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Phonetics As a Linguistic Discipline

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Annotation. Language, being a means of communication between people, serves to convey and perceive meaning. for these meanings to be perceived, their constituent units must have a material form. Language exists in two material forms - oral and written.

Key words: phonetics, sound, language, speech, acoustics, tone, speaking, written speech.

Introduction.

Phonetics is a branch of linguistics that studies how humans produce and perceive sounds, or in the case of sign languages, the equivalent aspects of sign. Phoneticians-linguists who specialize in phonetics-study the physical properties of speech. The field of phonetics is traditionally divided into three sub-disciplines based on the research questions involved such as how humans plan and execute movements to produce speech (articulatory phonetics), how various movements affect the properties of the resulting sound (acoustic phonetics), or how humans convert sound waves to linguistic information (auditory phonetics). Traditionally, the minimal linguistic unit of phonetics is the phone - a speech sound in a language-which differs from the phonological unit of phoneme; the phoneme is an abstract categorization of phones.

Phonetics broadly deals with two aspects of human speech: production—the ways humans make sounds—and perception—the way speech is understood. The communicative modality of a language describes the method by which a language produces and perceives languages. Languages with oral-aural modalities such as English produce speech orally (using the mouth) and perceive speech aurally (using the ears). Sign languages, such as Australian Sign Language (Auslan) and American Sign Language (ASL), have a manual-visual modality, producing speech manually (using the hands) and perceiving speech visually (using the eyes). ASL and some other sign languages have in addition a manual-manual dialect for use in tactile signing by deafblind speakers where signs are produced with the hands and perceived with the hands as well.

Literature review and methodology.

Language production consists of several interdependent processes which transform a non-linguistic message into a spoken or signed linguistic signal. After identifying a message to be linguistically encoded, a speaker must select the individual words—known as lexical items—to represent that message in a process called lexical selection. During phonological encoding, the mental representation of the words are assigned their phonological content as a sequence of phonemes to be produced. The phonemes are specified for articulatory features which denote particular goals such as closed lips or the tongue in a particular location. These phonemes are then coordinated into a sequence of muscle commands that can be sent to the muscles, and when these commands are executed properly the intended sounds are produced.

These movements disrupt and modify an airstream which results in a sound wave. The modification is done by the articulators, with different places and manners of articulation producing different acoustic results. For example, the words tack and sack both begin with alveolar sounds in English, but differ in how far the tongue is from the alveolar ridge. This difference has large effects on the air stream and thus the sound that is produced. Similarly, the direction and source of the airstream can affect the sound. The most common airstream mechanism is pulmonic—using the lungs—but the glottis and tongue can also be used to produce airstreams.

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Language perception is the process by which a linguistic signal is decoded and understood by a listener. In order to perceive speech the continuous acoustic signal must be converted into discrete linguistic units such as phonemes, morphemes, and words. In order to correctly identify and categorize sounds, listeners prioritize certain aspects of the signal that can reliably distinguish between linguistic categories. While certain cues are prioritized over others, many aspects of the signal can contribute to perception. For example, though oral languages prioritize acoustic information, the Mc Gurk effect shows that visual information is used to distinguish ambiguous information when the acoustic cues are unreliable.

Modern phonetics has three main branches:

- Articulatory phonetics, which addresses the way sounds are made with the articulators,
- Acoustic phonetics, which addresses the acoustic results of different articulations, and
- Auditory phonetics, which addresses the way listeners perceive and understand linguistic signals.

Discussion.

Language, being a means of communication between people, serves to convey and perceive meaning. You can talk not only about the meaning of the whole utterance, but also about the meaning of the units that make up this utterance. We can talk about lexical, syntactic and morphological meanings, each of which is associated with a certain linguistic unit. But in order for these values to be perceived, their constituent units must have a material form. Language exists in two material forms - oral and written.

In the oral form of existence, linguistic meanings are conveyed using sound units (sounds), and in writing - using graphic units (letters). The main, primary form of language existence is oral speech.

Written speech is secondary, artificial, derivative. Oral speech is a complex audio stream that consists of various segments. The smallest unit of speech flow is sound. Sounds make up certain combinations with each other, form sound speech, with the help of which we transmit information to each other. According to V.I. Senkevich, the sound of speech is the main type of matter of language. Hence it follows that language is a material phenomenon. Sounds are sensibly perceived matter. Outside of this matter, language is impossible. Speech sounds do not exist in isolation. They form certain connections with each other and form a system.

