Lecture 1

Phonetics and Phonology

The plan:

- Phonetics as a Science
- Units of Phonetics
- Branches of Phonetics
- Phonetics and Phonology
- The Notion of the Phoneme

Suggested Literature:

- ❖ Соколова М.А., Гинтовт К.П. и др. Теоретическая фонетика английского языка. М., 1996, стр. 6-17; 39-48.

- ❖ Leontyeva S.F. A Theoretical Course of English Phonetics. M., 1988, pp. 8-14.

- ❖ Dickushina O.J. English Phonetics. M.-L., 1965, pp. 11-16.

- ❖ Соколова М.А., Гинтовт К.П. и др. Практическая фонетика английского языка. М., 1997, стр. 22-23.

Phonetics as a Science

"Phonetics" (Greek "sound").

Phonetics is concerned with the human noises by which the thought is actualized or given an audible shape.

What makes a good pronunciation?

- correct articulation of all the speech-sounds and all their combinations;

- fluent pronunciation of sentences at the speed required by the situation, with correct stresses, melody, rhythm and pauses.

i.e. *the correct articulation of the sounds* => proper rendering of the thoughts and proper understanding of the speech

↓

the correct performance of the two main functions of the speech-sounds – *perceptive and significative*

(or sense-distinctive)

Compare: 1) *Russian* «стол» and «сто-о-о-л»

English [pɒt] and [pɔ:t], [ʃip] and [ʃi:p]

2) «кот» [кот] - «код» [кот] - Russian *voiced consonants =>* *devoiced* => do not perform significative function.

English "cot" [kɒt] and "cod" [kɒd] – ("детская кроватка», «треска»)

Units of Phonetics

segmental

- individual sounds
- syllables
- phonetic words
- syntagms
- phrases

independent

suprasegmental

- pauses
- stresses
- intonation

dependent on the

segmental ones

Branches of Phonetics

- Articulatory phonetics
- Acoustic phonetics
- General phonetics
- Special phonetics
- Descriptive phonetics
- Historical phonetics
- Applied or experimental phonetics
- Comparative phonetics
- Functional phonetics (or Phonology)

- *Articulatory phonetics* studies the sounds as a result of the activities of speech organs;
- *acoustic phonetics* - the acoustic aspect of speech sounds;
- *general phonetics* studies the ways and the character of speech sounds, types of stress to work out general phonetic laws;

- *special phonetics* - the study of the phonetic system of a particular language;
- *descriptive phonetics* - the description of the phonetic system in its static or synchronic form;
- *historical phonetics* studies the changes in the phonetic system (diachronically);
- *applied or experimental phonetics* - all the practical applications of phonetic laws and rules.

■ *comparative phonetics* - the contrastive study of the phonetic systems of two or more languages to find out their common and differential features;

■ *functional phonetics* (*Phonology*) discovers features that have a differential value in a language and establishes the system of *phonemes* and *prosodemes*.

Phonetics and Phonology

Phonology studies the linguistic function of sounds, syllabic structure, word accent and prosodic features such as pitch, stress and tempo.

Discriminatory function is the role of various elements (sounds or sound sequences) of the language in distinguishing of one sequence of sounds from another of a different meaning.

The difference between Phonetics and Phonology

Phonetics studies sounds as articulatory and acoustic units

Phonology investigates sounds as units, which serve communicative purposes

The Notion of the Phoneme

I.A. Baudouin-de-Courtenay: *there are units which are different in pronunciation but similar in perception -* **phonemes**.

L.V. Shcherba: in actual speech we utter a much greater variety of sounds that we are aware of, these sounds are united in sound types => they serve the purpose of social intercommunication.

E.g., **/t/** - aspirated, alveolar, forelingual, apical, occlusive, plosive, voiceless-fortis

\+ labialized in *twice*;

\+ dental in *eighth*;

\+ post-alveolar in *try*;

\+ exploded nasally in *written*;

\+ exploded laterally in *little*, etc.

variants of phonemes - allophones

- allophones are realized in concrete words;

- have phonetic similarity;

- are incapable of differentiating words.

allophones

typical, subsidiary

or principal