



Al Muthanna University

College of Education for Human Sciences

Department of English

English Phonetics and Phonology

قسم اللغة الإنكليزية

المرحلة الثانية / الدراسة الصباحية و الدراسة المسائية

المادة: علم الصوت الوظيفي

محاضرات مادة علم الصوت الوظيفي المحاضرة رقم (1)

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Unit One

Introduction

The Branches of Phonetics

Although British English has many different accents, people learning the English spoken in England use the accent normally considered as the standard accent in Britain. This accent is called R. P. (Received Pronunciation):

Ex. What is R. P. (Received Pronunciation)?

-R.P. (Received Pronunciation) is the accent of English used by many educated native speakers of English in south-east England. It is sometimes called the B.B. C. English (the B.B. C. Pronunciation).

Ex. British English has many different accents. What is the accent of English that is considered as the standard accent of British English?

British English has many different accents. The accent of English that is considered as the standard accent of British English is R. P. (Received Pronunciation).

Ex. What do the two letters R. P. abbreviate?

-The two letters R. P. abbreviate 'Received Pronunciation'.

Ex. What is R. P. also called?

-R. P. is also called 'B. B. C. English' (B. B. C. Pronunciation).

Ex. Where is R. P. mostly used in Britain?

-R. P. is mostly used in south-east England.

Phonetics and Phonology

Phonetics is a branch of linguistics that scientifically studies speech sounds in all human languages. There are many branches of phonetics: articulatory phonetics (physiological phonetics), acoustic phonetics (physical phonetics), auditory phonetics, experimental phonetics (machine phonetics, mechanical phonetics, laboratory phonetics), contrastive phonetics, prescriptive phonetics (standard phonetics), descriptive phonetics, historical phonetics (developmental phonetics),

sentential phonetics (sentence phonetics), segmental phonetics, suprasegmental phonetics, functional phonetics (phonemics, phonology), general phonetics, special phonetics. The main branches of phonetics are:

The main branches of phonetics		
Articulatory Phonetics (Physiological Phonetics)	Acoustic Phonetics (Physical Phonetics)	Auditory Phonetics

1-Articulatory Phonetics (Physiological Phonetics) studies the production of speech sounds in all human languages.

2-Acoustic Phonetics (Physical Phonetics) studies the physical features of speech sounds as they are transmitted from the speaker to the hearer in all human languages.

3-Auditory Phonetics studies the reception and perception of speech sounds in all human languages.

4-Experimental Phonetics (Machine Phonetics, Mechanical Phonetics, Laboratory Phonetics) uses machines and electronic devices to study the movements of the tongue, the vocal cords, the soft palate (the velum), and the lips.

5-Contrastive Phonetics studies and compares the speech sounds of two languages; it studies where they are similar and where they are different.

6-Prescriptive Phonetics (Standard Phonetics) studies and sets standards to how people should produce the speech sounds of their language.

7-Descriptive Phonetics studies how speech sounds are actually articulated (produced) by people at a certain place at a certain time.

8-Historical Phonetics (Developmental Phonetics) studies how speech sounds have developed along centuries. It studies the history and development of speech sounds across long periods of time.

9-Sentential Phonetics (Sentence Phonetics) studies what happens to speech sounds when used in sentences.

10-Segmental Phonetics studies the consonant sounds and the vowel sounds of a certain language: such as English Phonetics, Arabic Phonetics, Russian Phonetics, French Phonetics.

11-Suprasegmental Phonetics studies pitches, stresses, and junctures of a certain language: such as English Phonetics, Arabic Phonetics, French Phonetics, Russian Phonetics.

12-Functional Phonetics (Phonemics, Phonology) studies the functions, distributions, and environments of sounds as phonemes in a particular language: such as English Phonology, Arabic Phonology, German Phonology, Russian Phonology.

13-General Phonetics studies speech sounds in general, without focusing on one specific language.

14-Special Phonetics studies the speech sounds of a certain language: such as English Phonetics, Arabic Phonetics, Russian Phonetics, French Phonetics.

(English Phonetics and Phonology) ►

1- **English phonetics** studies the principles regulating the use of sounds in spoken English.

2-The context of a general theory about speech sounds and how they are used in language: this theoretical context is scientifically called **Phonetics and Phonology**.