In addition to sounds, this system includes other elements, but the basic unit of a sound system is sound. "The sound system of the language as a whole and each individual sound are studied by a special linguistic discipline - phonetics." The term phonetics (phone - sound, voice, tone) means the sound system of the language, i.e. first of all, its sounds, but not only them, but their phonetic alternations, various types of stress, and other issues related to the sound design of speech. Phonetics is also the science of the sound side of language, which studies the methods of formation of speech sounds, their changes in the speech stream, their role and the functioning of language as a means of communication between people.

Another definition: "Phonetics is a linguistic discipline that studies the physiological methods of the formation of language sounds, their acoustic characteristics, as well as the patterns of their changes in the flow of speech." Until the 40s of the twentieth century, phonetics was considered a part of grammar. Currently, phonetics is an independent linguistic discipline, with its own research methods, objectives and goals.

The following tasks are set for phonetics:

- to establish the sound composition of a given language at a certain period of its development;
- study it in a static state or study its evolution and the development of the sound side of the language over a number of eras in the history of this language;
-determine successive changes in speech sounds and find out the reasons for these changes;
- to study the phonetic phenomena of a given language in comparison with the phonetic phenomena of other related languages;

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-explore the sound structures of two or more languages in order to find common and specific in them.

Like all linguistic sciences, phonetics can investigate linguistic phenomena in terms of synchronicity and diachrony. The study of phonetic phenomena in terms of synchronicity is the study of the phonetics of a particular language at a given moment as a ready-made system of interrelated and interdependent elements.

The study of phonetics in terms of diachrony is the study of phonetic phenomena in time, in change, in the transition of some phenomena to others. Phonetics can be studied for different purposes and with different methods. In this regard, a distinction is made between general and specific phonetics, in which comparative phonetics, historical phonetics, experimental phonetics, and descriptive phonetics are distinguished.

General phonetics studies the methods and nature of the formation of sounds in different languages of the world and, on the basis of such a study, develops concepts about the general laws of the sound of human speech, explains the nature of the human language, the nature of vowels and consonants, possible structures of syllables, types of stress, explains the nature of the sounds of the human language, their role in the process of communication between people. Comparative phonetics (comparative, typological) is associated with the comparative study of the sound side of two or more languages.

It is based on descriptive phonetics and establishes the similarities and differences of the compared languages in terms of the composition of sounds, their distribution in the speech stream, the possibilities of sound combinations for their changes, etc.

Result.

As a result, the specificity of the sound side of different languages is established. Comparative studies of the sound system of different languages are of great importance in teaching foreign languages.

Historical phonetics studies the formation of the sound system of the modern language. We study phonetic phenomena in the past and the processes that determined changes in the phonetics of a given language, a change in the relationship between individual sounds, a change in the quality of individual sounds, the loss and emergence of new sounds. Information about these phenomena is drawn from modern facts, which are best preserved in dialects and are archaic features, as well as from written records. Experimental phonetics, using instrumental methods, studies the acoustic and physiological aspects of the sound system of the language.

Descriptive phonetics deals with a particular language in a synchronous way at a certain stage of its development. Descriptive phonetics solves various problems: it determines the phonetic units of the language, their systemic organization, the qualitative characteristics of sounds, their compatibility and variability. It takes into account the fact that in each period of the existence of a language in phonetics there are new and dying phenomena. Descriptive phonetics reveals these phenomena. Descriptive phonetics distinguishes between two aspects of the study of the sound system: 1) physiological-acoustic, 2) functional. The first aspect involves the consideration of speech sounds as material units. In this case, the features of the formation of sounds are distinguished, due to their acoustic characteristics. The sounds themselves are studied as a set of differential and nondifferential, constant and variable features.

Conclusion.

The conditions are studied that lead to changes in a variable feature, which leads to a change in sound as a whole. The functional (social, linguistic) aspect considers sounds from the point of view of their function, role in speech communication. The physiological and acoustic side of sound elements is studied by phonetics proper; the functional side of phonology is the highest. A more complex section of phonetics.

When we talk about the phonetics of the modern Russian language, we mean its descriptive phonetics.

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