

Diachronic Aspect of Phonetic Terms in English, Russian and Uzbek Languages

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Abstract: The article deals with the diachronic aspect of phonetic terms in English, Russian and Uzbek languages. There some issues as phonetic aspects of language, the importance of phonetics in English, the father of phonetics and typological features of syllable in 3 languages are discussed as well.

Keywords: diachronic (historical) phonology, theories, changes in the meaning, phonemes, sound categories, segmental phonetics, and classifications of syllables.

Diachronic (historical) phonology examines and constructs theories about the changes and modifications in speech sounds and sound systems over a period. For example, it is concerned with the process by which the English words “sea” and “see,” once pronounced with different vowel sounds. Diachronic adjective. dia·chron·ic, dī-ə-ˈkrā-nik: of, relating to, or dealing with phenomena (as of language or culture) as they occur or change over a period of time, diachronically.

Diachrony is the change in the meaning of words over time. Diachrony is also named as historical linguistics. For example in the way that 'magic' meant 'good' in youth culture for a period during the 1980s (and, to a lesser extent, beyond). It is thus the study of language in terms of how it visibly changes in usage.

Language is made up of words, which in turn are made up of phonemes (sound categories that convey meaning) and phones (sound categories that do not necessarily convey meaning). The elements making up and distinguishing phones are phonetic features. Additional characteristics of speech are pitch, intonation, and rate. The three types of phonetics are production (articulatory), transmission (acoustic), and perception (auditive). Each type of phonetics studies a different aspect of the sounds of language. Phonetics is a part of the English language which helps us to understand sounds of various alphabets. How an alphabet should sound is taught to us with the help of Phonetics. How a word should sound depends on our tongue movements, vocal cords, lip movements and even our breath.

Phonetic theories relate the physical attributes of sounds with their linguistic function. Thus, the linguistic relevance of particular sounds must be considered as well as acoustical and articulatory data.

Phonetics is itself divided into two major components: segmental phonetics, which is concerned with individual sounds (i.e. “segments” of speech) and suprasegmental phonetics whose domain is the larger units of connected speech: syllables, words, phrases and texts.

Phonetics (from the Greek word φωνή, phone that means 'sound' or 'voice') is the science of the sounds of human speech. Someone who is an expert in phonetics is called a phonetician. Daniel Jones (1881-1967) was a Phonetics professor at University College, London and is remembered as 'The Father of Phonetics'.

The following types of phonetics may be distinguished:

1. General phonetics which studies the human sound - producing possibilities, the functioning of his speech mechanism and the ways they are used in all languages to pronounce speech sounds syllables, stress and intonation. It is a part of General Linguistics.

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2. Descriptive phonetics studies the phonetic system of a certain language. For example: English phonetics, Russian phonetics, Uzbek phonetics etc.
3. Historical or diachronical phonetics, which studies the changes a sound undergoes in the development of a language or languages. Its material may be based on written historical and literary monuments. Diachronical studies of the phonetic system may explain the present state (synchronical) of a language and compare them. It is a part of a history course of a language. For example, Verner's and Grimm's Laws, Ablaut, Umlaut, Great Vowel Shift etc. are the objects of diachronical phonetics which is also called evolutionary phonetics.
4. Comparative-typological phonetics studies the phonetic features of two or more languages of different systems such as English, Russian, and Uzbek etc. It is a part of comparative typological linguistics. Its fundamental principle is using linguistic categorization of all the various units of the languages in comparison. Comparative-typological phonetics is of great theoretical and practical value. Theoretically, it is important to compare phonetic systems of all language! In order to establish language universals (the facts and feature! which exist in many languages), similarities and differences between the sound structure, syllable types, stress and intonation. From the results obtained it is possible to represent adequate teaching materials and suggest effective methods of foreign language touching. The comparative-typological method is also known by the terms «contrastive», «confrontative», «differential» and «comparative» method. This method is used either in historical or synchronical analysis of a language.

The English phonetic system comprises the four components: speech sounds, syllabic word structure, stress, and intonation. To make it simple, it describes the way we produce and perceive the sounds of speech.

Here we would like to analyze the classifications of syllables in English compared with Russian and Uzbek. There are the various generally accepted classifications of syllables.

- 1) According to the syllable division, i.e. from the viewpoint of whether a syllable begins and ends with a vowel or a consonant sound, syllables are classified into open, closed, covered, uncovered.

V.A. Vassilyev distinguished the following types of syllables²:

V - Uncovered, open;

VC - closed, uncovered;

CVC - closed, covered;

CV - covered, open.

G. P. Torsuyev gives the following types of syllables:

V - Fully open;

CVG - fully closed;

CV - initially covered;

VC - finally covered.

