



Mark
Hancock

SYMBOLS OF
POWER?



IPA: SYMBOLS OF POWER?

A. WHAT IS THE IPA?

B. SYMBOLS OF POWER

C. SYMBOLS OF EMPOWERMENT



WHAT IS THE IPA?

- history
- symbols
- phonetic versus phonemic





IPA 1886

CONSONANTS (PULMONIC)

© 2015 IPA

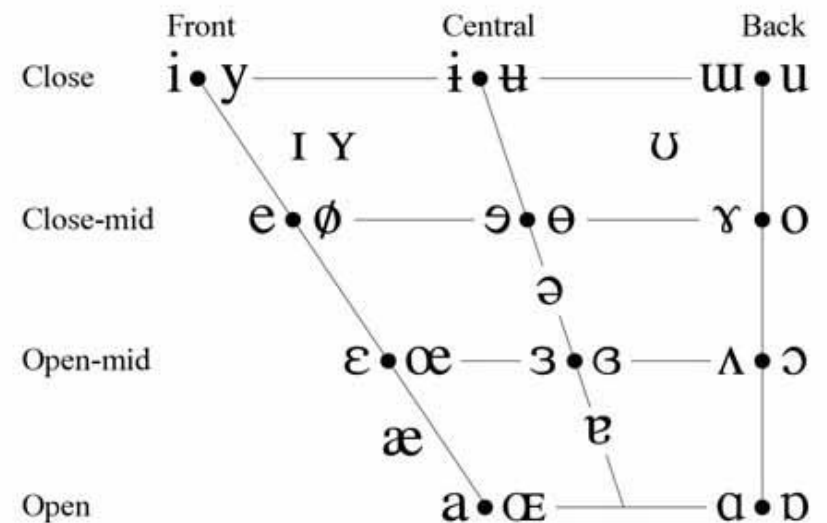
	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Plosive	p b		t d			ʈ ɖ	c ɟ	k ɡ	q ɢ		ʔ
Nasal	m	ɱ	n			ɳ	ɲ	ŋ	ɴ		
Trill	ʙ		r						ʀ		
Tap or Flap		ⱱ	ɾ			ɽ					
Fricative	ɸ β	f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ	ʂ ʐ	ç ʝ	x ɣ	χ ʁ	ħ ʕ	h ɦ
Lateral fricative			ɬ ɮ								
Approximant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

Symbols to the right in a cell are voiced, to the left are voiceless. Shaded areas denote articulations judged impossible.

CONSONANTS (NON-PULMONIC)

