

Phonetic Peculiarities of the English Language

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Abstract: The following article is focused on terms and categories of English phonetics. Also the article looks at both the general meaning of the aspect phonetics and in the terms of the English language additionally it defines the importance of learning phonetics to communicate efficiently in English language, it gives information about types of sounds and their number which has been taken from different resources covering given aspect of the language.

Keywords—sounds, vowels, consonants, phoneme, voiced, voiceless.

1. INTRODUCTION

Language performs its function as an important means of human intercourse as a language of sounds since spoken words in all languages consist of speech sound which is impossible without words whilst words consist of letters that are only used to represent speech in writing. But words pronounced or written in isolation can not express thoughts or feeling as they can not express thoughts or feelings as they can only verbalized in sentences which should contain several words connected with grammar rules and pronounced in an appropriate way.

2. DISCUSSION

According A.A Abduazizov (from the Greek word *phone* means sound, voice and *-tike-* a science) is a special science which studies the phonemic substance and the expression area of the language, or otherwise they physical media of a language (sounds, syllables, stress and intonation) whilst Sokolova M.A states that phonetics is the study which is concerned with human noises, by which thoughts and feelings are actualized or given audible form. From the two definitions given by two linguists, we have come to the conclusion that phonetics is the science and study of speech sounds which is more focused on representing process rather than its contextual role. Four main types of phonetics may be distinguished:

- **General phonetics** – is a part of general linguistics and studies the human abilities to produce sound, function mechanism and the ways they are used in all languages to pronounce speech sound syllables, stress and intonation.
- **Descriptive phonetics** – studies the phonetic system of a specific language. For example the phonetic of Russian, Uzbek or English languages.
- **Historical or diachronic phonetics** – Historical phonetics studies the changes that phonetics undergoes during the development process of the language and its materials may be based on both written historical and literary moments while diachronic phonetics focuses on present status of a language and compares them.
- **Comparative typological phonetics** – is one of the parts of comparative typological linguistics that studies phonetic features of two more languages of different system,

for example: *English – Uzbek, or Russian* and etc. its fundamental function is to use linguistic categorization of all various units of the language in linguistics.

3. Phonetics in terms of the English language:

As we stated earlier, phonetics is the science and study of speech which are divided into *vowels* and *consonants*.

- **Vowels** are sounds produced when the flow of air coming from lungs is not blocked and the vocal cords vibrate.
- **Consonants** are sounds made by blocking the flow of air coming out from the lungs.

The single sound is called **phoneme** which is the smallest unit of speech that can be used to make one word different from another word. There are 44 phonemes in English phonetics: 20 vowel and 24 consonant phonemes.

Key to Phonetic Symbols

Vowels	Examples	Consonants	Examples
[i:]	See eat	[b]	<i>bed about</i>
[ɪ]	It sit	[d]	<i>do side</i>
[e]	End pen	[f]	<i>Fill safe</i>
[æ]	Apple black	[g]	<i>Good big</i>
[a:]	Arm part	[h]	<i>Hat behind</i>
[ɒ]	Opposite stop	[j]	<i>Yes you</i>
[ɔ:]	Always more	[l]	<i>Lose allow</i>
[u]	Would stood	[m]	<i>Me lamp</i>
[u:]	You choose	[n]	<i>No any</i>
[ʌ]	Up luck	[p]	<i>Put stop</i>
[ɜ:]	Early	[r]	<i>Run around</i>

	bird		
[ə]	Ago doctor	[n]	Soon us
[eɪ]	Eight day	[t]	Talk last
[əʊ]	Open phone	[v]	Very live
[aɪ]	Eyes drive	[w]	Win swim
[aʊ]	Out now	[z]	Zoo loves
[ɪə]	Ear near	[ʃ]	Ship push
[ɔɪ]	Boy join	[ʒ]	measure usual
[eə]	Air wear	[ŋ]	Sing hoping
[uə]	Sure tourist	[tʃ]	Cheap catch
		[θ]	Thin bath
		[ð]	Then other
		[dʒ]	June age

4. The classification of vowel sounds

As it was mentioned above a vowel sound is a voiced sound produced when flow of air is not blocked. The English vowels are divided into two large groups: *monophthongs* and *diphthongs*

- **Monophthong** is a pure vowel sound, one whose articulation at both beginning and end are relatively fixed. There are 12 monophthongs: [i:], [ɪ], [e], [æ], [ɑ:], [ɔ], [ɔ], [u], [u:], [ʌ], [ə:], [ə].

- **Diphthong** is a complex vowel sound which starts sounding like one vowel sound, but changes and ends sounding like another one. The first element of an English diphthong is called the nucleus. The second element is called the glide (it is weak). There are 8 monophthongs: [eɪ], [uə], [aɪ], [aʊ], [ɔɪ], [ɪə], [eə], [əʊ].

5. The classification consonant sounds

As we stated earlier, a consonant is a sound produced by blocking the flow of air coming from lungs. According to state of vocal cords, consonants are divided into *voiced* and *voiceless*.

- A voiceless consonant is a sound in which the vocal cords vibrate while pronouncing and they are the sounds like: [b], [d], [m], [n] and etc.

- A voiced consonant is a sound in which the vocal cords remain stable and they are the sounds like: [p], [s], [t], [k] and etc.

6. CONCLUSION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

By coming out the terms that have been listed above, we can conclude that English phonetics is one of the most

necessary aspects for an EFL student so it requires a specific attention in order to avoid confusion during communication.

7. REFERENCE

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