Besides, he distinguishes the sub-types of syllables. A fully open syllable consists of a vowel or a diphthong and therefore it has no other sub-types. A fully closed (CVC) syllable may be of the following twelve sub-types depending on the number of consonants: 1) CVC - fat, 2) CVCC - fact, 3) CVCCC - facts, 4) CCVC - place, 5) CCCVC - street, 6) CCVCC - speaks, 7) CCVCCC - spinx, 8) CCCVCC - streets, 9) CCCVCCC - (con) - structs, 10) CVCCCC - sixths, 11) CCVCCCC - twelfth, 12) CVCCCCC - sixths /siksθ / (with optional /t/).

The initially covered syllable has three sub-types: 1) CV - sea, 2) CCV - play, 3) CCCV - straw. The finally covered syllable also has three sub-types: 1) VC - at, 2) VCC - apt, 3) VCCC - acts.

² V.A. Vassilyev. Op. cit., p. p. 231-232.



Thus, there are nineteen structural sub-types of syllables in modern English and their peak is formed by a vowel or sonorant when it follows or precedes constrictive consonants. For example, CS (S - indicates a sonorant); /n) - tn/ written; CSC /('lai-sns/ license; CCSC: /('saeq) - kɪnz/ sanctions; CSCC: /('skae) - fldz/ scaffolds; CCSCC: /('en) - tmts/ entrants¹. The above given classification represents the phonemic, to be more strict, the allophonic structure of syllables. An English syllable is the minimum unit of the phonetic structure of a monosyllabic word (e. g. /ai/ I, /it/ it, /buk/ book etc).

Nevertheless, it can also explain the allophonic structure of polysyllabic English words, i.e. words with two or more syllables. The English word may contain from one to eight syllables. There are more than eight syllables in Uzbek word as agglutination tendency is strong (it is possible to add a number of suffixes) in it.

Typologically the following types of syllables exist in English, Russian and Uzbek (including borrowings): The universal type of syllable for English is CVC - closed and covered, which is the most frequently used in it.

№	The Type of the Syllable	English	Russian	Uzbek
1.	V	I/aɪ/ awe /ɔ :]	о-а-зис, А!	u, E! A!
2.	CV	he /hi:/ me /mi:/	Он, те-ма	ke-ma, bu, shu
3.	VC	it /it/ art /ɑ:t/	ум, ил	un, o't, o'r-oq
4.	CVC	bed /bed/, take /teɪk/	сон, дом, пар /та/	bo'sh, say-/ra/-/moq/
5.	VCC	act /ækt/, old /ould/	акт, иск, -ость	akt, ahd, ust
6.	VCCC	ants /ɑ:nts/ asks /ɑ:sks/	искр-, астр-	astr-,
7.	VCCCC	Ernst /z:nst/ entry /entri/	Эрнст	Ernst
8.	CCV	try /traɪ/ stay /steɪ/	сто, три, сна-	smeta, trio
9.	CCCV	straw /stroʊ:/	вста-вать, мгла	Brno
10.	CCVC	prize	стол, стул,	sta- /kap/,



№	The Type of the Syllable	English	Russian	Uzbek
		/praɪz/, stop /stɒp/	стой	sta- /dion/
11.	CCVCC	speaks /spi:ks/	столб, праст-	plast-
12.	CCVCCC	stamps /stæmps/	спектр, сфинкс	spektr
13.	CVCC	tent /tent/, mend /mend/	мост, серп	mard, qand, g'isht
14.	CCCVC	strength /streŋθ/	скрип-/ка/, страх	shtraf, skripka/ka/
15.	CVCCC	facts /fækts/, tends /tendz/	пункт, фильтр	tekst, filtr
16.	CCCCVC	–	взгляд, встреч	
17.	CCCCV	–	вспле-/ски/	
18.	CCCCVCC	–	всплеск, взблеск	
19.	CCCVCC	(con)-structs /kən-strʌkts/	страсть, вскольз	
20.	CVCCCC	sixths /sɪksθs/	монстр, /свиде/- тельство	

Pict. 1. Typology of the types of syllables in English, Russian and Uzbek.

So as a conclusion we can say according to statistic investigation almost half of the syllables frequently used in English are CVC (42-47,7%). In Russian the universal type of the syllable is CCVC (31,8%) while in Uzbek CV type of syllable is regarded as a universal type (48,983%). CVC type has lower frequency of occurrence in Russian and Uzbek. In live Turkic languages CVC is regarded the oldest universal type which originated the other syllable types as (C) VC, CV(C), (C) V(C) X.

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