

Theoretical Phonetics of the English Language

Phonetics as a Science

1. The phonetic system of a language
2. The connection of phonetics with other branches of linguistics
3. The branches of phonetics

The phonetic system of a language

The phonetic system

□ segmental level

- vocalic subsystem
- consonantal subsystem

□ suprasegmental or prosodic level

(the patterns of stress and intonation in a language)

- pitch
- stress
- rhythm
- tempo
- pauses

The phonetic system of a language

“To speak any language a person must know nearly 100 % of its phonetics, while only 50-90% of its grammar and 1% of the vocabulary may be sufficient.”



Alfred Charles Gimson,
an Englishan English phonetician

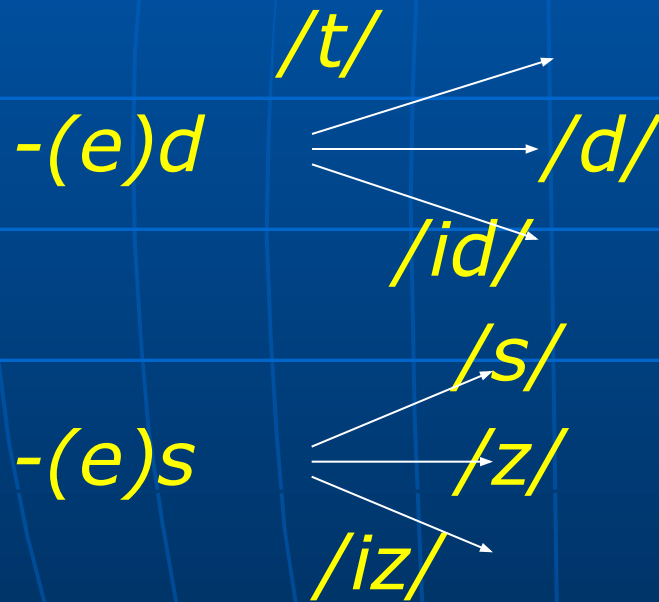
The phonetic system of a language

- Phonetics has a long history. It was known to ancient Greeks and Hindus. But as a science it began to develop in the second half of the 19th century.
- Phonetics is closely connected with lexicology, grammar and stylistics as (т.к.) the phonetic system of a language, its vocabulary and grammar constitute one indivisible whole.

The connection of phonetics with other branches of linguistics

Grammar:

- reading rules



The connection of phonetics with other branches of linguistics

Grammar:

- reading rules
- sound interchange

/f – v/ leaf - leaves

/u: - i:/ goose - geese

/i – æ – ʌ / begin – began - begun

The connection of phonetics with other branches of linguistics

Grammar:

- reading rules
- sound interchange
- intonation

\ Mike came home.

Mike \ came home.

Mike came \ home.

The connection of phonetics with other branches of linguistics

Lexicology:

- stress



present (n) - pre'sent (v)

recast (n) - fore'cast (v)

blackbird - 'black 'bird



- correct pronunciation of homographs

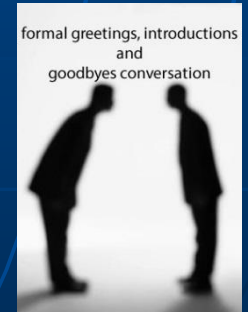


bow /bou/ - bow /bau/

row /rou/ - row /rau/

wind /wind/ - wind /waind/

sewer /'sɜʊə/ - sewer /'sjʊə/



The connection of phonetics with other branches of linguistics

Stylistics:

- intonation and its components
 - repetition of words, phrases and sounds
- Alliteration** – the repetition of identical or similar sounds:

*There are twelve **m**onths in all the year,
As I hear **m**any **m**en say,
But the **m**erriest **m**onth in all the year
Is the **m**erry **m**onth of **M**ay.*

The connection of phonetics with non-linguistic sciences

- Phonetics is closely connected with psychology.

The connection of phonetics with non-linguistic sciences

- Acoustic phonetics is connected with *physics* and *mathematics*. Articulatory phonetics is connected with *physiology*, *anatomy*, and *anthropology*. Historical phonetics is connected with general *history of the people* whose language is studied; it is also connected with *archaeology*. Phonology is connected with *communication (information) theory*, *mathematics*, and *statistics*.