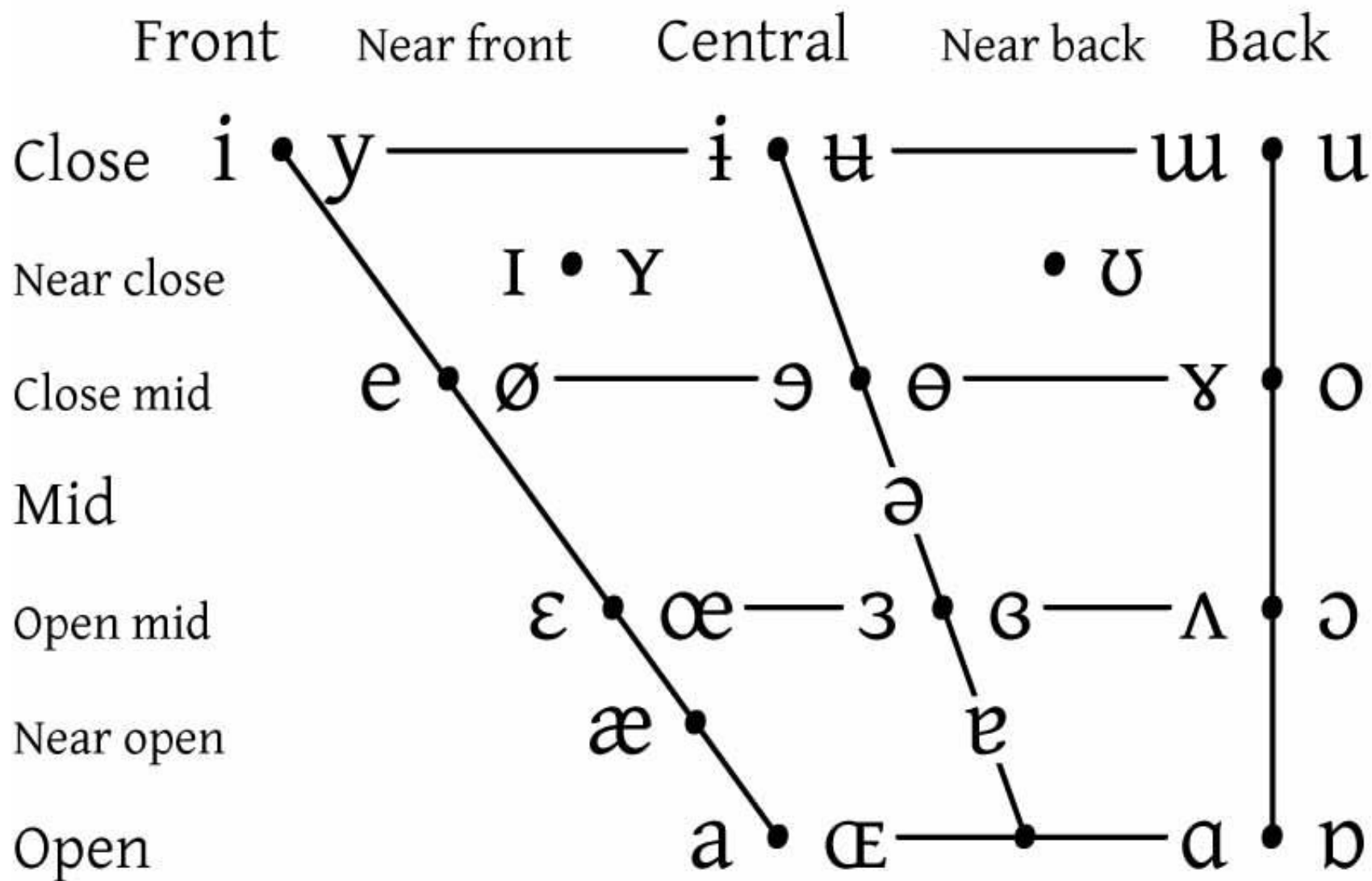
Clicks	Voiced implosives	Ejectives
◌ǀ Bilabial	ɓ Bilabial	ʼ Examples:
◌ǃ Dental	ɗ Dental/alveolar	pʼ Bilabial
◌ǂ (Post)alveolar	ɟ Palatal	tʼ Dental/alveolar
◌ǁ Palatoalveolar	ɡ Velar	kʼ Velar
◌ǁ Alveolar lateral	ɠ Uvular	sʼ Alveolar fricative

VOWELS



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

VOWELS



Vowels at right & left of bullets are rounded & unrounded.

[PHONETIC] VERSUS /PHONEMIC/

/t/ = [r̃] [ʔ] [t̃]
[r] [t] [t^h]

/t/ ≠ /d/



SYMBOLS OF POWER

- elocution**
- a standard prestige accent**
- accent training**



Symbols of Power

- **RP** is the accent of **power**
- RP is the accent people **aspire** to
- IPA **symbols** should represent the sounds of RP
- Non-RP speakers should **conform**



Pygmalion 1913



Geoff Lindsey

Foreword by J. C. WELLS

ENGLISH *After* RP

*Standard British
Pronunciation Today*

palgrave macmillan

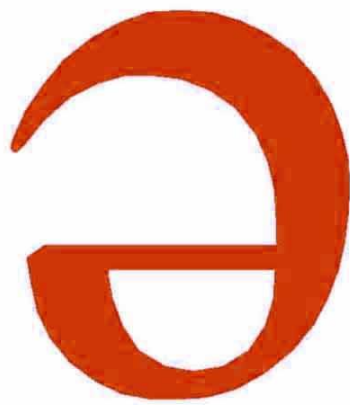
"... nothing characterizes a foreign accent more than the absence of schwa ..."

