

## Lecture 6

*Problems of Phonostylistics.*

*Varieties of Pronunciation*

## *Outline:*

- Phonostylistics. The notion of phonetic style
- Stylistic modifications of sounds
- The norm of pronunciation. National variants of English
- Territorial varieties of pronunciation

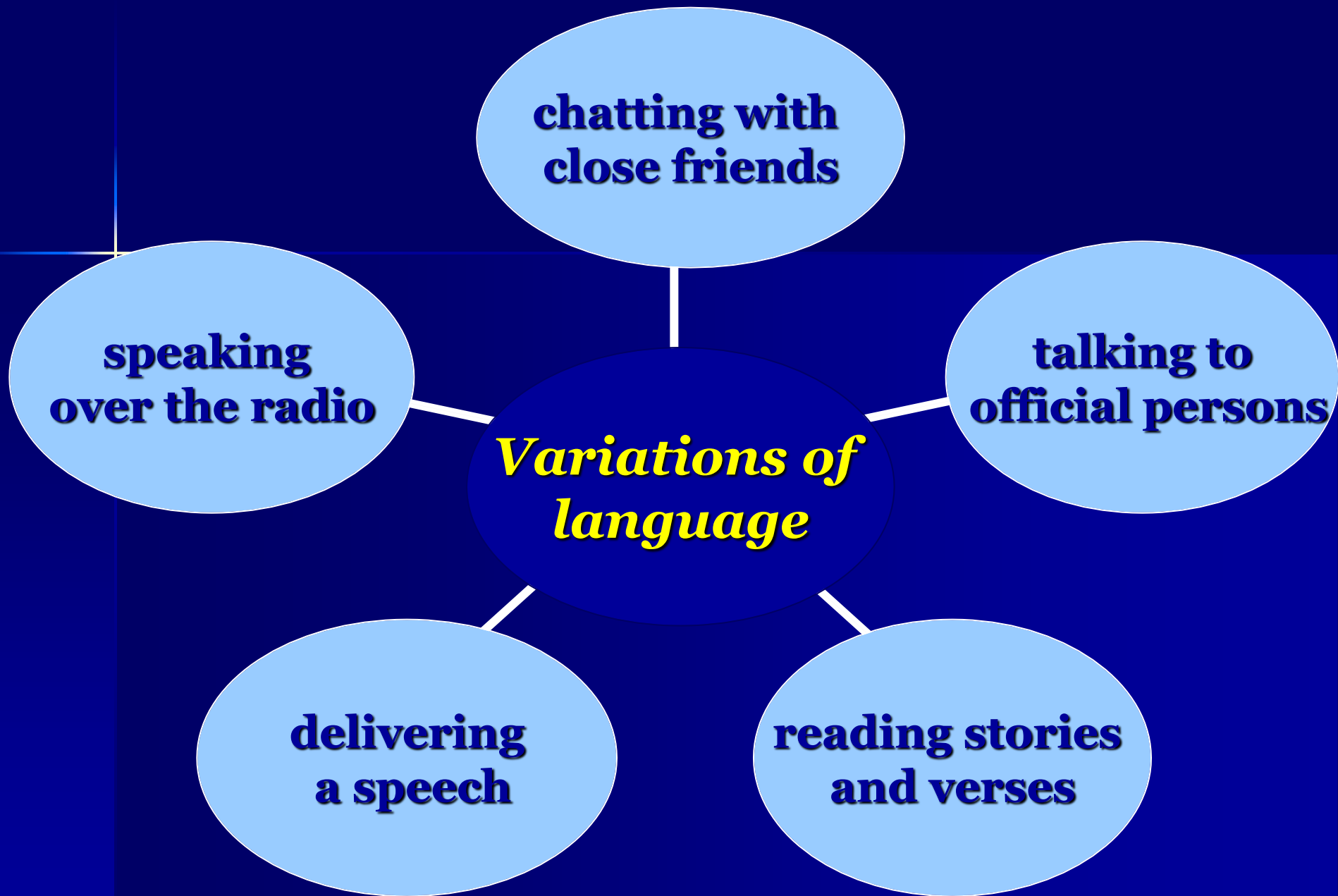
⌘ *Phonostylistics. The notion of phonetic style*

Phonostylistics is an attempt to bridge the gap between linguistic and extralinguistic factors in analyzing stylistic differentiation of oral texts  
=> it is concerned with the study of phonetic phenomena and processes from the stylistic point of view.

