



# *The Phonetic Style – Forming Means*

# Questions

- 1) What features may the phonetic styles have?
- 2) Enumerate those prosodic features which enable people to distinguish between different phonetic styles.



***The phonetic style – forming means*** are the degree of assimilation, reduction and elision, all of which depend on the degree of carefulness of pronunciation.



*Changes in the sound structure and the syllabic structure of speech* were taken into consideration. But the investigations show that phonetic styles differ *prosodically* too.



*Assimilation, reduction and elision are* **natural phonetic phenomena**, which occur in any pronunciation style. These phenomena are caused by an unconscious economy of effort, known as “ **the law of least effort** ”, which is universal for all languages.



The speaker is to a definite extent governed by his audience in choice of *vocabulary units, grammatical structures, tempo of speech, distinctiveness of articulation, and so on.*





For example, ['lemɪsi:] for "let me see", [dnəʊ] for "don't know",  
[freɪdnɒt] for "afraid not", ['sʌmpm] for "something"



Elision, reduction and assimilation may, therefore, signal stylistic differences. Take the sentence “We can trust him to do it well” said in 2 different ways:

(1) wi kn 'trʌst ɪm tə 'du ɪt ʌwel

(2) wi: kæn 'trʌst hɪm tu 'du: ɪt ʌwel





O'Connor states that they belong to different styles: *the 1st to colloquial conversation, the 2nd to a political speech delivered to a large audience.*

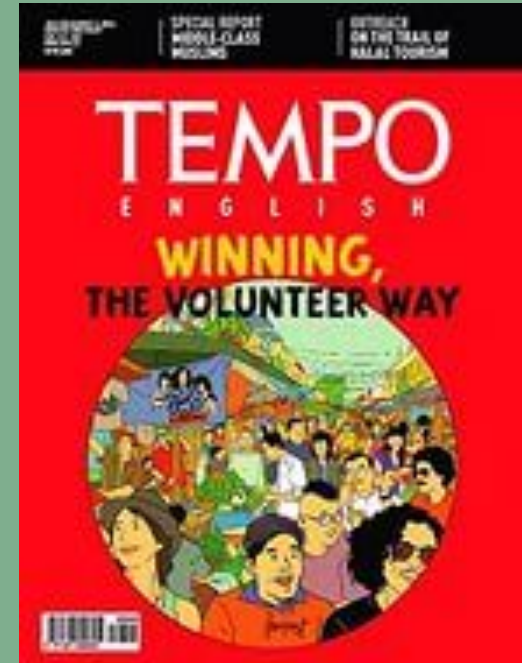
On account of all that, the degree of assimilation, reduction and elision may serve to distinguish phonetic styles.



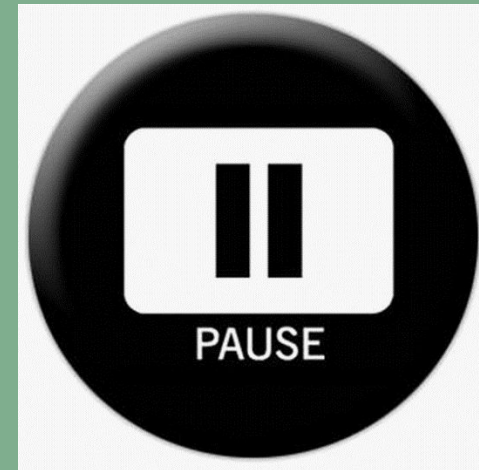
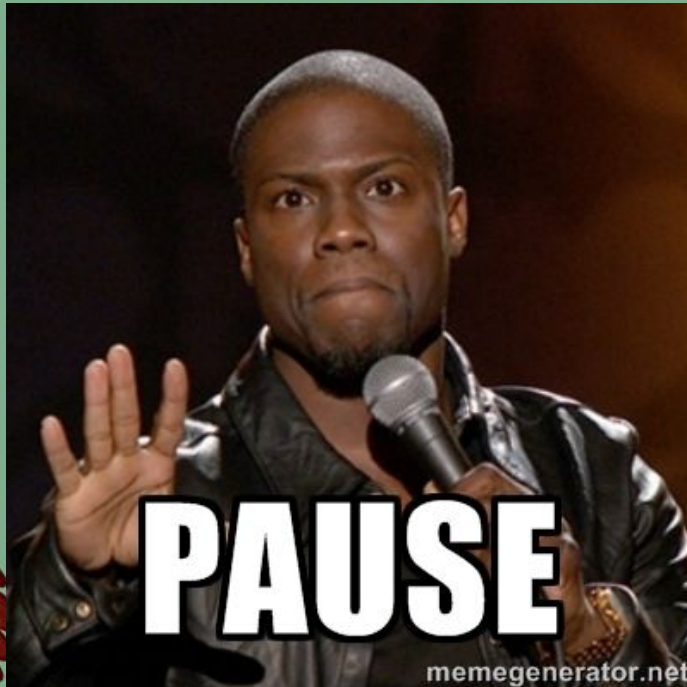
Each speaker has a norm of loudness which may depart from in different circumstances. His speech is generally characterized by a more or less regular usage of certain tones. But there are circumstances when he introduces into his speech *tonal variations, variations of pitch levels and ranges specific for definite styles of pronunciation.*



Each speaker has a norm of speech tempo as well.



Pauses also help to distinguish different varieties of speech.



Some of the pauses are often replaced by the so called 'silence-fillers' such as "I mean", "sort of", "kind of", "well", "Shall I say" and others.



Some speakers, when they are greatly involved in what they say and are very emphatic, introduce no pauses until they run out of breath. Their speech sounds abnormal & careless.





Each phonetic style is characterized by a *specific combination of segmental & prosodic features.*





*Thank you for your attention!*

