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SELF-LEARNING MATERIAL

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MA ENGLISH

MEN 202 : LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

w.e.f Academic Session: 2023-24

CENTRE FOR DISTANCE AND ONLINE EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY MEGHALAYA

nirf India Ranking-2023 (151-200)

Accredited 'A' Grade by NAAC

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MEN 202

LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

Unit	Content
1	Linguistics: Phonology Linguistics – Definitions and Assumptions What and Why of Linguistics? Speech Mechanism Cardinal vowel scale English Vowels, Diphthongs, Consonants Stress, Intonation, Elision, Assimilation
2	Definition of Morphemes Classification of Morphemes Bound Morphemes Free Morphemes Derivational and Inflectional Morphemes Zero Morphemes Allomorph
3	Sentence Patterns Analysis
4	Introduction to LSRW Methods of Language Learning

PAPER CODE: MEN 202

PAPER TITLE: LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

Content

Unit	Particulars
1	• Linguistics: Phonology • Linguistics – Definitions and Assumptions • What and Why of Linguistics? • Speech Mechanism • Cardinal vowel scale • English Vowels, Diphthongs, Consonants • Stress, Intonation, Elision, Assimilation
2	• Definition of Morphemes • Classification of Morphemes • Bound Morphemes • Free Morphemes Derivational and Inflectional Morphemes Zero Morphemes Allomorph
3	• Sentence Patterns • Analysis
4	• Introduction to LSRW • Methods of Language Learning

UNIT 1: LINGUISTICS: PHONOLOGY

UNIT STRUCTURE

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

To prepare students to understand the scientific study of language and the concepts of phonetics and phonology.

To enable them to understand the functions of different speech organs.

To identify different vowel and consonant sounds.

To use proper stress.

INTRODUCTION

This unit shall look at the ways by which speech sounds are produced or articulated in the vocal tract. The variety that is often preferred for teaching purposes is what is known as Received Pronunciation (RP). It is regionally neutral and is comprehensible at an international level of speech. The approach to the discussion on the sounds of English would begin with a close look at the concepts of phonetics and phonology.

Phonetics is the scientific and linguistics analysis of speech sounds, in terms of their production, transmission and reception. It studies how a spoken language is perceived. Touching upon physiology and physics, phonetics is now a pure science that studies speech

processes including the anatomy, neurology and pathology of speech besides the articulation, description, classification, production and perception of speech sounds. The study of phonetics can be divided into three main branches, acoustic, auditory and articulatory phonetics.

Articulatory phonetics: This is the branch of phonetics that deals with production of sounds.

Auditory phonetics: This is the branch of phonetics that deals with the transmission of sounds

Acoustic phonetics: This is the branch of phonetics that deals with reception and perception of sounds.

Phonology deals with the physical characteristics of language in general. It is concerned with how a particular language organises its sounds into distinct units which are called phonemes. It also deals with how the phonemes are combined into syllables and how the prosodic features length, stress and pitch are organised into patterns.

THE PRODUCTION OF SPEECH

The use of spoken language involves a complex system of functions. An air stream (moving current of air) is the basis of speech sounds. The air that flows out of our mouth gets modification into speech sounds by the actions of certain organs of our body such as lungs, vocal cords, wind pipe which is called the trachea, tongue, lips, teeth, teeth-ridge, roof of the mouth cavity, epiglottis, nasal cavity, uvula, etc. In phonetics, these organs which are used in the production of speech sounds are referred to as vocal organs or speech organs or organs of speech. The shape of the mouth cavity depends on the position of the tongue and both the lips. The roof of the mouth can be divided into three parts: the teeth ridge, the hard palate. and the soft palate. The soft palate is normally raised to block the nasal passage and the air from the lungs comes out through the mouth and are called oral sounds. The soft palate when lowered allows the air from the lungs to come out through the nose and are called nasal sounds. The soft palate when kept in a neutral position allows the air from the lungs to come out through both the oral and the nasal cavities and are called nasalized sounds. The lips can have various positions from being rounded to neutral to unrounded. The lips can assume

various positions, from being rounded to neutral to unrounded. 'I'he tongue has three sections - the part opposite the teeth ridge is called the blade and its end is called the tip. The part opposite the hard palate is called the front and that opposite to the soft palate is called the back. The part at the base of the tongue is called the root. Various parts of the tongue can be raised to the roof of the mouth to produce different sounds.

