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PHONETICS IS A BRANCH OF LINGUISTICS

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Abstract: In languages in which tones are phonemic, the tone phonemes may be called tonemes . Though not all scholars working on such languages use these terms, they are by no means obsolete.

Key words: Phonetics , phonemes, **IPA**, articulatory system.

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.[1] Linguists who specialize in studying the physical properties of speech are **phoneticians**. 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 how various movements affect the properties of the resulting sound or how humans convert sound waves to linguistic information 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 deals with two aspects of human speech: production—the ways humans make sounds—and perception—the way speech is understood

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.

Phonemes are conventionally placed between slashes in transcription, whereas speech sounds (phones) are placed between square brackets. Thus, /pʊʃ/ represents a sequence of three phonemes, /p/, /ʊ/, /ʃ/ (the word *push* in Standard English), and [pʰʊʃ] represents the phonetic sequence of sounds [pʰ] [ʊ], [ʃ] (the usual pronunciation of *push*). This should not be confused with the similar convention of the use of bracets to enclose the units of orthography, graphers. For example, ⟨f⟩ represents the written letter (grapheme) *f*.

The symbols used for particular phonemes are often taken from the International phonetic alphabet (IPA), the same set of symbols most commonly used for phones. (For computer-typing purpose systems such as exist to represent IPA symbols using only However, descriptions of particular languages may use different conventional symbols to represent the phonemes of those languages. For languages whose writing systems employ the phonemic principle, ordinary letters may be used to denote phonemes, although this approach is often hampered by the complexity of the relationship between orthography and pronunciation

The **International Phonetic Alphabet** (**IPA**) is an alphabatec system of phonetic notation based primarily on the . Latin script. It was devised by the International Phonetic Association in the late 19th century as a standardized representation of speech sounds in written form. The IPA is used by lexicographers, foreign languages students and teachers, linguists, speech-languages pathologists singers, actors languages constructed creators, and translators. The English (British) pronunciation system has 44 sounds, which are divided into 24 consonants and 20 vowels, including 8 diphthongs. The following table lists

selected English sounds and their corresponding English transcription characters, as well as examples of words in which they are pronounced.

The term *phonème* (from Ancient Greek φώνημα, Romanized *phōnēma*, "sound made, utterance, thing spoken, speech, language") was reportedly first used by A. Dufriche-Desgenettes in 1873, but it referred only to a speech sound. The term *phoneme* as an abstraction was developed by the Polish linguist Jan Baudouin de Courtenay and his student Mikołaj Kruszewski during 1875–1895. The term used by these two was *fonema*, the basic unit of what they called *psychophonetics*. Daniel Jones became the first linguist in the western world to use the term *phoneme* in its current sense, employing the word in his article "The phonetic structure of the Sechuana Language". The concept of the phoneme was then elaborated in the works of Nikolai Trubetzkoy and others of the Prague School (during the years 1926–1935), and in those of structuralists like Ferdinand de Saussure Edward Sapir and Leonard Bloomfield . Some structuralists (though not Sapir) rejected the idea of a cognitive or psycholinguistic function for the phoneme.

Later, it was used and redefined in generative linguistic most famously by Noam Chomsky and Morris Halle and remains central to many accounts of the development of modern phonology As a theoretical concept or model, though, it has been supplemented and even replaced by others.

Some linguists (such as Roman Jakobson and Morris Halle) proposed that phonemes may be further decomposable into features such features being the true minimal constituents of language. Features overlap each other in time, as do suprasegmental phonemes in oral language and many phonemes in sign languages. Features could be characterized in different ways: Jakobson and colleagues defined them in acoustic terms, Chomsky and Halle used a predominantly articulatory basis, though retaining some acoustic features, while Ladefoged s system is a purely articulatory system apart from the use of the acoustic term 'sibilant'.

In the description of some languages, the term chroneme has been used to indicate contrastive length or *duration* of phonemes. In languages in which tones are phonemic, the tone phonemes may be called tonemes . Though not all scholars working on such languages use these terms, they are by no means obsolete.

By analogy with the phoneme, linguists have proposed other sorts of underlying objects, giving them names with the suffix *-eme*, such as *morpheme* and *graphem* These are sometimes called emic units The latter term was first used by Kenneth Pike who also generalized the concepts of emic and etic description (from *phonemic* and *phonetic* respectively) to applications outside linguistics.

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