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Applied Linguistics in English
"Phonology"

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1. Introduction

Phonology is a branch of linguistics that studies the sound patterns of language. Phonology is the study of how sounds are organized and used in natural languages. The meaning of "phonology" shifts slightly when used in different fields. In top-down phonology, the methodology starts by postulating a small set of abstract cognitive "phonological" elements that are used to signal allophonic form-identifying features. Bottom-up phonology starts with implementation; cognitive execution is shown to be distributed in space and time among a variety of local processes, none of which perform formatively. Phonology also differs from phonetics. Whereas phonetics concerns the physical production and perception of the sounds of speech, phonology describes the way sounds function within a given language or across languages to encode meaning. Phonology can be used in a variety of ways. As mentioned at the start, different researchers can approach the study of its meaning in different ways. Observational phonology may only describe the observed sounds, without any assumptions about meaning. However, theoretical phonologists seek to devise phonological generalizations. Such devisings can push the limits of practical phonological reasoning, or abstraction, as is seen in, e.g., features programação no canal 30 da net generalization or overinclusivity arguments in debates over usage of a feature, or debates over whether a given phenomenon must be polarized or if an intermediate will be observed.

Phonology is an area of research in its own right, but it additionally provides key pieces of information. For instance, phonological information can be brought to bear in historical and comparative linguistics, in language engineering, and in clinical (speech-language pathology) practice. As such, a phonological study can yield both practical and academic benefits. It may also help to understand how a particular language operates. As an example, the German and English words 'bit' and 'bitten' may differ by one sound and both words are accented on their final syllable in English. However, it is generally the case in English that if that syllable is following an accented syllable, it will be less prominently pronounced. Such a rule may assist in comprehending the pattern of certain speaker's pronunciations

1.1 Definition

Phonology is the study of sounds in a language, and a phonologist is someone who studies the abstract, organized sound patterns of a language. The use of experimental and quantitative methods to test hypotheses is also a prominent feature within the field of phonology. Phonologists often work on the goal of formulating general laws that give an account of the phonological patterns that occur in human language. Data that is used in this elective can take on many forms, all of which reflect differences in various language groups. This includes things like phonetic data, where phonologists may try to learn about the features or sounds that are associated with phones. Next, there are languages from the underrepresented portions of the world, such as the Native American languages or Aboriginal languages; languages from all around the world and from every language family have the potential to be studied and add to the depth of this elective. Phonology is the study of the function and interpretation of sounds in a language. By this, it implies that the primary goal of phonology in linguistics is to categorize and establish participants which sounds can alter meaning, distinguish the meaning of a word, and act as linguistic competences, and what sounds are typical or acceptable. Phonology is also closely connected to other areas of study such as morphology, syntax, and semantics. This field helps illustrate the different ways in which speakers navigate language and how there are common structural and pattern strategies used. Phonologists also use their understanding of the sound structure of language to aid in language acquisition for those learning English as a second language and even for those who have general speech problems.

1.2. Importance of Phonology in Linguistics

Phonology is the study of the organization of sounds in natural languages and attempts to quantify and classify their sound patterns. This area of linguistic research has a wide range of applications, and specialists are interested in many different aspects of a language's phonology. For a start, it is essential to recognize the sounds that are used in a particular language. Every language uses a different set of sounds, and these sounds are often used in different combinations in different words. Some specialists, known as descriptive phonologists, focus on studying the rules governing how sounds are expressed in a language. These rules can often depend on the context of a word; for example, in English, the 'p' sound at the beginning of "pot" would often be aspirated slightly; that is, a small extra puff of air is released. However, the same sound at the end of "stop" would not be aspirated. In contrast to this methodology, other phonologists might approach a language's phonology from a theoretical view, developing principles that apply across all languages to provide deep insights into the nature of human language and speech. Another important methodical distinction in the field is between segmental and suprasegmental phonology. Segmental phonology takes into account only the individual sounds or 'segments' in a language, which are typically vowels and

consonants. On the other hand, suprasegmental phonology examines areas of study such as stress, intonation, and rhythm, which concern how these individual sounds are used to express meaning in context. Because of these extensive applications and methods of study, phonologists often find it necessary to use spoken language in their work. This might involve recording speech sounds on a computer to be analyzed using specialist software called phonetics. Phonetics is concerned with the physical properties of sounds, and it has a base in physics and biology to some extent, with regards to the anatomy and analysis of sound-producing instruments in the human body. On the other hand, phonology is the study of the ways in which sounds function within a given language. Phonology is a more abstract and less concrete area of study than phonetics, and the traditional phonological possible D has a park worked with that in that car wait and not in short. Phonologists are interested in a wide range of issues, ranging from the purely abstract and theoretical to practical problem-solving.