THE SPEECH SOUNDS

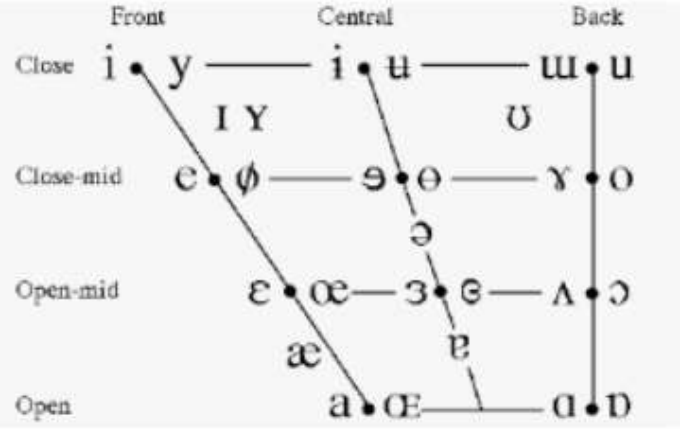
Vowels and Consonants

Vowels and consonants are the two broad categories of speech sounds. Vowel sounds are produced when the air from the lungs comes out freely through the mouth and the vocal cords vibrate to produce voice. There is no closure of the air passage and no narrowing that would cause audible friction. The remaining sounds are called consonants. Vowels can be classified based on:

(a) the position of lips,

(b) the part of tongue that is raised,

© the height to which it is raised.



Consonants

Consonants are produced by means of an obstruction in mouth or by a narrowing of the air passage. Consonant are classified on the basis of the following dimensions:

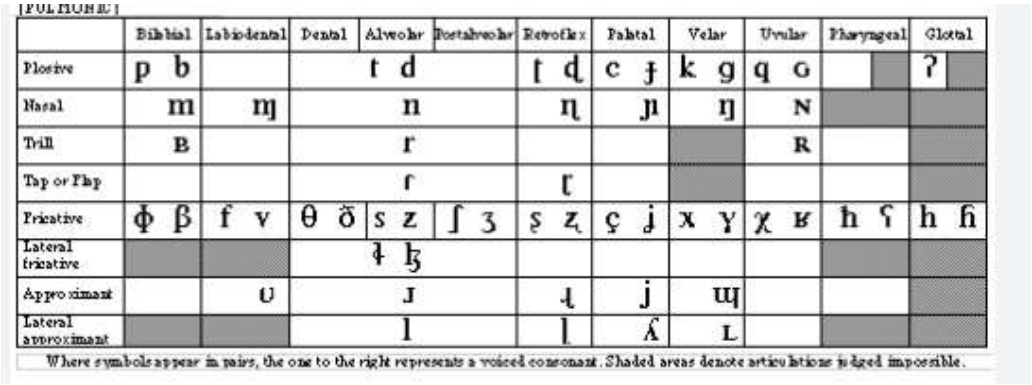
(a) The nature of airstream mechanism

(b) The position of the soft-palate/ velum

(c) The state of the glottis

(d) The point or place of articulation

(e) The manner of articulation



	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Plosive	p b			t d		ʈ ɖ	c ɟ	k g	q ɢ		ʔ
Nasal	m	ɱ		n		ɳ	ɲ	ŋ	ɴ		
Trill	ʙ			r					ʀ		
Tap or Flap				ɾ		ɽ					
Fricative	ɸ β	f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ	ʂ ʐ	ç ʝ	x ɣ	χ ʁ	ħ ʕ	h ɦ
Lateral fricative				ɬ ɮ							
Approximant		ʋ		ɹ		ɻ	j	ɰ			
Lateral approximant				l		ɭ	ʎ	ʟ			

Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a voiced consonant. Shaded areas denote articulations judged impossible.

LET US SUM UP

In this unit, we have discussed about phonetics and phonology, articulatory, auditory and acoustic phonetics, speech sounds-vowels and consonants.

FURTHER READING

Crystal, David, Linguistics, Penguin Books Ltd. Middlesex, England, 1980.

Lyons, John, *Language and Linguistics*, Cambridge University Press, United Kingdom, Reprinted 2014.

Ladefoged, P. and Johnson K., A Course in Phonetics, Wadsworth Cenage Learning, Boston, USA, 2011.

MODEL QUESTIONS

What is phonetics?

What is phonology?

What are the important organs of speech?

What are vowels and consonants?