"A good schwa should be the foreign learner's highest priority in pronouncing English"

Geoff Lindsay

<https://www.englishspeechservices.com/blog/strut-for-dummies/>





**If you ask
To borrow today
Don't forget
Tomorrow to pay**

SYMBOLS OF EMPOWERMENT

- pronunciation for intelligibility**
- accent-flexibility of symbols**
- an illustrative case study**



CAMBRIDGE APPLIED LINGUISTICS

**Intelligibility, Oral
Communication,
and the Teaching
of Pronunciation**

John M. Levis

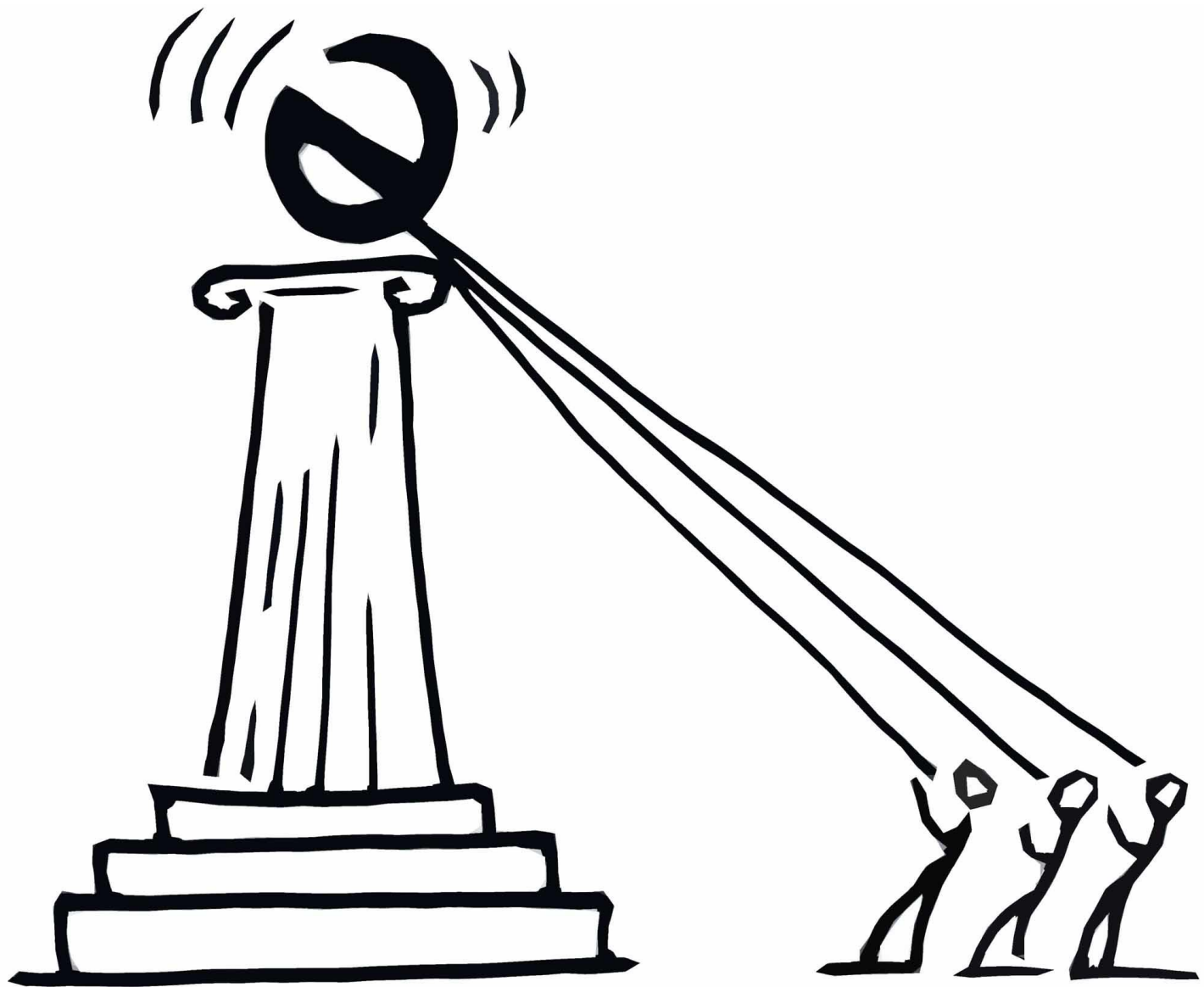
THE NATIVENESS PRINCIPLE

THE INTELLIGIBILITY PRINCIPLE

pure?

