

THE SUBJECT-MATTER OF PHONETICS

Components of the Phonetic System of English

- Speech sounds
- The syllabic structure of words
- Word stress
- Intonation (prosody)

Components of Phonetics

Segmental phonetics

Deals with individual
speech sounds
(“segments” of speech)

Suprasegmental phonetics

Is concerned with larger units
of connected speech:
syllables
words
phrases
texts

Phonemes - Allophones

Phonemes

Serve to distinguish words and morphemes

Don't depend on the phonetic environment

Allophones

Variants of one and the same phoneme.

Depend on the position of the sounds within the word

Phonemes

- bit /b/ - pit /p/
- set /e/ - sat /æ/
- lid /ɪ/ - lead /i:/

Allophones

light - fell

[l] in *light* is more palatalized
than [l] in *fell*

bit – bid

[ɪ] in *bit* is shorter than [ɪ] in *bid*

Transcription symbols

// - slant brackets

[] – square brackets

[,] – syllabic consonants

[ɪg,zæmɪ'neɪʃən] –

secondary and primary stress

Phonological mistakes

(wrong position of the nuclear tone)

Isn't she un₁well?

(general question)

Isn't she un¹well!

(exclamation)

Phonological mistakes

(wrong position of the nuclear tone)

It's `Tom's fault.

It's →Tom's `fault.

Stages of speech production

psychological



physiological



physical (acoustic)



reception

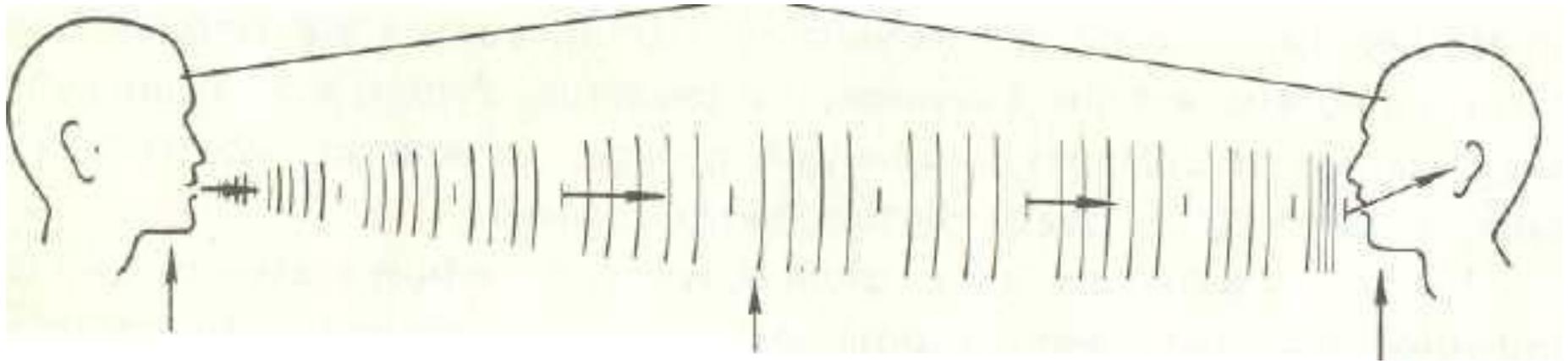


transmission



linguistic interpretation

Stages in the passing of a spoken message



Articulation

sound waves

Perception

Mechanisms of Speech Production

1. The power mechanism
2. The vibrator mechanism
3. The resonator mechanism
4. The obstructor mechanism

The Power Mechanism

the diaphragm

the lungs

the bronchi

the windpipe (trachea)

the glottis

the larynx

the mouth cavity

the nasal cavity

The Vibrator Mechanism (the Voice Producing Mechanism)

The vocal cords

The Resonator Mechanism

the pharynx

the larynx

the mouth cavity

the nasal cavity

The Obstructor Mechanism

The tongue

(blade with the tip, front, back or dorsum, rims – the edges of the tongue)