The branches of phonetics

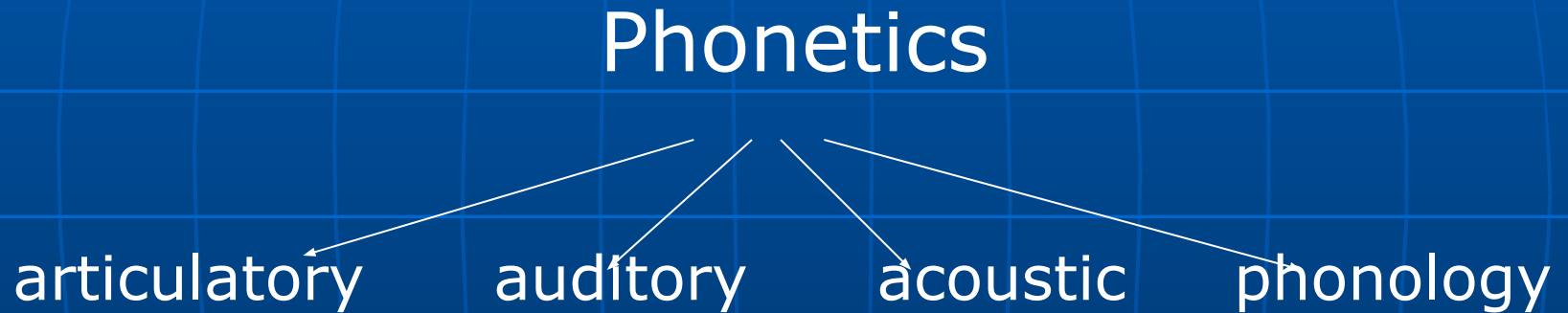


Comparative phonetics

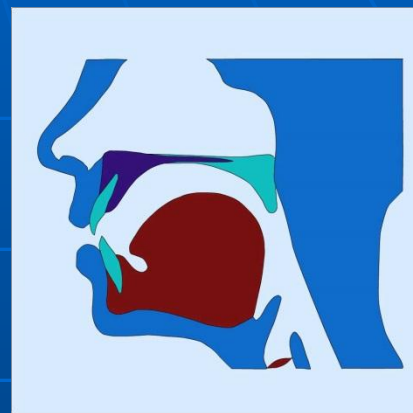
The branches of phonetics

- When the phonetic system is studied in its static form at a particular period of time , i.e. synchronically, we deal with *descriptive phonetics*.
- When the system is studied in its historical development, i.e. diachronically, we speak about *historical phonetics*.

The branches of phonetics



The branches of phonetics



- *articulatory phonetics*

deals with the configurations of the vocal tract used to produce speech sounds; studies the physiological mechanisms of speech production

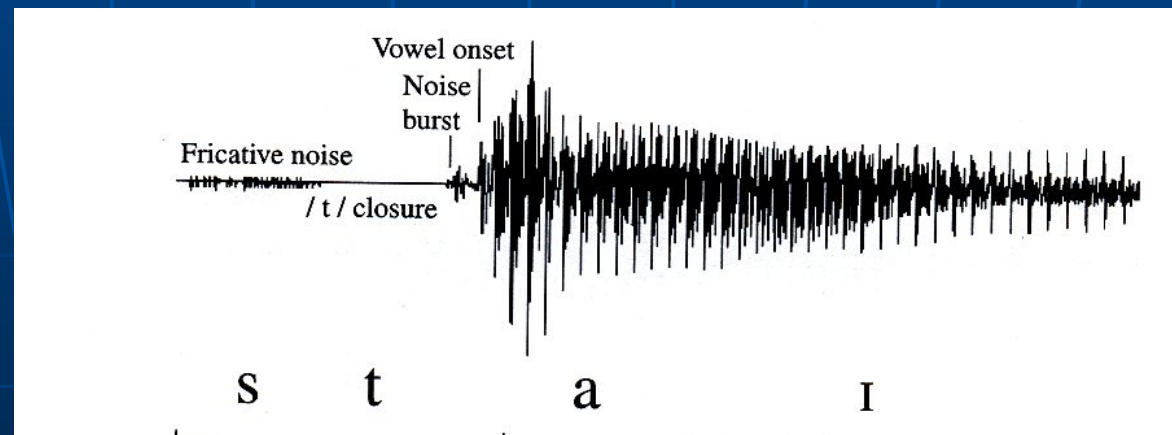
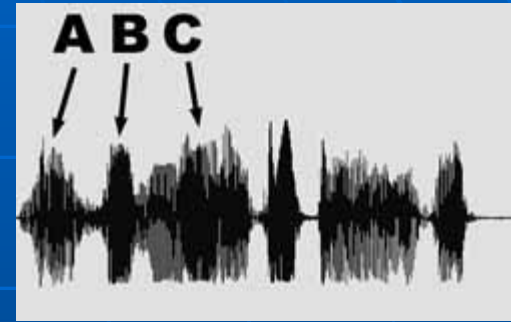
Organs of speech Training



The branches of phonetics

■ *acoustic phonetics*

deals with measuring and analyzing the physical properties of sound waves we produce when we speak.