1.3 Historical development of phonology

Historical development of phonology involves the evolution of phonological thinking from ancient times to the present. It can be divided into different periods and key figures who shaped the field. In the 19th century, developments in historical and comparative linguistics laid the foundations for modern phonological theory, addressing issues such as the phonetics-phonology interface, mental grammar, contrast, and variation . The theory of generative phonology emerged in the 1950s and 1960s, influenced by the collaboration of Jakobson and Halle, the formalization of American structuralist phonology by Harris, and the critique by Chomsky . The theory built on earlier ideas, including distinctive features and mathematical models, and introduced new concepts like the phoneme and English stress patterns . The study of historical phonology provides insights into the development of sound changes over time and the cognitive mechanisms involved in language evolution.

2. Phonemes and Allophones

2.1 Definition and Characteristics

An allophone is one of the two or more variants of the same phoneme in a language.

For example

Pen P (strong puff);

Spin P (weak puff);

Stop (no puff)

Besides, all these variations do not influence on the meaning of the words.

Example

The word VASE

/Vo:z/; /Veiz/; /Vaz/

2.2 Phonemic Inventory

In English, there are 44 phonemes, or word sounds that make up the language. They're divided into 19 consonants, 7 digraphs, 5 'r-controlled' sounds, 5 long vowels, 5 short vowels, 2 'oo' sounds, 2 diphthongs.

Here we can learn and understand those 44 sounds along with some other blended and special sounds used in English. If you're ever unsure of how to pronounce phonemes in English, you can refer back to this guide and piece together any word or phrase confidently.

19 Consonant Phonemes

In this list, we can see that the consonants x, q, and c do not have unique phonemes. This is because these letters are made by other sounds:

- C-sounds that make a /k/ in crop, crack, creep and
- C-sounds that make an /s/ in central, cent, and cite.
- Q-sounds are also in words that contain the letters 'kw' as in walkway, parkway, and awkward.
- X-sounds are also in words with 'cks' as in backstop, rocks, and necks

/b/ – beg and bag

/d/ – doe and deal

/f/ – fall and fit

/g/ – goal and gill

/h/ – has and him

/j/ – job and jolt

/k/ – cap and kite

/l/ – lip and load

/m/ – map and moth

/n/ – net and nip

/p/ – pin and plot

/r/ – run and rope

/s/ – sat and small

/t/ – toe and tale

/v/ – vin and volt

/w/ – wait and wind

/y/ – yam and yet

/z/ – zip and zoo

7 Digraph Phonemes

Digraphs form when two consonants work together to create a completely different sound. The two consonants have different sounds on their own and are most often—but not always—seen at the start or end of a word.

/ch/ – watch and chime

/sh/ – shift and short

/ng/ – ring and sting

/th/ (voiced) – weather and thin

/th/ (unvoiced) – thing and thunder

/zh/ – genre and division

/wh/ (with breath) – what

5 R-Controlled, or Influenced, Phonemes

These phonemes are controlled or influenced by the letter r.

/a(r)/ – car and far

/ā(r)/ – fair and chair

/i(r)/ – here and steer

/o(r)/ – core and door

/u(r)/ – fern and burn

5 Long Vowel Phonemes

/ā/ – day and eight

/ē/ – beet and sleep

/ī/ – pie and sky

/ō/ – boat and row

/ū/ – hue and chew

5 Short Vowel Phonemes

/a/ – bat and laugh

/e/ – medical and bread

/i/ – sit and lip

/o/ – hot and orange

/u/ – shut and cut

2 'oo' vowel Phonemes

/oo/ – took and could

/ōō/ – moon and

If you're having trouble with 'oo' and [other vowel sounds](#), we've got you covered!

2 Diphthongs

A [diphthong](#) is two vowels that work together to form another sound.

/ow/ – mouse and cow

/oy/ – coin and toy

Sound Blends

This list is a group of common sounds we can hear in English. They're a group of **Consonant Blends** that create distinct sounds, and we'll often see them at the beginning of a word. Most of the sounds are a blend of the consonant sounds described above, but when they work together, their sound is quick and smooth.

bl – blot and blunder

cl – clot and clam

fl – flow and flop

gl – glow and glamor

pl – plot and play

br – brat and broke

cr – cream and crop

dr – drop and drove

fr – frail and frozen

gr – grand and grow

pr – pronoun and prime

tr – trash and trust

sk – skip and sky

sl – slot and slow

sp – sponge and spell

st – still and stand

sw – swat and sway

spr – spruce and spring

str – strip and stretch

2.3 Allophonic Variation - Consonants

It has to do with multiple pronunciation variants for the same phonological units in a given word.

3. Phonological processes

- a) Aspirated
- b) Assimilation
- c) Nasalization
- d) Dessimilation
- e) Deletion
- f) Vowel reduction
- g) Epenthesis
- h) Metathesis
- i) Flapping

a) Aspiration

It is a phonological process that we use in English to alter the sound of /p/ and other voiceless stops.

Alterations are often made in order to make the words easier for the speaker to articulate, or for the listener to hear, and as a result, are considered more efficient.

