

4 Speech Organs

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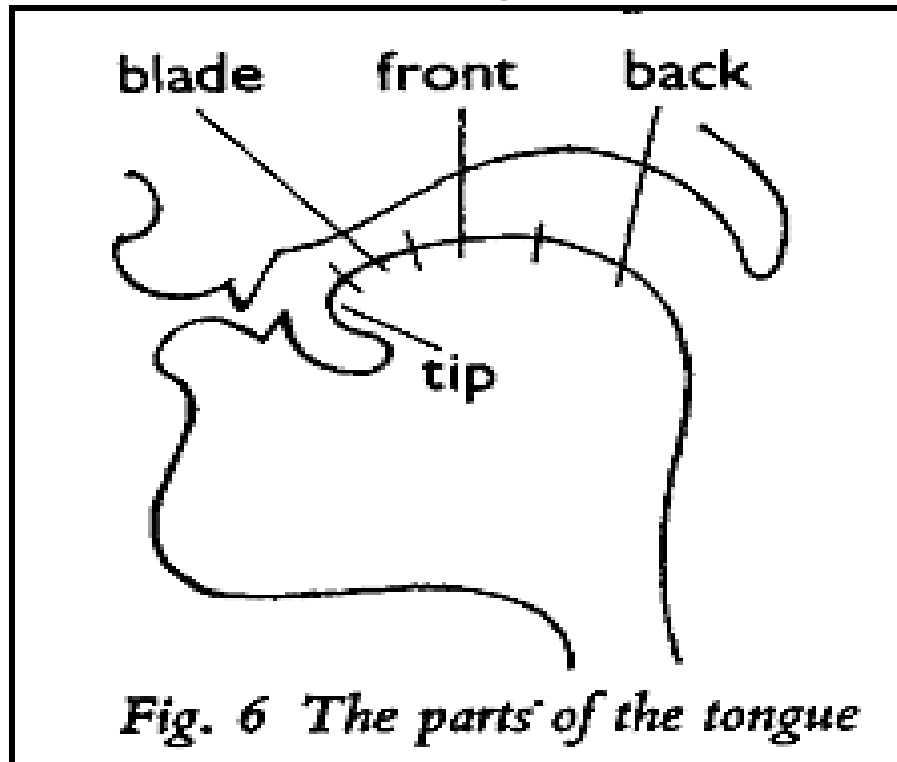
(3)

3. The Teeth

- **The lower front teeth are not important** in speech except that if they are missing certain sounds, e.g. /s, z/, will be difficult to make.
- **The two upper front teeth are used in English to some extent.** /θ , ð/

4. The Tongue

- **The tongue** is the most important of the organs of speech because it has the greatest variety of movement.
- It is divided into four parts.



4. The Tongue

- **The *back*** of the tongue lies under the soft palate when the tongue is at rest.
- **The *front*** lies under the hard palate.
- **The *tip*** and **the *blade*** lie under the alveolar ridge.
- The tip being the most forward part of all.
- **The *blade*** between the tip and the front.
- **The tip and blade are mobile and they can touch the whole of the lips, the teeth, the alveolar ridge and the hard palate.**
- The front can be flat on the bottom of the mouth or it can be raised to touch the hard palate,
- or it can be raised to any extent between these two extremes.

5. The Lips

The lips can take up various different positions.

- 1. They can be brought firmly together as in /p, b, m/ so that they completely block the mouth.**
- 2. The lower lip can be drawn inward and slightly upwards to touch the upper front teeth as in /f, v/.**
- 3. They can be kept apart either flat or with different amounts of rounding as in /ɪ, ʊ/**

THANKS FOR LISTENING