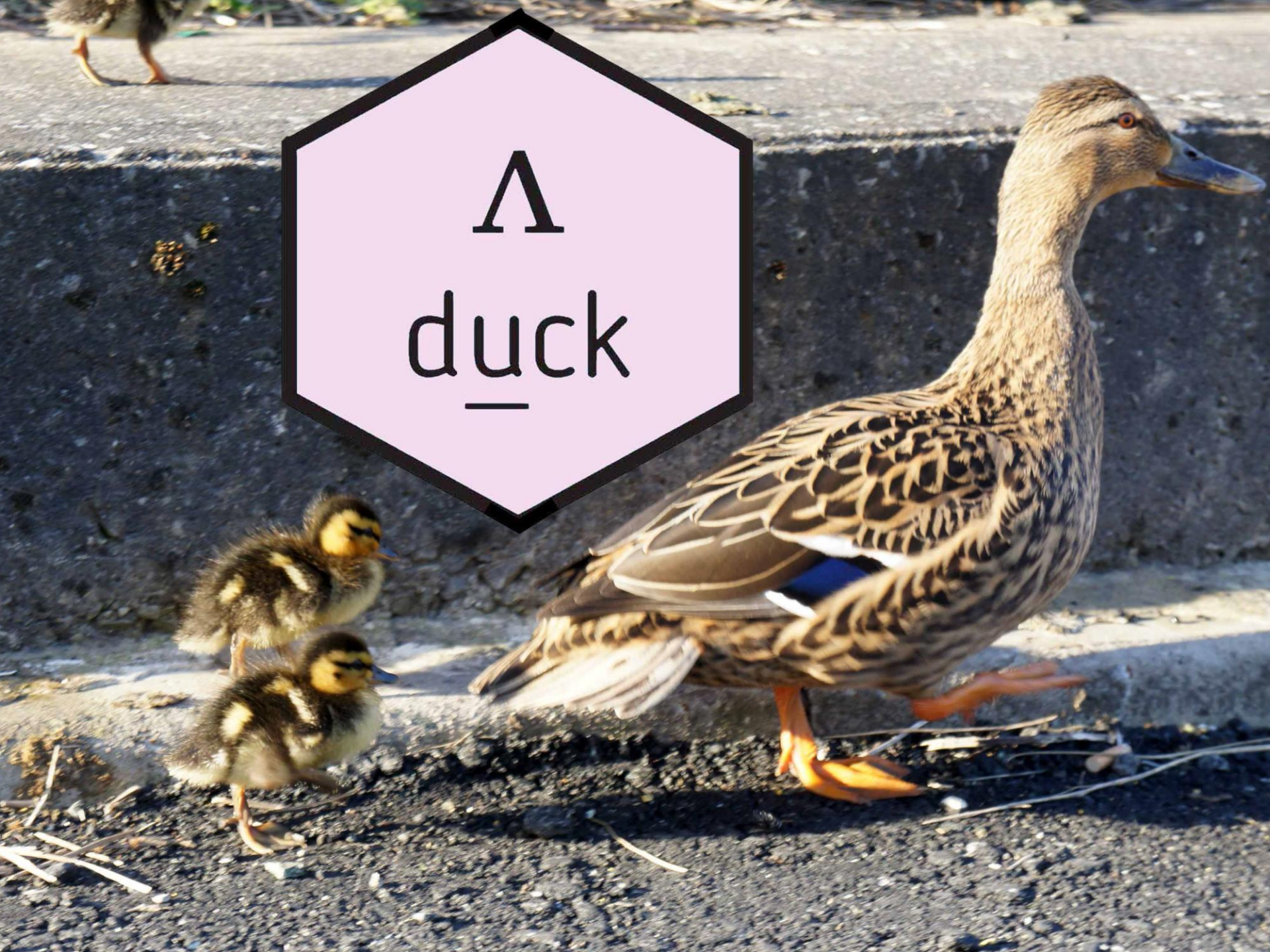
"A standard accent is regarded as a standard not because of any intrinsic qualities it may possess, but because of an arbitrary attitude adopted towards it by society."