Not producing the proper phoneme creates meaning problems for ELLs. Not using the proper phonological rules allows accents to persist. The phonological rules tell what change to make to which sounds in which situation.

So aspiration is a process of adding an extra puff of air to a sound.

The aspiration rule in English says to aspirate (process) voiceless stops (sounds) at the beginnings of stressed syllables (environment).

b) Assimilation

In Assimilation one speech segment influences another and makes it similar to itself

Assimilation is what we notice with the word train. Repeat train out loud a few times. Notice the movement and position of your tongue and lips.

The lip rounding of /ɪ/ is usually included in the pronunciation of the /t/ before it.

This is anticipatory assimilation because a speaker assimilates the next sound and makes the one just before it similar to the following one.

The opposite can happen too, where a speaker carries one feature of one sound over to the next sound in the word.

This is called perseveratory assimilation.

One example is the word please. For some speakers, the voiceless feature of [p] perseveres longer, carrying over to the /l/ and making it voiceless, too.

c) Nasalization

Nasalization is a particular kind of anticipatory assimilation. Nasalization occurs when an upcoming nasal affects the sound, usually a vowel, just before it. In English we anticipate nasals, usually vowels.

d) Dissimilation

Dissimilation happens when a sound segment is changed to make it less like an adjacent segment.

In the English words fifth and sixth, the last two sounds are both fricatives: [fɪfθ] and [sɪksθ].

Fifth ends with a voiceless labiodental fricative followed by a voiceless interdental fricative.

Sixth ends with a voiceless alveopalatal fricative followed by a voiceless interdental fricative.

Some native speakers of English change the final sound segment from a fricative to a stop, saying [fɪft] instead of [fɪfθ] and [sɪkst] instead of [sɪksθ].

e) Deletion

In deletion a sound segment is removed from a word.

Some speakers of English delete the final /ɪ/ on words like dinner and the medial /ə/ in family.

The final /b/ on some words is deleted after an /m/, but remains when there is a following syllable. Examples:

crumb-crumble

bomb-bombard

Sometimes deletion is the end result over time of either assimilation or dissimilation. If a sound is made more like an adjacent sound, it might eventually simply become that sound. If a sound is made so different from another sound, it might be removed altogether since no sound at all is the most different from having a sound!

f) Vowel Reduction

Sometimes a sound doesn't disappear completely. It might simply be reduced. In the process of vowel reduction a vowel segment is articulated with a more centralized tongue position than normal.

The word maintain is pronounced [men 'ten]

But the related word maintenance is pronounced ['men tən əns]

When the stress shifted, the vowel /e/ was reduced to a central vowel, schwa [ə].

g) Epenthesis

In the process of epenthesis a sound segment is added.

When children are pleading with their parents, they often say [pə lɪz] instead of [plɪz] for the word please, adding an extra vowel between the /p/ and /l/.

h) Metathesis

Metathesis occurs when sound segments are reordered.

Some English speakers say [aks] instead of [ask].

i) Flapping

The process of flapping changes a stop (or trill) to a flap

In English /t/ becomes /r/ between two vowels, like in water [wæɹə].

In Spanish, the trill /r/ becomes a flap in the name Maria.

These phonological processes can be used in combinations. For example:

President Bush is famous for saying [nu.kjə.ləʃ] instead of [nu.kli.əʃ].

This pronunciation change, [nu.kjə.ləʃ] instead of [nu.kli.əʃ], contains three different processes:

Metathesis of the /l/ and /i/

Epenthesis of palatal glide [j]

Reduction of [i] to [ə]

4. Syllable structure

4.1 Onset; Nucleus and Coda

Onset: It is the initial phonological unit of a word

Example

B in the word Big

Nucleus: It is usually the vowel in the middle of a syllable

Example

I in the word Big

Coda: It usually made up of consonants at the end of a syllable

Example

ndz in the word Stands

4.2 Syllable types

There are six types of syllables:

A **closed syllable** ends in a consonant. The vowel has a short vowel sound, as in the word bat.

An **open syllable** ends in a vowel. The vowel has a long vowel sound, as in the first syllable of apron.

A vowel-consonant-e syllable is typically found at the end of a word. The final e is silent and makes the next vowel before it long, as in the word name.

A **vowel team syllable** has two vowels next to each other that together say a new sound, as in the word south.

A **consonant+l-e syllable** is found in words like handle, puzzle, and middle.

An **r-controlled syllable** contains a vowel followed by the letter r. The r controls the vowel and changes the way it is pronounced, as in the word car.

Well, throughout all these concepts and rules concerning the phonological units of a given word, we could see that whoever intends to master or teach English Language or any other language out there, phonemes and allophones are the first concepts they must take into consideration; due to their huge importance when it comes to the production of the required meaningful speech sounds which can bridge an existing gap between a speaker and a listener in the midst of a conversation. So, a phonological process-based English Language study or teaching is a recommended method.

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