

# Conclusion

In this book we have treated speech production and perception as part of a general theory of speech. We have also included an applicational focus toward the end. Our objective has been to identify key areas of speech production and perception where we believe theoretical work needs to concentrate. Classical Phonetics provided a foundation for moving toward truly explanatory modelling. But speech is an area where several disciplines intersect, and we have warned against piecemeal interaction between these – interaction and cross fertilisation need to proceed with a common metatheory if true explanation of observations is to be achieved. Important areas of application (and we have mentioned just one or two) need a better speech theory than has so far been available, and we have made suggestions to this end. With Cognitive Phonetics and its central Supervisory Agent we develop a clearer, more dynamic and explanatory model to speech. Whatever models may be developed, the theory needs to link the main areas being investigated as we try to understand speech production and perception as special characteristics of human beings which extend out into all areas of our lives.