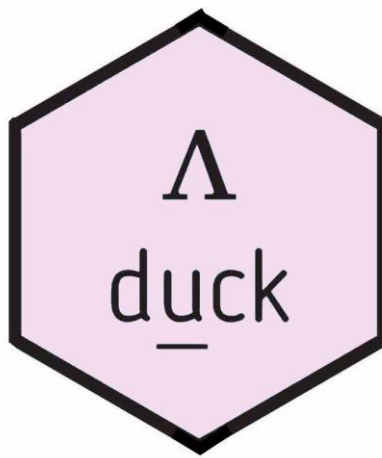
JOHN WELLS



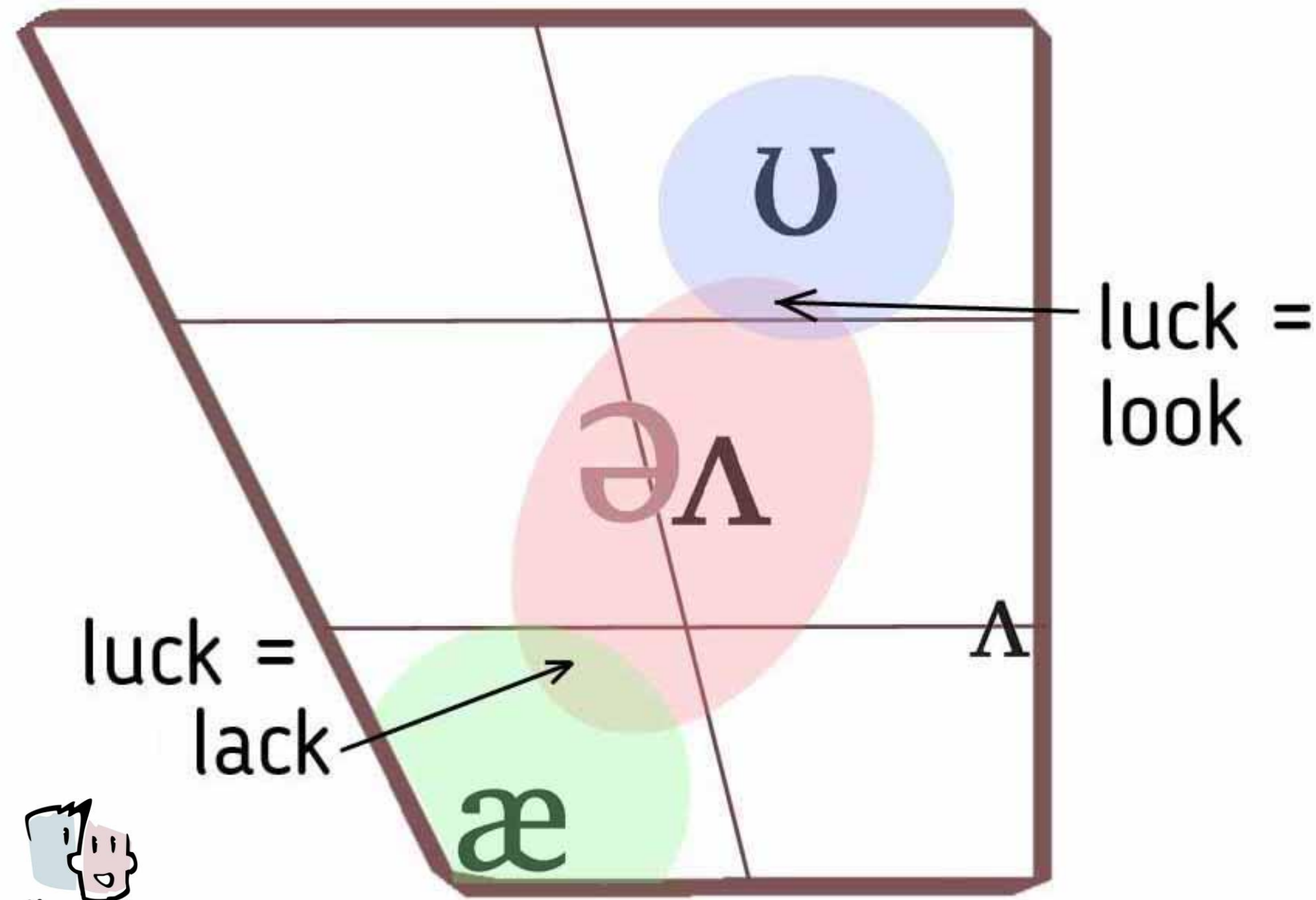
Hancock
McDonald.com

Λ
duck
_





ʌ Vietnamese [ʌŋ] ‘favour’
(This symbol is sometimes used
for a different vowel, the central
vowel in Eng. *hut* [hʌt].)