- Much of what people say depends directly or indirectly on the situation they are in;
- there exist some regular patterns of variations in a language, i.e. language means, which constitute any utterance, are characterized by a certain pattern of selection and arrangement

The principles of selection and arrangement, the ways of combining the elements form *the style of speech*.

- Style integrates language means constructing the utterance and
- differs one utterance from another.



**The choice of speech style is situationally determined.**

The problem of speech typology and phonetic differences are conditioned by such ***extra-linguistic factors*** as

age,

sex,

personality traits,

status,

occupation,

purpose,

social identity,

emotional state.



Styles of speech or pronunciation are the forms of speech suited to the aim and the contents of the utterance, the circumstances of communication, the character of the audience, etc.

D. Jones: “A person may pronounce the same word or sequence of words quite differently under different circumstances.”



## ***D. Jones:***

- the rapid familiar style;
- the slower colloquial style;
- the natural style used in addressing a fair-sized audience;
- the acquired style of the stage;
- the acquired style used in singing.

# *L.V. Shcherba:*

## Style of speech

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graph TD; A[Style of speech] --> B[full]; A --> C[colloquial]; B --- D[when we want to make our speech especially distinct]; C --> E[high colloquial]; C --> F[low colloquial];
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*full*

when we want to  
make our speech  
especially distinct

*colloquial*

*high colloquial*

*low colloquial*

## ***S.M. Gaiduchic:***

- *solemn* (торжественный);
- *scientific business* (научно-деловой);
- *official business* (официально-деловой);
- *everyday* (бытовой);
- *familiar* (непринужденный).

They are differentiated on the basis of spheres of discourse.

## *J.A. Dubovsky:*

- informal ordinary;
- formal neutral;
- formal official;
- informal familiar;
- declamatory.

The division is based on different degrees of formality or rather familiarity between the speaker and the listener.

***M.A. Sokolova*** – intonational styles:

- informational style;
- academic style (scientific);
- publicistic style;
- declamatory style (artistic);
- conversational style (familiar).

They are singled out mainly according to the purpose of communication.

## ✘ Stylistic modifications of sounds

### The reasons of sound variations



- the environment, distribution of sounds in a speech chain;
- the accentual structure of the utterance;
- the rhythmical structure of the utterance;
- individual peculiarities of speech organs;
- extra-linguistic factors.

The two main oppositions of speech types:

*formal*

*informal*

*Formal* - dispassionate information on the part of the speaker often in monologues:

- a considerable distance of the addresser from the addressee;
- careful articulation and relatively slow speed.

*Informal* - everyday conversation, dialogues, which are more private, personal and intimate.

*Shcherba's characteristics of two styles:*

1. the use of strong forms of all the words;
- 2.1. the use of weak forms of the from words and some common words + obligatory assimilations;
- 2.2. + non-obligatory assimilations and reductions.



## *I should like to see her:*

1. [a<sub>1</sub> ʃud 'laɪk tu 'si: hə·];

2.1. [a<sub>1</sub> ʃəd 'laɪk tə 'si: hə·];

2.2. [a<sub>1</sub> ʃt 'laɪk tə 'sɪ· ə].

