

Re: Phonemes

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- *From:* "John Atkinson" <johnacko@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 21 Jun 2005 08:10:10 GMT
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"David Wright Sr." <dwrightsr@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote...

> "John Atkinson" <johnacko@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote...

>> David W:

>>> Do you think that all of those variations would be sufficiently different

>>> to a hearer under normal speech conditions that they really would be able

>>> to serve as phonemes?

>

>> So, the answer to your question seems to be: Yes, I think they would.

>>

>> Physiologically, at any rate. Neurologically, who knows whether the wiring is complex enough to handle so many?

>>

> Can you clarify a little more on this? I'm not sure how physiologically vs.

> neurologically would be different?

"Physiologically": Their mouth, tongue, and vocal chords would have no trouble producing them, and their ears would have no trouble distinguishing them.

"Neurologically": Does the language organ in their brains have sufficient synapses (or whatever) to deal with such a large number of basic units? I certainly don't know enough about how it works to say -- or even whether the question is answerable at all, or whether it's well-posed.

John.

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 - ◇ *From:* David Wright Sr.

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 - ◆ **Re: Phonemes**
 - ◇ *From:* Peter T. Daniels
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 - ◇ *From:* Ruud Harmsen
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