

Phonetics Lecture 6

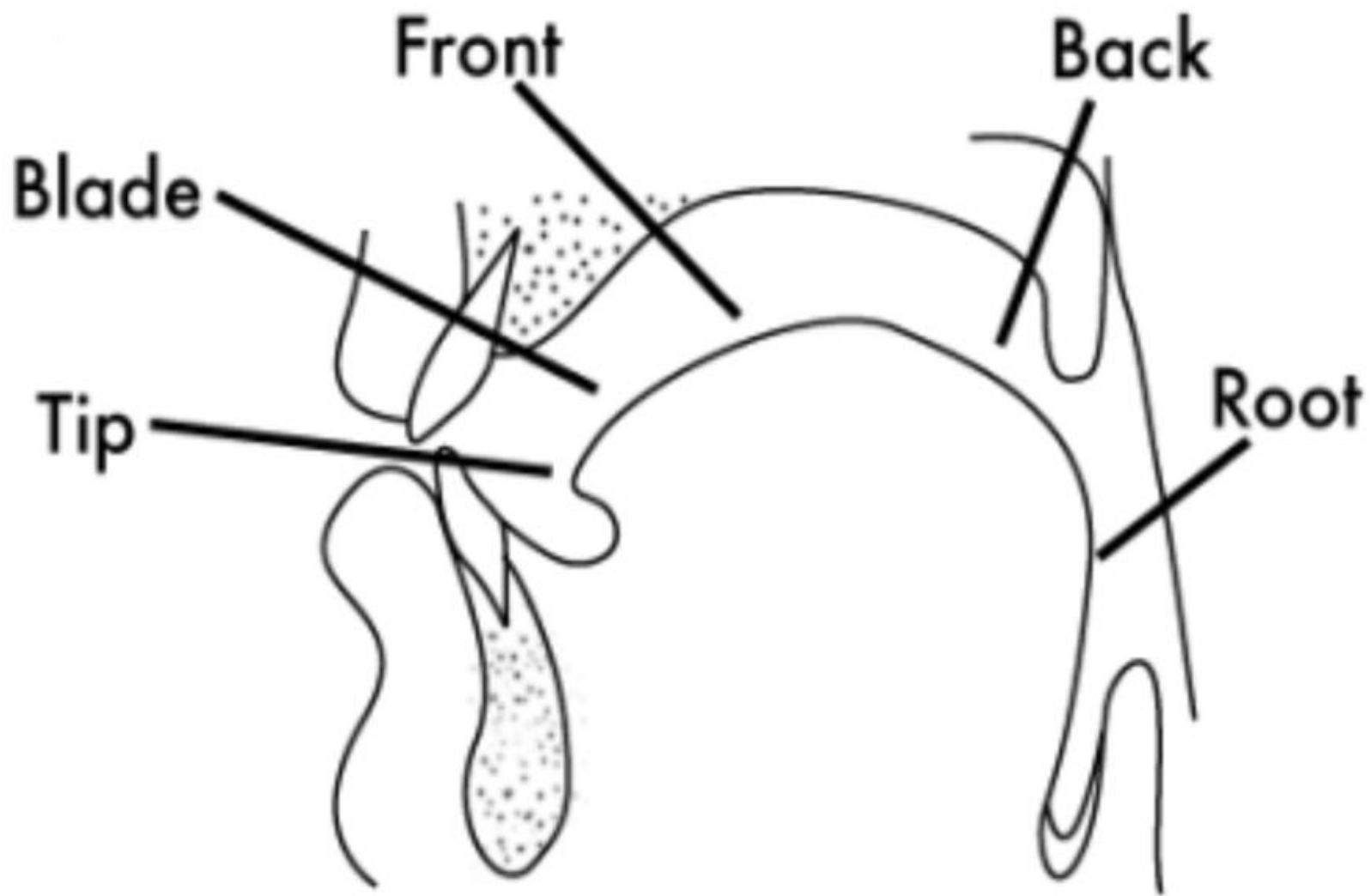
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Chapter TWO

The Organs of Speech

Part 5

The Tongue



- **The tongue is the most important organ of speech.**
- **It is the strongest and most flexible of them all.**
- **It can move in all directions: up, down, sideways, curve backwards, go forward, go backward.**
- **And most of all, touch other organs of speech surrounding it: teeth, lips, and the three parts of the palate.**

- **These are in addition to being used in eating, which requires it to be strong and therefore it is made of muscle.**
- **Unlike the palate, the tongue is divided into imaginary parts: tip, blade, front, back.**
- **It is needed in producing all vowel sounds by moving it up and down as well and changing the part that is moving.**
- **It is also needed in producing most consonants; e.g. /s, l, r, ʒ, ɹ, k, ... etc./.**