

## COMPONENTS OF THE PHONETIC STRUCTURE OF ENGLISH

**Sayfutdinova Nilufar**

*Teacher of Andijan academic lyceum of the Ministry of Internal Affairs*

**Abstract:** *In this article, the phonetic system in English is analyzed and its components are considered.*

**Key words:** *phonetics, system, component, structure, sounds.*

The phonetic system, or structure, of English, like that of any language, is a systemic combination of all the four components of the sound matter of language which constitute the material (phonetic) forms of all the morphemes, words, phrases and sentences in the language and serve a speaker of the language to express adequately in his utterances his own and other people's thoughts, volition, feelings, emotions, and attitudes towards the contents of his utterances and towards reality.

In the description of a language it is necessary to establish the facts concerning the way sound material is used to carry grammatical and lexical meanings. In such minimal pairs of words as take-make /teik-meik/, bet /bet/- bat /bæt/ etc. phonological oppositions between /t/ and /m/, /e/ and /æ/ distinguish the lexical meanings of these words.

The sound matter is realized in the form of speech sounds, syllables, stress and intonation. The complex combination of the phonetic units constitutes the components of the phonetic structure. When these units are used in the phonological sense, i.e. as distinctive units they are called phonemes, syllabemes, accentemes, (word-accenteme, syntagm-accenteme, phrase accenteme) and intonemes. The complex combination of all these phonological units constitutes the components of the structure of language.

The components of the sound matter of language manifest themselves in the components of its phonetic system. Each component of the phonetic system of a language is, in its turn, systemic in character.

The first and basic component of the phonetic structure of English is the system of its segmental phonemes existing in the material form of their allophones in various combinations.

The second component of the phonetic system of English is the syllabic structure of its words both in citation forms and in phrases and sentences. The syllabic structure of words has two aspects, which are inseparable from each other:

Syllable formation and Syllable division, or syllable separation.

Both aspects are sometimes designated by the cover term syllabification.

Languages may differ from one another both in syllable formation and syllable division.

Differences in syllable formation involve differences in the capacity of speech sound to form syllables (to be syllabic) in different position. For instance, the consonant [m] is syllabic in the English word "rhythm".

Differences in syllable division involve differences in the position of syllable division, or the syllable boundary, and in the types of the resulting syllables (mainly open and closed). In English, differences in syllable division may perform a distinctive function.

The third component of the phonetic system of English is the accentual structure of its words as items of vocabulary (i.e. as pronounced in isolation, but not in phrases or sentences).

In some languages, word accent performs not only the constitutive and recognitive functions, but also the word and form- distinctive function.

The fourth component of the phonetic system of English is the intonation structure of sentences in it.

The four components of the phonetic system of English (phonemic, syllabic, accentual and intonational) all constitute its pronunciation (in the broadest sense of the term). Therefore the knowledge of the phonetic system of the English language and the mastery of its pronunciation by a language-learner involve the study and mastery of each component of its phonetic structure.

As it has been mentioned above, in phonetics two major components are distinguished: segmental phonetics, which is concerned with individual sounds (i.e. "segments" of speech) and suprasegmental phonetics whose domain is the larger units of connected speech: syllables, words, phrases and sentences.

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