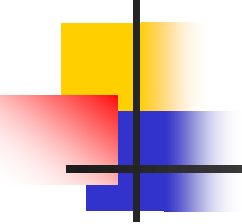


# Scope of the Study of Phonetics and Phonology



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## Lecture 2

**Presented by Margana**



# What is Phonetics?

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Phonetics is the study of how the organ of speech generates sounds.

Phonetics is the study of the system of sounds



# Types of Phonetics?

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- (1) Articulatory phonetics
- (2) Auditory phonetics
- (3) Acoustic phonetics



# Articulatory Phonetics

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What was the basic point of Articulatory Phonetics?

- To describe how sounds are made with the vocal apparatus.
- To categorize the basic processes of how sounds are made and describe their articulatory properties



# What is phonology?

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Phonology is defined as one of the branches of the formal linguistics that studies a phone as the smallest unit and phoneme as the largest unit of its study.



# Cont.

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Phonology – the description of the system and patterns of sounds that occur in a language.

- It involves studying a language to determine its distinctive sounds...
  - That is, those sounds that convey a difference in meaning.
- This is “typically” done in the context of how a child would learn/acquire the language (UG)
  - there are other theories as well...
  - This ability is part of the idea of humans’ innate language ability.



# Cont.

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Study of how sounds interact in various languages (phonetics conceptual representation)

# Cont.



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Segmental phenomena

Phonemic Inventory and Allophony

Sound-change rules and ordering

Supra-segmental phenomena

Syllabification

Prominence

Tones

Intonation



# What is the difference between phone and phoneme?



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Phone is any sound generated by the organ of speech or vocal apparatus.

Phoneme refers to a selected phone that could distinguish the meaning.

# Cont.



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Mental concept representing a physical sound

Many to many mapping between phoneme  
and a phone within a language English /t/


aspirated in "tunafish"

unaspirated in "starfish"

dental before labio-dental

flapped in "buttercup"

# The Phoneme – the basic unit

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- Individual phonemes are “intrinsically meaningless”
    - However, their purpose “is to form the building blocks of wh/ words are made.”
      - consider the following sounds [d] & [t]
        - Do these have any meaning to you?
      - How about now: [daim] ‘dime’ & [taim] ‘time’
    - When two sounds can be used to differentiate words they are said to belong to *different phonemes*.
      - There must be a PHONEMIC difference if two words (e.g. *white/right cat/bat*) differ in only a single sound.

# Phonetics & Phonology

- The phonetician is a person who describes speech and understands the mechanisms of speech production and perception.
- speech sounds in ways that are close to the speech stream, focusing on production, acoustics, and perception.

- The phonologist is a person who describes
  - speech systems for particular languages and works to show how sounds may change based other sounds in the same environment.
  - tends to be more abstract, dealing not directly with the physical nature of speech sounds, but rather with the largely **unconscious rules** for sound patterning that are found in the mind/brain of a native speaker



# Identify the phonemes of the following sentences.

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- (1) She shall sell the seashell at the seashore near the sea.
- (2) I think that the thing is a good thing to sink.
- (3) They thought that both thieves died because of the trap that they made.

# Two elements of the study of phonology



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Segmental elements: the primary elements of the study of phonology which deal with consonants and vocals

Suprasegmental elements : the secondary elements of the study of phonology which deal with stress, intonation, rhythm, and others.



# Consonants

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Consonants are part of the segmental elements which are generated by the organ of speech with blocking practices. In the production of consonants, the flow of air is blocked when they travel to the mouth.



# Vowels

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Vowels refer to segmental elements which are produced by the organ of speech without any blocking practices.

Vowels are generated with no oral obstructions whatsoever.





# Cont

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The vowels in some languages are categorised into two types, namely single vowels and double vowels. The former is labelled as monothong while the latter is called diphthongs.



# The Number of Phonemes

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In English, there are 44 phonemes. They include 24 consonants, 12 monothongs, and 8 diphthongs. Those are positioned in three positions, initial, middle, and final ones. However, not all consonants and vowels could place in the three positions.



Cont.

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The alphabet which we use to write English has 26 letters but (British) English has 44 sounds.



# English Spelling

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English spelling is not a reliable guide to pronunciation because of the following issues.

- Some letters have more than one sound
- Sometimes letters are not pronounced at all
- The same sound may be represented by different letters
- Sometimes syllables indicated by the spelling are not pronounced at all



Cont.

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## Questions:

How do you pronounce *gh* in 'enough', 'through', laugh, and 'ghost'? (like *f* in fun, not pronounced, like *g* in got)

How many syllables are there in 'chocolate' and 'determine'?

A traditional Japanese garden scene. In the upper left, a thatched pavilion (tsukubai) sits on a grassy slope. The garden is filled with meticulously maintained, rounded green bushes and scattered rocks. In the foreground, a dark wooden structure, possibly a tea house or a well, is partially visible. To the right, a stone waterfall flows into a pond. The background shows a dense forest of trees, some with autumn-colored foliage. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

*Thank you.*