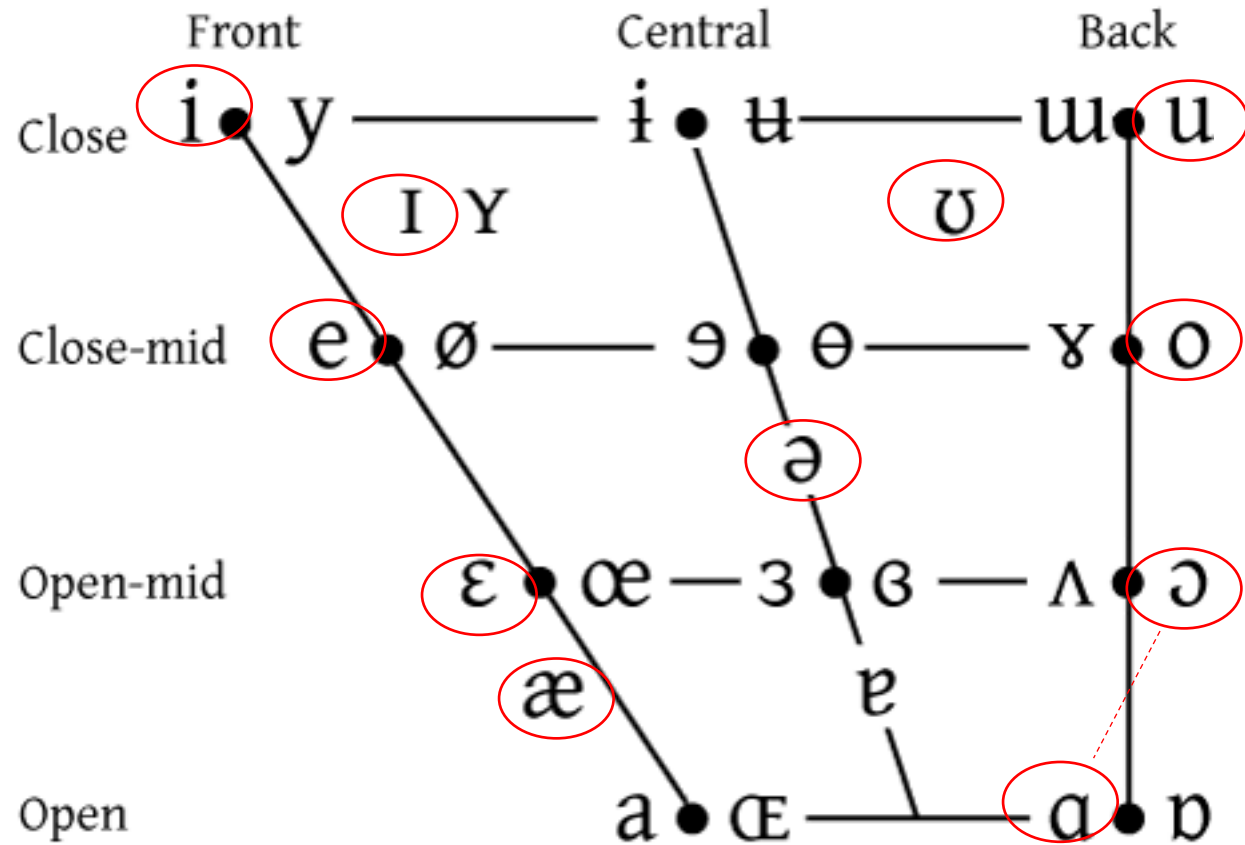
- Phonetics
- Phonology
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- Semantics
- Discourse

VOWELS

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i • y	ɨ • ʉ	ɯ • u
	ɪ Y		ʊ
Close-mid	e • ø	ɘ • ɵ	ɤ • o
		ə	
Open-mid	ɛ • œ — ɜ • ɞ — ʌ • ɔ		
	æ	ɐ	
Open	a • ɶ — ɑ • ɒ		

Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a rounded vowel

- Phonetics
- Phonology
- Morphology
- Syntax
- Pragmatics
- Semantics
- Discourse

VOWELS

Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a rounded vowel

Turkish

- Phonetics
- Phonology
- **Morphology**
- Syntax
- Pragmatics
- Semantics
- Discourse

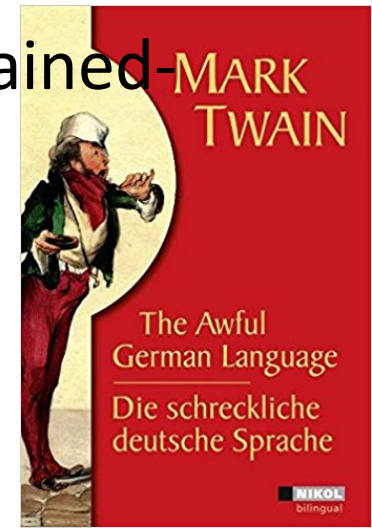|	
diʃ	'tooth'
diʃler	'teeth'
diʃim	'my tooth'
diʃlerim	'my teeth'
el	'hand'
eller	'hands'
ev	'house'
evler	'houses'
evim	'my house'
?	'my houses'

German (and English)

- Phonetics
- Phonology
- Morphology
- **Syntax**
- Pragmatics
- Semantics
- Discourse

Wenn er aber auf der Strasse
der in Sammt und Seide gehüllten jetzt sehr ungenirt
nach der neusten Mode gekleideten
Regierungsräthin begegnet,

But when he, upon the street,
the in-satin-and-silk-covered-now-very-unconstrained-
after-the-newest-fashioned-dressed
government counselor's wife **met**,

MARK
TWAIN

The Awful
German Language
Die schreckliche
deutsche Sprache

NIKOL
bilingual

- Phonetics
- Phonology
- Morphology
- **Syntax**
- Pragmatics
- Semantics
- Discourse

My car needs washed

We *ain't* never really had *no* tornadoes in this area here that I *don't* remember.

Here's you a piece of pizza.

Yale Grammatical Diversity Project

https://ygdp.yale.edu/phenomena

Reading Inoue

- Language and gender in the service of national projects
- How new social categories emerge
- Language as heard – the auditory gaze