*tells you* => ['telz u·];

*shut your mouth* => ['ʃʌt ʃ 'mauθ];

*I'm going to buy some* => [a<sub>1</sub>ŋənə 'baɪ sʌm];

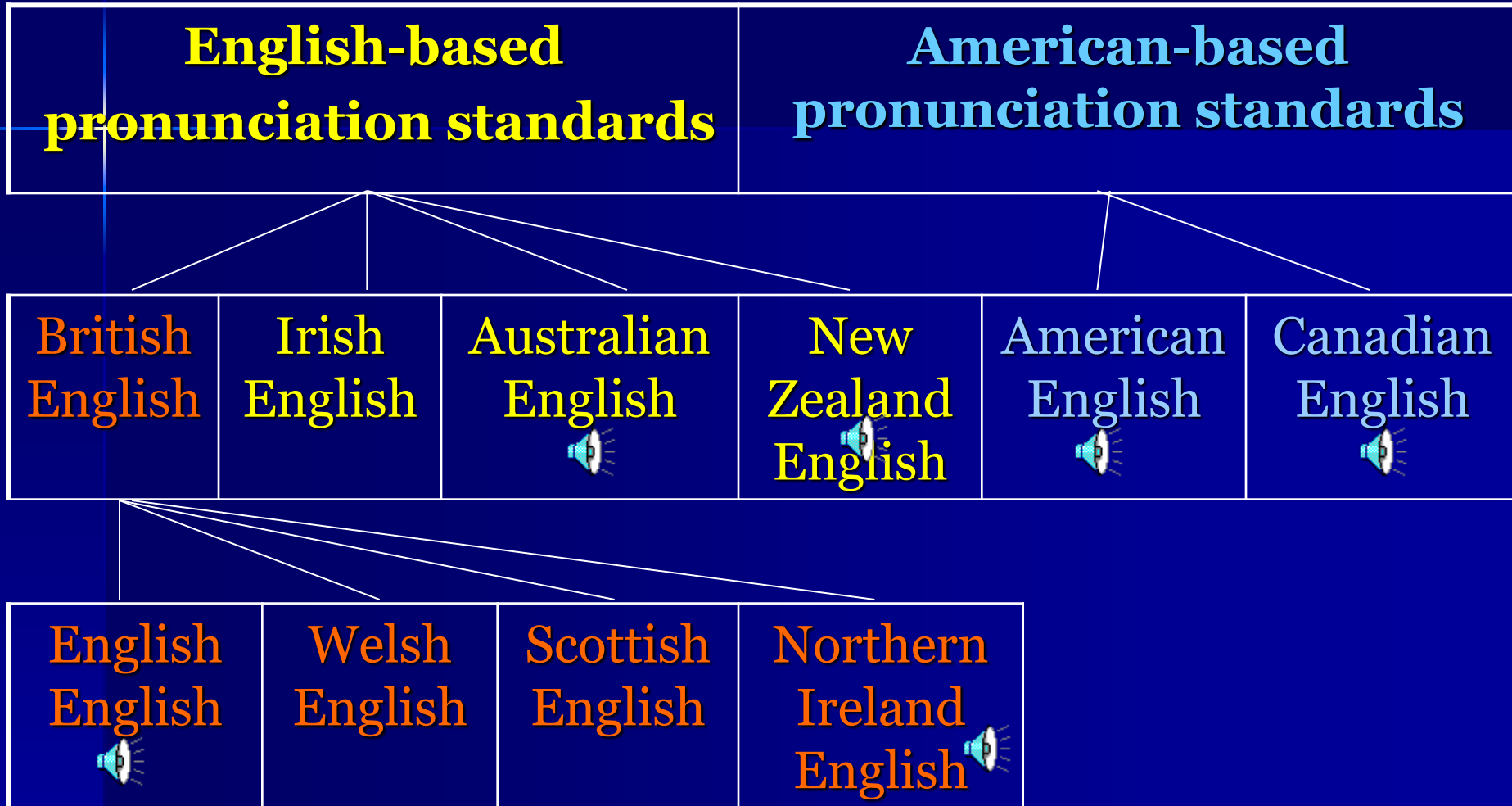
*I don't believe it* => [a<sub>1</sub> 'dɒm 'bli:v it]

✘ *The Norm of Pronunciation.  
National variants of English*

**National language** => **national pronunciation standard** - the literary spoken form of a national language.

A **standard** is “a socially accepted variety of a language established by a codified norm of correctness” (K. Macanalay) = an **orthoepic norm** or **literary pronunciation**.

