

Phonology & Phonetics

English 315
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Ferdinand de Saussure (late 19th c.) analyzed language as a social phenomenon. He saw language in two forms:

de Saussure's terms

- **LANGUE:** Abstract, psychological form of speech; rules of production and interpretation; how people should talk
- **PAROLE:** Physical form of speech; the way people actually talk.

Three key phonology concepts

- **PHONE:** Sounds a language uses; ideal forms; compare to Parole; transcribe with //
- **PHONEME:** Class of smallest meaningful units of speech; actual forms; compare to Langue; transcribe with []
- **ALLOPHONE:** Variations on a phoneme but still a single phone

Sound Theory

- Human Physiology
- **CONSONANTS:** Each sound classified by three qualities:
 - Point of Articulation
 - Method of Articulation
 - \pm Voiced

- **VOWELS:** Classified by length and formation
 - Vertical dimension
 - Horizontal dimension
 - \pm Tension