

Modification of phonemes in English and Uzbek languages*(Mirzoyoqubova Nigorakhon assistant-teacher of TBSVI)*

Abstract: The article deals with modification of phonemes for the formal grammar of the Uzbek and English languages, using the current phonetic rules of the Uzbek language and English languages.

Key words: English language, Uzbek language, sound, phonetic, consonants, vowels.

Every utterance is a continuous flow of speech interrupted by pauses. There is no break between the sounds, not even between the words. In connected speech the sounds undergo various modifications under the influence of neighboring sounds and the rhythmic patterns they occur in. Consequently, sounds uttered in isolation are not identical to the sounds uttered in connected speech, not even on smaller phonetic units as a rhythmic group, or a syllable. /p/, for instance, loses its aspiration when preceded by /s/; /l/ is clear when followed by /j/ or a vowel¹.

Thus, in English lenis consonants /b, d, g/ in final position can be voiceless, but they cannot be replaced by fortis /p, t, k/, as in English fortis and lenis consonants distinguish words (e.g. “cab-cap”, “had-hat”, “bag-back”). The same process can be seen with the Uzbek language (e.g. *javob – javop*). It has been noted that /l/ may be “clear” or “dark” in one and the same phonetic positions; but the “clear” allophone of /l/ does not occur in the positions in which the “dark” allophone of /l/ is used, if the former is used instead of the latter, it is immediately.

It is characteristic of present day English to use /ə/ in weakly stressed syllables where the more conservative form had and has the stronger /l/, as has been noted by A.Gimson. E.g. /aɪ bə'li:v/ for /aɪ bl'li:v/, /'ɪntrəstɪŋ/ for /'ɪtrɪstɪŋ/. That very often results in neutralization of the oppositions between words, e.g. *accept – except, forward – foreward, affect – effect, etc.* But /l/ in such morpheme endings as “-ed”, “-es”, “-y” is generally retained, and the opposition of “-ed”, “es”, “-y” is generally retained, and the opposition of “-ed”, “-ered”, (matted-mattered), “-es”-“-ers” (mixes-mixers), “-y” – “er” (Betty-better) are not neutralized as a rule².

The phonetic phenomenon known as reduction presents special problems, one of the principal bring the phonological status of reduced vowels. The way the problem is solved depends upon whether one accepts or rejects the phenomenon termed as “neutralization of phonological oppositions” (which has been discussed in “Problems of Phonological Analysis”).

Elision is the leaving out of a sound as a means or simplifying the pronunciation of a word or a rhythmic group³. This process is also called omission and can frequently be found with Uzbek words (e.g. *do'st – do's, go'sht – go'sh*). One of the peculiarities of English is that in a cluster of three consonants within a word, the middle one (usually a plosive) is elided. For example, in “empty”, “temty”, “Christmas”, “castle”, the elision of /t/ and /p/ is the norm. In “exactly”, “restless”, “handbag”, “handsome”, “friendship” elision takes place only in rapid colloquial speech, the pronunciation of the alveolar /t/ and /d/ being characteristic of careful speech. Whenever the consonant is retained, it loses its plosion⁴.

“Other consonants may also influence the phoneme [d] and it is assimilated to [t]: *ishda – ishta, misdan – mistan, ketdi – ketti, kelmabdi – kelmapti.*”

When the suffix “to” (-ga jo'nalish kelishigi qo'shimchasi) is added to the words, which are finished with the consonants [k] or [q], are pronounced and written as [ka] and [qa], for example: *tok+ga – tokka, yurak+ga – yurakka, qishloq+ga – qishloqqa, po'stloq+ga – po'stloqqa*⁵. Here are other examples: *qarich – qarish, toj – toch, boj – boch, massaj – massash.*

¹ Alimardonov R.A. Pronunciation theory of English, T, 2009, p 62

² Gimson A.C. An Introduction to the Pronunciation of English, Edward Arnold, 1970

³ Leontyeva S.F. A Theoretical Course of English Phonetics. M., 2002

⁴ Khamroev M.A. "O'zbek tilidan ma'ruzalar mazmuni". Toshkent, 2005. 27 bet.

⁵ Abdurahmonov G., Rustamov H. “Ona tili” 10-sinf uchun darslik. T., “O‘qituvchi” 2003. 31-bet.

“Although bilabial and voiced consonant [b] is assimilation by the preceding consonants – [b], [v], [r] and [e]: *sabab – sabap, javob – javop, g‘arb-g‘arp, zarb – zarp, berib – berip, kelib – kelip, olib – olip, so‘rab – so‘rap and etc.*

And [f] is pronounced as [p]: *insof – insop, ulfat - ulpat*”. In progressive assimilation the following sound influence the preceding one and adapts it to itself: For example, if we add the suffix “ta” to word “bir”, the sound [r] is changed to [t] under the influence of [t]: *bir+ta=bitta*. In rapid speech if the suffixes which start from [ch] are added to words finished with [t], the consonant [t] is also pronounced as [ch]: *Sut+chi – suchchi, yigit+cha – yigichcha, uyat+chan – uyachchan*. “Here are other examples of the regressive assimilation: *Ijtimoiy – ishtimoiy, bog‘cha – boxcha, zog‘cha – zoxcha, mahkam – makkam, mahsi – massi; Tanburchi – tamburchi, minbar – mimbar*.

As a result of this research, there are many types of modifications of speech sounds, or combinatory-positional changes which can frequently be found in English and Uzbek. The following types of combinatory-positional changes can be found in English: accommodation (which is the process of adapting the articulation of a consonant to a vowel or a vowel to a consonant) assimilation (which is the process of adapting the articulation of sounds that are of similar or identical nature), reduction (which is the modification of the quality and quantity of a vowel one to weakening of its articulation and shortening of its duration), elision (which is the modification based on the leaving out of a sound as a means of simplifying the pronunciation of a word or a rhythmic group), linking and intrusive “r”, dissimilation and others. When dealing with the types of combinatory-positional changes in Uzbek it is possible to note that there are the following types of modifications specific for the Uzbek language; assimilation, dissimilation, metathesis (changing places of neighboring sounds), vowel harmony. Besides that, it should be stated that almost all types of modifications of speech sounds can be found in Uzbek, for instance reduction can be observed in words borrowed from Russian or other language, accommodation in non-native Uzbek words.

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