MINIMAL PAIR

ANI SETYANINGSIH
anisetyaningsih@uny.ac.id

Try pronouncing this:

She sells sea shells on the seashore.

The sick sixth sheik's sixth sheep is sick.

Minimal pair

- How do you define minimal pairs?
- Why are *fine* and *vine* considered as minimal pairs, while *soup* and *group* are not?

Requirements

- Having the same number of sounds
- Having one sound different
- The different sound has the same position
- Having one distinctive feature

What is a minimal pair and near-minimal pair? Give examples of each term.

▸ Check: O'Grady p. 70-71

▸ Minimal Pairs

Two words with distinct meanings that differ by only one sound found in the same position in each form and differentiated by one distinctive feature only.

▸ Near-Minimal Pairs

two words in a language which differ from each other by more than one distinctive features and which also differ in meaning

Decide whether the following pairs of words are minimal pairs or not and give reasons.

oma : opa

rand : rat

rad : rat

mile : mild

chunk : hunk

List some examples of minimal pairs contrasting these sounds in the initial and final position: /p, b/, /k, g/, /f, v/, /m, n/, /n, ŋ/, /θ, ð/ and / tʃ/, /dʒ/

Have a look at O'Grady p.125-127, then do exercise 1(i) and 4.