



# UNIVERSAL HUMAN SOUNDS

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## ABSTRACT

*Human being produce different types of oral sounds in their daily life in various ways for various reasons. Most of the oral sounds are made for direct communication which is known as language. There are over 7000 languages throughout the world. All the people on earth don't use the same language for communication. Different country use different languages. In many countries more than one language are prevailed. As it's not possible to learn all the 7000 languages, it's also not possible to communicate with all the people with all different languages from every corner of the world. But there are still few expressions that remains same for all language users. When a human cries, the sound of crying matches with other people around the world irrespective of countries and cultures. The sound of laughter, the sound of sigh, the sound of despair or consent are expressed with few very particular pattern of sounds that are considered in this article as universal human sounds. The sounds are used to express joy, sadness, shyness, wonder, fear and depression. These type of sounds are not part of language directly, but capable of manifesting lots of ideas . Just the use of a sound can refer the whole situation.*

## Introduction

Sound is an omnipresent aspect. Sound is everywhere. Scientists have proved that the presence of sound is not only on earth but also in space too where there is no existence of any living creature. If the audible sounds are not by any living creature ,then it must be natural sounds. Sounds of air flow, falling rain , burning fire, running river water-sooths human heart until they turn devastating. There is no human control over natural sounds. Human being can control only the sounds produced by their mouth organs. Another type of sounds are made by human being that happens due to their physical movement. Among all these sounds few are universal that are recognizable by all from any part of the world crossing the language boundary beyond any culture bound meaning.

## Types of Sounds Produced by Human Being

When people talk, sing, recite, quarrel, laugh, sneeze, snore or shout , sounds are made with the help of vocal cord . Again when people walk, dance or run , sounds are produced for physical movements. In both of the cases human being have the control over sounds to be produced. A person can control the speed of their walking or running, again they can control how loudly they will talk or shout . As it is mentioned earlier that sound can even indicate any situation or incident, to exemplify : someone can understand the difference between eating and galloping even keeping the eyes closed . Both the vocal cords and physical movements are under control.

Again we can import another type of sound in this discussion naming after metallic or instrumental sounds. When two hard matters collide with each other, metallic sounds occurs. On the other hand when sounds from matters occurs with the interference of human effort with systematic tempo , are the instrumental sounds. People play guitar, flute, drums, piano are all instrumental sounds that are also controllable.

## Difference Between Language and Random Sounds

Languages are nothing but the combinations of different sounds . What makes a language unique from other sounds is the systematic and scientific arrangement of sounds. A random sound might not create any sense as they don't have any conventional meaning. Language was not formed overnight. It took unimaginable time to form up a final language. But language is not any constant aspect. It's an everchanging process. It will be very normal if we see a cluster of sounds that has no meaning at present time , will carry a meaning after 100 years. Though all the random sounds are not insignificant. If a random sound is very often used as a means of expression , it turns to be a significant part of a language. This article specially focuses on the random sounds that are accepted universally.

## Universal Human Sounds

There are thousand of languages, approximately 7151 in total throughout the world, according to a data from an online publication of 'Ethnologue'. Amazingly they are all living languages that are spoken either widely or precisely. But none of the languages is universal. For example, English is spoken or used only in 67 countries among 195 countries. Every particular region possesses a distinct language. Let's say one country may have few other regional languages like colloquials, dialects, aboriginal languages besides having a national language. For instance : in Australia IPA English is used as national language to serve all the official, national and international purposes. In addition , Pidgin, Kriol and Awabakal English are some of the most used local languages in different parts of that country. Thus the only practical means of communication is language.

Except all these meaningful languages , some other oral sounds are on vogue ,though they don't have any dictionary meaning, they obviously mean something for the users. Those sounds are situation-based, produced on a spur of a moment of need. They are specially the sounds of expressions. Though these sounds are abstract, not having any proper physical aspect , here is a try to drop few examples : Hm, Hmm, Umm, Ah, Oh, Ow, Aww, Wow, Ouch, Eew, Yaak, Hush, Hurray, Ops, Phew , Huh etc. Let's see how these sounds are universal irrespective to all countries and cultures. These abstract sounds are often used in chain. The sounds are commonly appear with string. The frequency of utterance even shows the density of emotions.

“Hm” sound is mostly used to show consent. On the other hand, “Hmm” with a deep aspiration expresses acceptance with doubt. Then “Umm” is a sound of slight confusion. “Ah” is very often used as a shorter version of “I see! That's it!”.

“Oh” has multiple usage. It may mean consolation after knowing any misfortune.

- My grandpa died last night.
- Oh ! That's sad.

“Wow” is an expression of wonder and appreciation .

- Wow! You look drop dead gorgeous today.
- Wow ! That was an exciting football match.

“Ow” is an expression on finding out some new information about something.

- Ow! I didn't know that you are not going to the office party.

“Aww” is an adorable expression.

- Aww! The baby is so cute.

“Ouch” is a response to pain.

- Ouch , my finger is bleeding from the paper cut.

“Huh” generally comes out of depression and it represent “sigh”.

“Eew” type of sound shows disgust.

➤ Eew, you stink!

When someone taste something bad or feel like vomiting “Yaak” is the expression.

➤ Yaak...The food is stale.

“Hush” is uttered to demand silence.

➤ Hush...the baby is sleeping.

“Hurray” is a joyous outburst of ecstasy.

➤ Hurray , we won the match.

“Ops” is used for silly mistakes.

➤ Ops, I dropped my wallet at the store.

“Phew” is a sound for relief from any trouble. It shows close escape from some misfortune.

➤ Phew , we managed to catch the train on time.

So, these are some of the sounds used by adults or by any language users with intermediate or advance level of fluency. Besides, few more sounds are there used by the babies in their pre-linguistic development stage. Babies in all countries irrespectively make almost similar type of sounds to express their mental or physical state. The basic need of the babies are food, sleep, love and attention. They apprise of their need through crying. Every cry is unique than the other cries in terms of pitch and tone. So, again the cries of babies are also universal human sound as the pattern of the cries are same for all babies throughout the world.

## Conclusion

Lastly it can be said that universal human sounds are like a bridge among different language users. The unique sounds are shared by all the different language speakers. The use of such sounds forms up an emotive connection between people who are distinct language wise as well as culture wise.

## References

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