Uncle Gus

Uncle Gus

Doesn't **have** much **luck**

His **car** got **crushed**

By a **ten-ton truck**



He was **sitting** in a **pub**

Poor **Uncle Gus**

When his **house** got **struck**

By a **London bus**

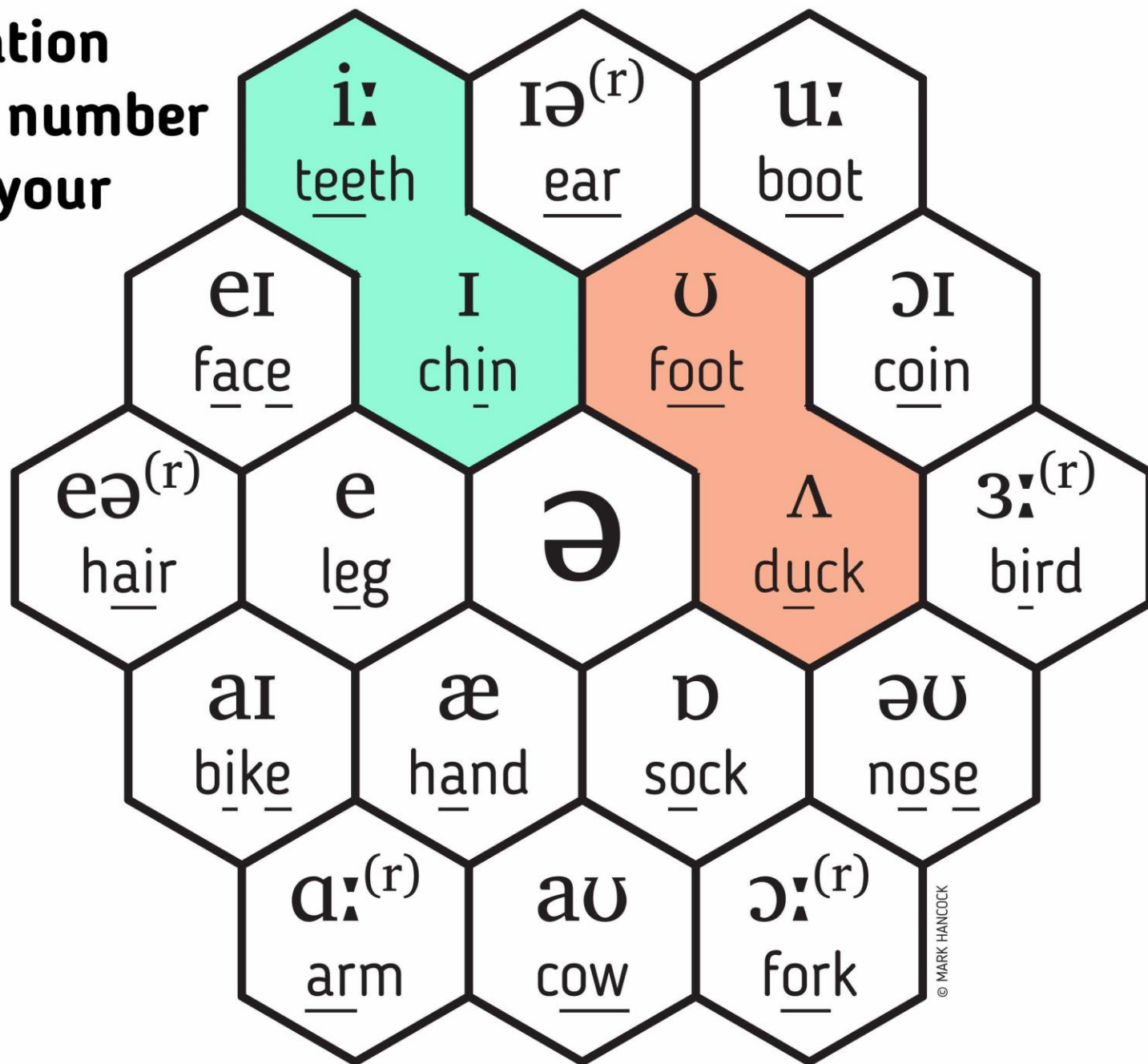


Photo: Willie Linn on Facebook group MULL
(*Map of the Urban Linguistic Landscape*)

