

## A world without voice. Some consequences of Laryngeal Relativism

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The primary task of every linguist is to understand the area of her/his inquiry and describe it in a coherent way as a plausible story which, ideally, should dovetail with other fragments of the big picture following from other perspectives, which include both theoretical models within a given discipline as well as the relevant interdisciplinary results. The problem is that very often our pictures in individual disciplines are more of a movie, or worse, they may turn out to be a mirage. This does not mean that the big picture is unattainable. Interdisciplinary perspective very often provides verification for particular theoretical assumptions. I will look at the recent history of phonological theory as regards laryngeal systems, looking from the perspective of the interface between phonology and phonetics, and pointing to a number of instances of mirage. Interestingly, some of the mistaken views lead to quite new ways of looking at facts and to new theoretical assumptions, which I believe allow us to move forward, or at least broaden the perspective.