

# Distribution and production mechanisms of ejectives in German and English and consequences for the analysis of 'real' ejectives

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There is increasing evidence that non-pulmonic sound production is a systematic and widespread feature of languages, such as English and German, which are not generally treated as having clicks and ejectives as part of their phonological inventories. Stop releases fuelled by an oral or glottalic airstream mechanism need addressing at several levels of analysis. First, they arise from at least two different sources, not only resulting from active articulations, but also emerging as the epiphenomenal products of articulatory overlap (Marchal 1987; Ohala 1995, 1997; Simpson 2007). Second, besides being allophonic, clicks and ejectives also fulfil interactional functions (Ogden 2009), as well as being a systematic part of the range of sociophonetic variation a speaker can produce in different linguistic activities (Gordeeva & Scobbie 2006; Simpson 2007, 2010; Wright 2005, 2007).

In this talk I will examine the form, function and distribution of ejectives in English and German. In particular, I will show that at least two different types of production mechanism are possible, both giving rise to very similar acoustic products. In doing so, I will cast doubt on the traditional description of ejectives and the glottalic airstream mechanism and will consider the consequences for our descriptions of 'real' ejectives.

## References

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