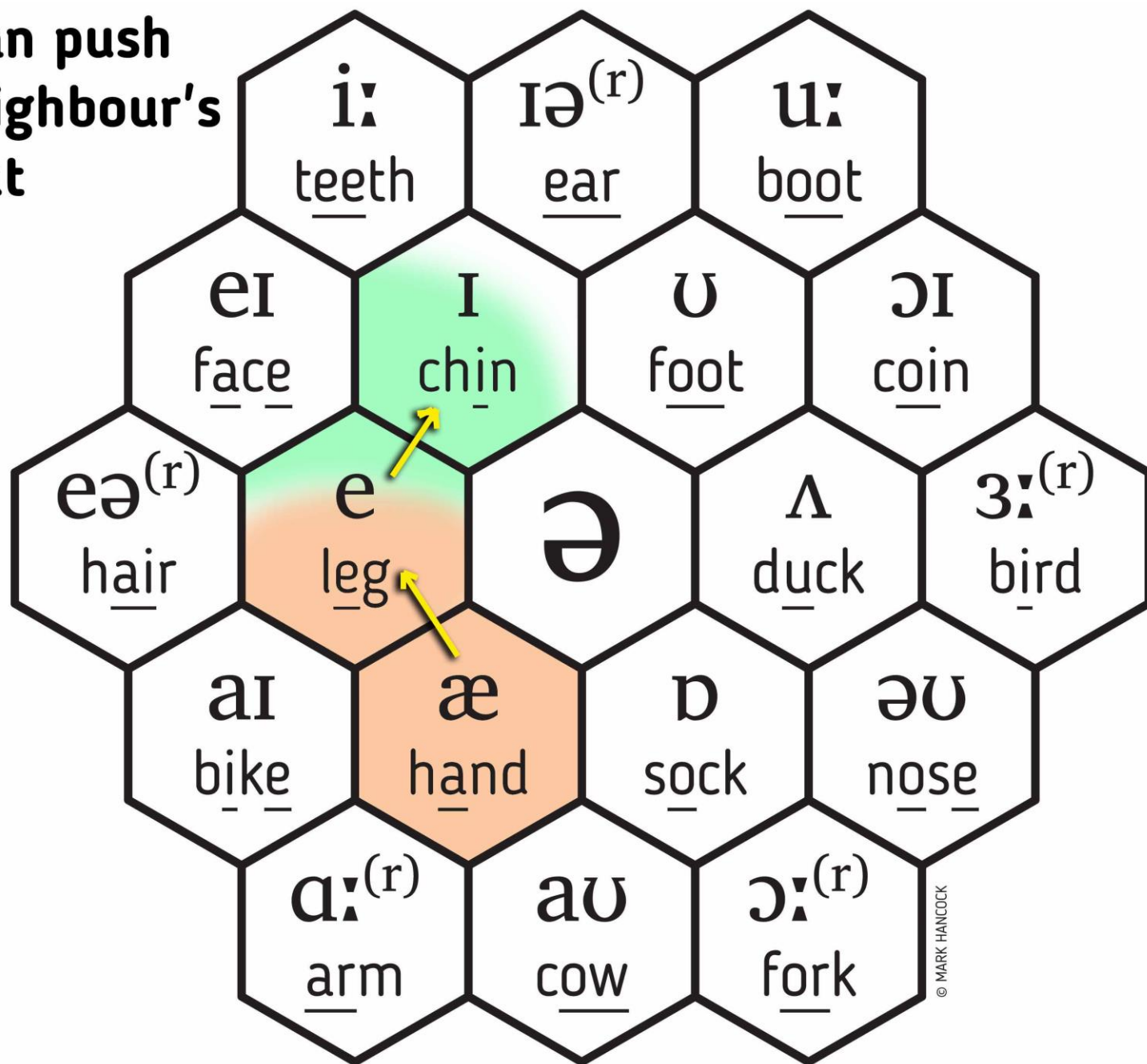
The **S**ofa KiNG

"I'M
SOFA KING
HAPPY"

Every conflation
reduces the number
of pixels in your
picture



Phonemes can push
into their neighbour's
space without
conflating



Symbols of Empowerment

- The symbol shape is **arbitrary**
- One symbol represents a **range** of sounds
- Symbols **don't** just represent **RP** or **GA**
- If you're an **intelligible** speaker of English, the symbols can represent ***your* accent**

The symbols are yours. **OWN** them!

