

The Prague Phonological
School

The London Phonological
School

Phonological trends in the USA

the Prague
phonological
school -
well-known
linguists

W. Matezius
(1882-1945), B.
Havranek
(1893-1978),

N.S.Trubetzkoy
(1890-1938), B.
Trnka, I. Vachek,
V. Skalichka

Phonemes are functional sounds of a language while speech sounds are the realizations or manifestations of phonemes in speech. This distinction between language and speech was borrowed by N.S. Trubetzkoy from F. de Saussure's and K. Bühler's works. N.S. Trubetzkoy insisted on defining a phoneme solely on the basis on its function in the system of a language.

N.S. Trubetzkoy wrote: «A combination of sounds can be interpreted as the realization of a single phoneme only if it is produced by a homogeneous articulatory movement or by the progressive dissolution of an articulatory complex». This rule was illustrated by the English diphthongs /eɪ/ and /oʊ/ which are regarded as monophonematic.

N.S. Trubetzkoy presented the classification of phonological oppositions in terms of logic. Two things which have no features in common cannot be contrasted, likewise two phonemes which have no common features cannot be opposed. Firstly, oppositions are classified in relation to the entire system of oppositions. According to this principle oppositions may be unidimensional and pluridimensional (or bilateral and multilateral). Two phonemes possessing a common feature, which no other phoneme has, are in unidimensional opposition. For example in English /t-d/, /p-b/, /k-g/, /b-m/, /d-n/, /g-ŋ/, /f-v/, /s-z/, /s-ʃ/, /z-ʒ/. /t-tʃ/, /d-dʒ/, /r-l/ are unidimensional (bilateral) oppositions.

"The London Phonological School" proposed by the British linguists.



" J.R. Firth, Daniel Jones, D. Abercrombie, I. Ward, L. Armstrong,



D. B. Fry, H. Kingdon, J.D. O'Connor, A.C. Gimson.



Well-known British linguist D. Jones and J.R. Firth gave brief explanations of the phoneme concept

D. Jones explanation of a phoneme is a physical (acoustic) one, since the phoneme is treated as a "family of sounds". His Physical interpretation is distinct from the articulatory approach to the phoneme..

D. Jones explained a phoneme on the basis of auditory distinctions, which only secondarily is based on presumed articulatory positions. He also distinguishes "principal and subsidiary member" of the phoneme which are equal to the terms "allophone" and a "variant" of the phoneme

According to his view point a phoneme consists of more than one member, and one of the sounds seems more important and common than the others, or because it is the one used in isolation or is intermediate between extreme members.



Phonological Trends in the USA



There are several phonological trends in the USA. The head of the American descriptive linguistics L.Bloomfield was one of the first phonologists whose ideas were very fruitful in the further development of phonological theories in USA.



American tagmemic school of linguistics advanced its own phonological theory which differs from the theories of descriptive phonology.



Another well-known American linguist E.Sapir also formulated his own approach to phonemic solutions.