The history of the classical vowel articulation model: a reply to Catford and Fischer-Jørgensen

Abstract

This paper is devoted to a discussion of Catford's and Fischer-Jørgensen's defence of the classical vowel articulation model (1, 2, 3). The conclusion is that objections to the model are not directed at Bell's personality, but at the theoretical structure of his model: critical functions of the model are contradicted by empirical data and by acoustical theory. Nor are the objections only relevant for amendments introduced by Jones. That argument is contradicted by the chronology of the debate.
