

Phonetics Lecture 4

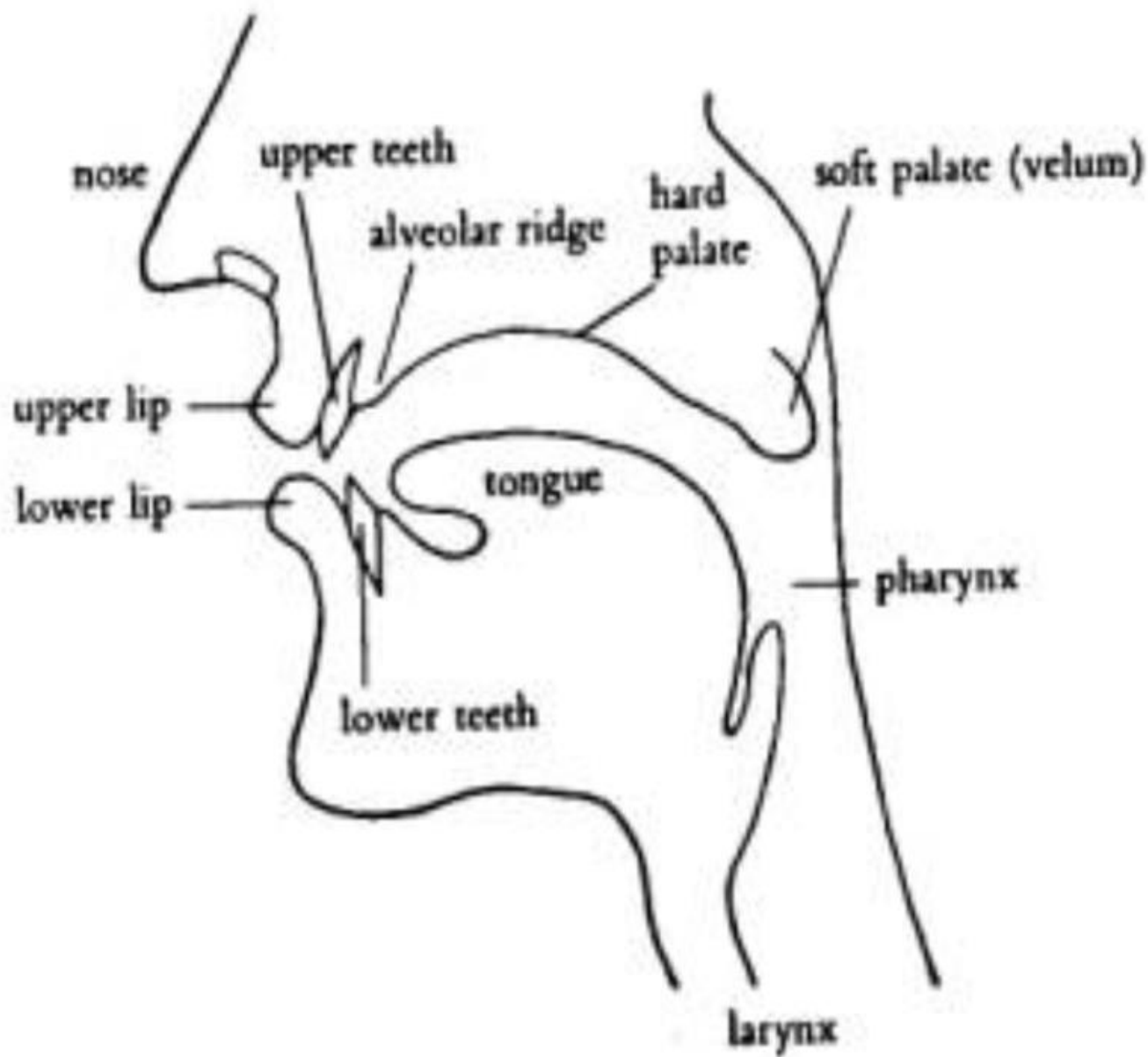
Dr. Wasan Alsiraih

Chapter TWO

The Organs of Speech

Part 3

The Palate



The Palate: the roof of the mouth which is stuck to the upper part of the head.

It is mostly fixed and hard and only a small part of it which lies in the back is soft and moveable.

- The Palate is divided into:

1- The Alveolar Ridge

2- The Hard Palate

3- The Soft Palate

1- The Alveolar Ridge: the part of the palate behind the teeth.

- It is fixed and hard (made of bone).
- However, its surface has ridges or curves (bumps) which differentiate it from the other two parts of the palate.

2- The Hard Palate: the part of the palate, which starts from the end of the alveolar ridge and ends at the back, with the beginning of the third part of the palate.

- It is the biggest part of the palate.
- It is also fixed and hard (made of bone). However, its surface is smooth with no curves or ridges.

3- The Soft Palate: the third part of the palate, which lies behind that hard palate, at the very back of the mouth.

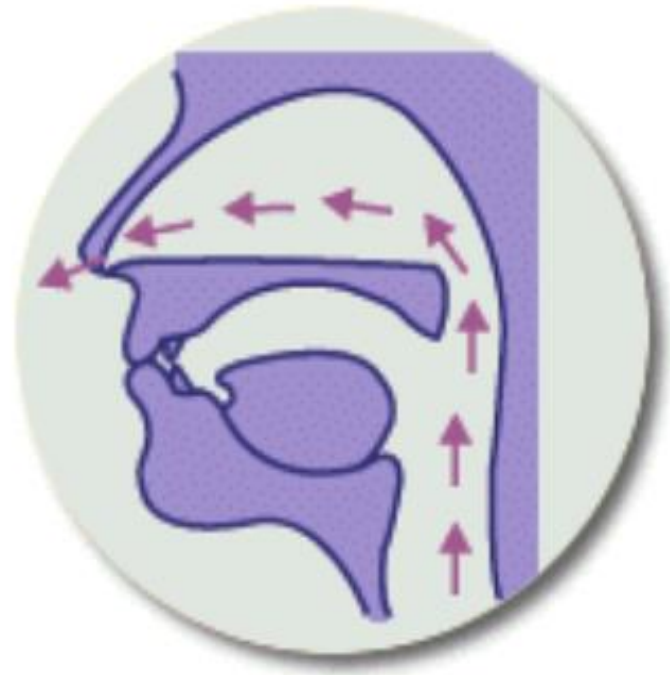
- It lies between two passages: an upper passage which ends with the nose, called the nasal passage; and a lower passage which ends with the mouth, called the mouth cavity.
- It is the only part of the palate which is soft and flexible. It is rubbery and elastic which makes it easy for this part of the palate to move.



Movement of The Soft Palate:

- Its movement is up (**raised**) and down (**lowered**).
 - When it moves up it tends to close the air passage into the nasal cavity because the opening of the passage is small and is the same size of the soft palate.
 - When it is down it tends to open the nasal cavity but does not close the mouth cavity because the opening of that cavity is too big to be closed by the small-sized soft palate.
- ❖ The soft palate is also called '**velum**'. The tip of the velum is called the '**uvular**'.

Oral vs. Nasal Sounds



- ***When breathing:*** the velum is lowered at its rest position to allow air to move in and out of the nasal cavity.
- ***When speaking:*** the velum is either raised in the case of all vowel sounds and most consonant sounds, and is lowered in three consonants /m, n, ŋ/ similar to when breathing.

- **The palate is divided according to texture into:** a hard part which is fixed and made of bone, it constitutes of most of the palate; a soft part which is very small and lies at the very back.
- **The palate is divided according to producing sounds into:** the alveolar ridge, the hard palate, the soft palate