

THREE ASPECTS OF STUDYING PHONOLOGY AND ORTHOEPEY

Khamraeva Dilrabo Ramazanovna

Teacher of Russian Language and Literature, Department of History and Philology, Asian
International University, Bukhara, Uzbekistan,
E-mail: dilya.xamraeva71@gmail.com

Abstract.: The article examines three key aspects of studying phonology and orthoepy: the theoretical-phonological, the normative-orthoepic, and the practical. The features of a language's phonological system, the principles of establishing pronunciation norms, and methods for developing correct speech skills are revealed. The importance of phonological and orthoepic competence for the development of language culture is emphasized.

Keywords: phonology, orthoepy, phoneme, pronunciation norm, speech culture.

Introduction. Language, being a means of communication between people, serves to transmit and receive meaning. One can speak not only of the meaning of an entire utterance, but also of the meaning of the units that constitute that utterance. We can talk about lexical, syntactic, and morphological meaning, each of which is associated with a specific linguistic unit. But for these meanings to be perceived, the units that constitute them 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 the written form—using graphic units (letters). The primary, main form of a language's existence is oral speech. Written speech is secondary, artificial, and derivative. Oral speech is a complex sound stream consisting of various segments. The smallest unit of the speech stream is the sound. Sounds form certain combinations with each other, creating the sound speech by which we transmit information to each other.

According to V. I. Senkevich, the speech sound is the basic type of language matter. It follows that language is a material phenomenon. Sounds represent matter that is perceived by the senses. Language is impossible without this matter. Speech sounds do not exist in isolation. They form certain connections with each other and create a system. In addition to sounds, other elements are included in this system, but the sound is the basic unit of the sound system. "The sound system of a language as a whole and each individual sound are studied by a special linguistic discipline—phonetics."

The term phonetics (phone – sound, voice, tone) is understood as the sound system of a language, i.e., primarily its sounds, but not only them, as well as their phonetic alternations, various types of stress, and other issues concerning the sound design of speech. Phonetics is also the science of the sound aspect of language, studying the ways speech sounds are formed, their changes in the speech stream, their role, and the functioning of language as a means of communication.

Phonology is functional phonetics, which considers the sound aspect of a language as a system of means of expression that serve certain purposes, i.e., perform specific functions. In the

20th century, during the period between the two world wars, the Prague Linguistic School emerged, among whose main principles is the tenet of the functionality of the linguistic system; hence, the necessity of proceeding from a functional viewpoint in linguistic analysis. The Prague School laid the foundation for distinguishing phonetics in the narrow sense from phonology as functional phonetics, which deals with the functional, invariant units of speech, i.e., phonemes. A phoneme is the minimal discrete unit of the plane of expression, forming the sound shell of meaningful units of language (morphemes), capable of distinguishing the sound shells of different morphemes or their variants. The main functions of the phoneme are:

1. The constructive function (building function): the phoneme forms the sound shell of meaningful language units, and the identity of its essential features (articulatory-acoustic and distributional characteristics) ensures the possibility of recognizing the given meaningful unit despite the variety of positional realizations. All linear (segmental) units of language are composed of ("built from") phonemes.
2. The distinctive function (differentiating function): by its features, the phoneme differs from all other phonemes of the given language with sufficient precision to ensure the possibility of distinguishing between different meaningful units—morphemes.

In other words, this is the ability of a phoneme to distinguish more complex, sign units of language (morphemes, words). When describing the phonetic system of a language, and especially when analyzing the relationship between invariants (phonemes) and variants (allophones), the concept of position plays a very important role, i.e., all phonetic phenomena adjacent to the sound, as well as other phenomena directly superimposed on the given sound, e.g., stress, melody. The definition of the phoneme in the works of Czech scholars As O. Šefčík and Z. Palková note, a phoneme is the (most) minimal invariant of the sound form of a linguistic sign. A phoneme is an elementary sound segment that is characterized by the ability to differentiate (distinguish) larger units of the linguistic system, e.g., morphemes or word forms.

Phonology and orthoepy are key branches of linguistics that ensure the correct functioning of the sound system of a language and normative pronunciation. Phonology studies the system of phonemes, their distinctive features, and combination patterns, while orthoepy regulates the norms for pronouncing words and forms in the literary language. This work examines three main aspects of studying phonology and orthoepy: theoretical, normative, and practical. Descriptive, comparative, and analytical research methods were used in the work. The research is based on modern linguistic works on phonetics and orthoepy.

Three Aspects of Studying Phonology and Orthoepy

1. Theoretical-Phonological Aspect — the study of the system of phonemes and the sound patterns of the language.
2. Normative-Orthoepic Aspect — the definition and establishment of the norms of literary pronunciation.
3. Practical Aspect — the formation of correct pronunciation skills in speech practice.

Aspect	Description	Purpose / Outcome	Examples / What is studied
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Aspect	Description	Purpose / Outcome	Examples / What is studied
1. Theoretical (Cognitive) Aspect	Studies the sound system of the language as a system of units and rules of their combination. Describes phonemes, their properties and functions.	To develop a scientific understanding of the structure of the phonological system of the language.	Phoneme, allophones, phonological oppositions, positional changes, combinatory changes.
2. Practical (Articulatory & Acoustic) Aspect	Examines the physical side of pronunciation: how speech sounds are produced and perceived. It is connected with speech physiology and acoustics.	To develop correct articulation and auditory (phonemic) perception.	Speech organs, manners and places of articulation, characteristics of vowels and consonants, stress patterns.
3. Normative (Orthoepic) Aspect	Determines the norms of correct literary pronunciation in spoken language and regulates speech culture.	To form proper, standard, and culturally appropriate oral speech.	Orthoepic rules, correct stress placement, normative pronunciation variants, standard language norms.

The three aspects of studying phonology and orthoepy are not isolated from each other: the phonological system forms the basis for orthoepic norms, and their establishment occurs in speech practice. In modern conditions, the influence of colloquial speech and dialects requires purposeful instruction in correct pronunciation.

Conclusion. The systematic study of phonology and orthoepy contributes to the development of language culture and the formation of correct speech. Mastering pronunciation norms is an important component of speech competence.

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