

13/7/20  
L. NO - 39  
Dr. J. Hemphill

English (Hons)

DTIII / Paper VIII / Linguistics

Topic Continued: The Consonants of English ... (iv)

①

### The Velar stop consonants /k/ and /g/

When the air expelled by the lungs is obstructed by the tongue in the oral cavity in a particular manner as described below, the result is the velar stop consonants /k/ and /g/.

② The back of the tongue is in firm contact with the soft palate to stop the air stream for a short while and release it in a small burst. In this movement the soft palate gets raised and, ~~for a moment~~ the breath is trapped.

③ The sudden lowering of the tongue from the soft palate enables the breath to rush out of the mouth with a slight burst.



fig: Speech organs position for /k/ and /g/



② /k/ comes in the category of strong and voiceless stop consonants and /g/, on the other hand, is a weak one and voiced. The phonemes (voiceless ones) /k/, /p/ and /t/ has ~~three~~ <sup>their</sup> aspirated allophones which can be shown as /k<sup>h</sup>u:l/ (cool); p<sup>h</sup>ɔ: (power); t<sup>h</sup>e:st/ (taste). Here are some examples for the velar stops /k/ and /g/ :-

/k/ as in /keiv/ (cave); /k/ as in /kɔ:l/ (curl)  
/g/ as in /geiv/ (gave); /g/ as in /ga:d/ (guard)

### The Affricate Stops /tʃ/ and /dʒ/

The affricate stops fall in a special category of stop consonants as is clearly indicated by their phonetic symbols. In the articulation process of these stop phonemes the air is trapped in the same way as the other stop phonemes (consonants) but is released with definite friction of the fricative /ʃ/ and /ʒ/ kind. The position of



the speech organs while producing these consonant phonemes can be seen in the following figure:-



fig: /ʒ/ and /ʒʒ/

- (i) The tongue tip touches the back part of the alveolar ridge
  - (ii) The soft palate is raised so that the air stream is trapped for a short time
  - (iii) The rest of the tongue is in the position as for the fricatives /ʃ/ and /ʒ/.
  - (iv) Though the air is trapped for a while, the tip of the tongue slides a little away and assumes the position as for the fricatives, but the friction duration is shorter. The examples are: /tʃ/ as in /tʃeə/ (chair); /dʒ/ as in /dʒʌdʒ/ (judge).
- X—X— (To be continued...)