

# What is Phonology?

- **Phonetics and Phonology** - both can be generally described as the study of speech sounds
- **Phonetics** – specifically the study of how speech sounds are produced, what their physical properties are, and how they're produced
- **Phonology** – the description of the systems and patterns of speech sounds; based on a theory of what every speaker of a language unconsciously knows about the sound patterns of that language



The study of the sounds from the point of view of their linguistic function resulted in distinguishing such phonetic unit as a  
p h o n e m e.

# WHAT IS PHONEME?

- ✓ **Phoneme** is small set of speech sounds that are distinguished by the speakers of a particular language.
- ✓ **Phoneme** is the smallest contrastive unit in the sound system of a language.
- ✓ **Phoneme** is a minimal unit that serves to distinguish between meanings of words.
- ✓ **Phoneme** is a group of sounds with distinctive acoustic characteristics.

The discriminatory function consists in distinguishing one sequence of sounds (words, sentences, texts) from another with a different meaning (e.g. back – bag: due to the force of articulation we can differentiate between the meaning = fortis /k/ and lenis /g/).

A social function of speech sounds manifest itself in their role in forming syllables, words, word combinations and sentences. A social function of speech sounds is determined by social and territorial stratification of the language. One's pronunciation may change in accordance with a social situation and the contents of information.