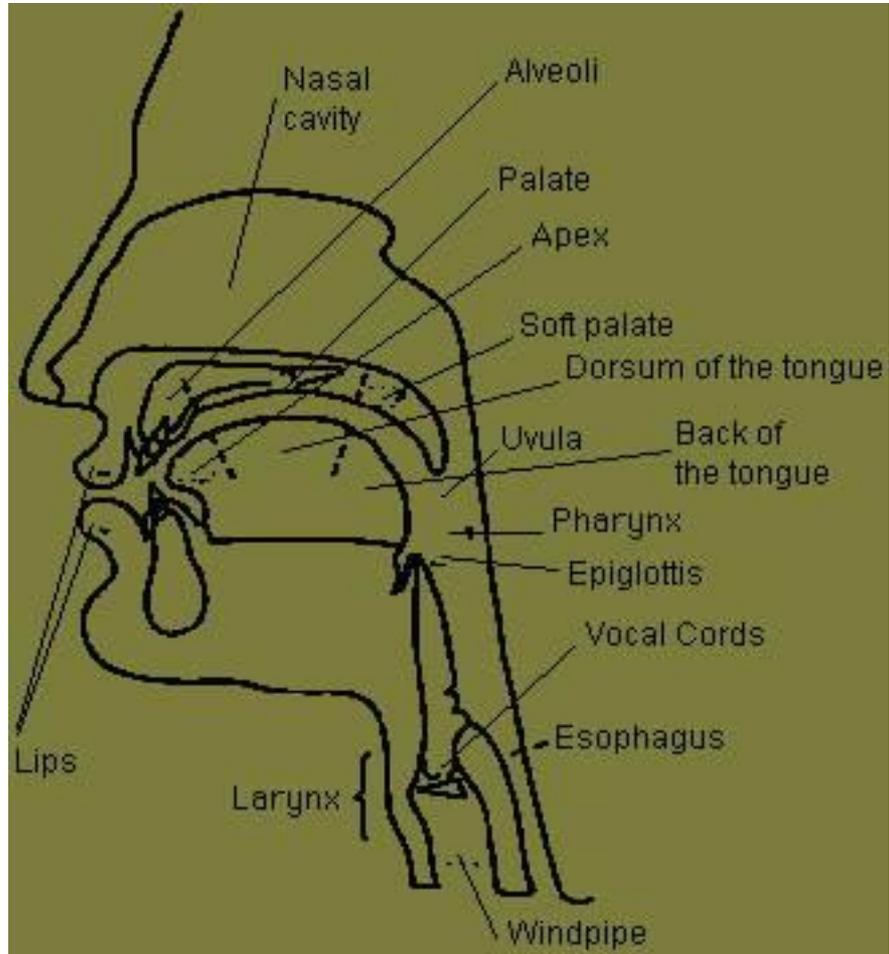
The lips

The teeth

The soft palate with the uvula

The hard palate

The alveolar ridge



Branches of Phonetics

Articulatory (physiological) phonetics

Auditory (perceptive) phonetics

Acoustic phonetics

Phonology or functional (linguistic)
phonetics

Articulatory Phonetics (Physiological)

studies the way in which the air is set in motion, the movements of speech organs and the coordination of these movements in the production of single sounds and trains of sounds

Auditory (Perceptive) Phonetics

investigates the hearing process

Acoustic phonetics

studies the way in which the air vibrates
between the speaker's mouth and the
listener's ear

Phonology

(Functional or Linguistic Phonetics)

studies the linguistic function of consonant and vowel sounds, syllabic structure, word accent and prosodic features, such as pitch, stress and tempo

Phonetics ↔ Grammar

Sound Interchange

Interchange of [f-v], [s-z], [θ-ð]

(plural and singular form)

calf – calves, house – houses

Tense forms of irregular verbs

write – wrote - written

Phonetics ↔ Grammar

Vowel Interchange

Nouns and verbs bath – bathe

Adjectives and nouns hot – heat

Verbs and adjectives moderate –
moderate

Nouns and nouns shade – shadow

Nouns and adjectives type – typical

Phonetics ↔ Grammar

Intonation Component

He came out.

He *came* home.

He came *home*.

Phonetics ↔ Lexicology

'abstract – to ab'stract

'object – to ob'ject

'transfer – to trans'fer

Homographs

Homonymous words and word groups

Phonetics ↔ Stylistics

There are twelve months in all the year,

As I hear many men say.

But the merriest month in all the year

Is the merry month of May.