# Varieties of English



English English = **Received Pronunciation** or **RP**;

American English = **General American** or **GA**;

Australian English = **Educated Australian**.

National variety of the English language falls into ***territorial or regional dialects*** which are distinguished by differences in grammar, vocabulary and **pronunciation** – ***accents***.

## ✘ *Territorial varieties of pronunciation*

Local dialects in England:

- the dialects of Scotland – 9 groups;
- the dialects of Ireland – 3 groups;
- the dialects of England and Wales:
  - Northern – 3 groups
  - Midland - 10 groups
  - Eastern - 5 groups
  - Western - 2 groups
  - Southern - 10 groups

## *the Cockney dialect*

- [i:] is strongly diphthongized – [əi:]:  
*please* [pləi:z];
- [eɪ] has several forms: [ɛɪ], [aɪ], [æɪ]:  
*lady* ['læɪdɪ] – ['laɪdɪ];
- [ou] corresponds to [ʌu], [ɛu]: *Oh,*  
*no!* ['ʌu 'nʌu];

- [ʌ+l] is more retracted and rounded:  
*result* [rɪ'zɒlt];
- [aɪ+l] was recorded as [a:l]:  
*Child's Hill* ['tʃa:lz 'ɪl];  
*I'll go in a little while* [a:l 'gʌu in ə 'lɪtl  
'wa:l];
- all the vowels are strongly nasalized;

- [h]–phoneme is not pronounced in initial position: *have* [ɛv], *hair* [ɛə], *horse* [ɔ:s];

BUT: *air* [hɛə], *atmosphere* ['hɛtməsfiə];

- [t] between vowels is not aspirated and is often replaced by [d] or [r], or by the “glottal stop [ʔ]”:  
*Saturday* ['sɛdədɪ], ['sɛrədɪ], ['sɛʔədɪ].



## *Northern dialects*

- M.E. [u], [u:] are preserved: *once* [wuns], *love* [luv], *house* [hu:s], *mouse* [mu:s];
- M.E. [a] has not changed into [æ]: [man], [lad];
- in Yorkshire and Lancashire dialects full forms of vowels are used in unstressed positions: [kon'sɪdə], ['wot woz hi: 'du:ɪn];

- [ŋ] is not used: *loving* ['lʊvɪn], *happening* ['hæpənɪn];
- voiceless [ɹ̥] is preserved in *which*, *when*, *while*, etc.: [ɹ̥ɪtʃ], [ɹ̥en], [ɹ̥aɪt].

### *Southern dialects*

- initial [h] is dropped;
- the voiceless [s], [f], [θ] initially > [z], [v], [ð]: *famous* ['veɪməs], *see her* [zi: ε].

## *the American standard*

- vowels are mostly long and nasalized;
- [a:] of RP = [æ] in GA: *half* [hæf], *ask* [æsk];
- [o] of RP → [ɑ] in GA: *hot* [hat], [hat];
- [ju:] of RP → [u] in GA: *stupid* ['stupid], *during* ['durɪŋ];
- [aɪ] of RP → [ɪ] in GA: *either* ['iðər];
- [əu] of RP → [ə] in unstressed position: *fellow* ['felə], *tomorrow* [tə'marə], etc.;
- the “clear” variety of [l] is not used;

- the sonorant [r] is more sonorous than in English and is often intrusive: *Asia and Africa* ['eɪʃə r ənd 'æfrikə];
- intervocalic [t] is normally voiced or even dropped: *little* ['lɪdl], *pity* ['pɪdɪ], *twenty* ['twenti] =>

the distinction between *latter* – *ladder*, *winter* – *winner* is neutralized;

- words in *-ory*, *-ary*, *-ery*, *-mony* have tertiary stress: *laboratory* ['læbrə,torɪ], *secretary* ['sekɹə,terɪ], *testimony* ['testi,mounɪ].

Bother, father caught hot coffee in a car  
park.