The branches of phonetics

■ *auditory phonetics*

is concerned with the hearings

concerned with the hearing of speech sounds and with speech perception



The branches of phonetics

- ***Functional phonetics or phonology*** deals with the functioning aspect of phenomena. The aim of phonology is to discover those segmental and prosodic features that have a differential value in a language.



Scope (сфера, область действия)

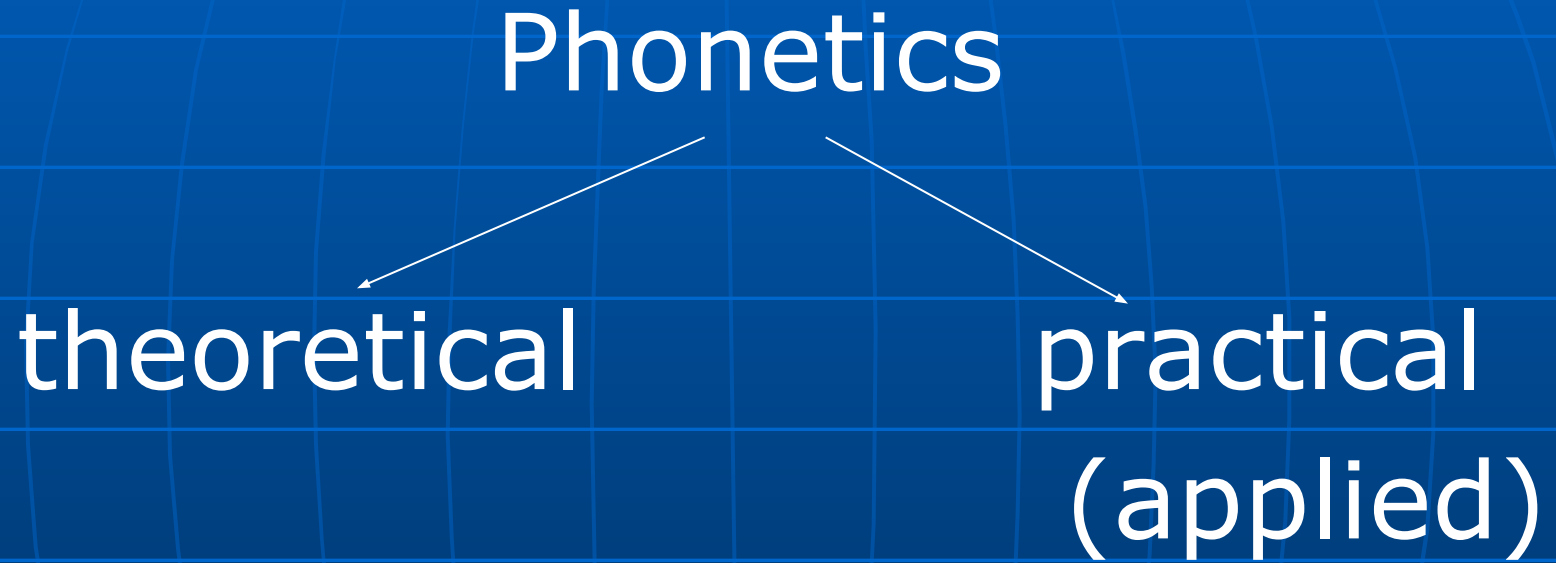
Phonetics

- What are the sounds?
- How are they made in the mouth?

Phonology

- How are sounds systematically organized in a language?
- How do sounds combine to form words?
- How are they categorized by, memorized and interpreted in the mind of speakers?

The branches of phonetics



The branches of phonetics

- *Theoretical phonetics* of a particular language applies the theories formulated by general phonetics (the phoneme theory, the theory of syllable formation, theories of stress, intonation).
- By *practical (applied) phonetics* we mean all the practical applications of phonetics (in teaching foreign languages, logopedics, telephony, etc.)

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !