

**Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education of the  
Republic of Uzbekistan**

**The Uzbekistan State World Languages University  
English Faculty I**

# **COURSE PAPER**

**Theme:** Assimilation in English and Uzbek

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TASHKENT 2013

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# I. Introduction

This course paper is dedicated to the comparative analysis of the specific features of assimilation of phonemes in the English and Uzbek languages which is one of the most interesting, disputable and important problems of theoretical phonetics of modern English. The study of combinatory-positional changes of phonemes, namely the process of assimilation has always been one of the actual problems in general phonetics.

The main aim of the present course paper is comparative analysis of the specific features of assimilation of speech sounds in the English and Uzbek languages.

The aim of our research work puts forward a lot of tasks to fulfill such as:

- to define main phonetic and phonological terms and concepts;
- to study the main features of modification of phonemes in connected speech;
- to analyze the process of assimilation in English;
- to investigate the specific peculiarities of assimilation of phonemes in Uzbek;
- to find similarities and differences of assimilation process in English and Uzbek.

The main material of the given course paper is taken from different books on theoretical and practical phonetics as such English Phonetics. A Theoretical Course (by Abduazizov A.A) T., 2006, A Theoretical Course of English Phonetics (Leontyeva S.F). M., 2002. Theoretical Phonetics of English (Sokolova M.A. and others) M., 1994, English Phonetics. A Theoretical Course, Vassilyev V.A.) M., 1970, Pronunciation Theory of English (by Alimardanov R.A.) and many others.

The theoretical value of the present course paper is that the theoretical part of the work can be used in delivering lectures on the Theoretical Phonetics of Modern English.

The practical significance of the present course paper is that the practical results gained by investigating the given problem may be used as examples or mini-tests in seminars and practical lessons on English phonetics.

Structurally the present research work consists of four parts – Introduction, Body, Conclusion and Bibliography.

## **II. Body**

# 1. Main types of modification of phonemes in English and Uzbek

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 vowel.<sup>1</sup>

When interpreted linguistically, it means that in a speech continuum there appears a variety of realizations of one and the same phoneme, its allophones. The number of allophones of each phoneme is, therefore, no less than the number of phonetic positions in which the phoneme occurs.

The modifications that the sounds undergo in connected speech vary a great deal. The speaker avoids articulatory movements which are not absolutely necessary for intelligibility of speech. But this process is to some extent regulated by the articulatory habits, the orthoepic norm, by the system of phonemes in the language and the system of phonological oppositions the phonemes form in the language.

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

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<sup>1</sup> Alimardonov R.A. Pronunciation theory of English, T, 2009, p 62

detected by the native speakers as a foreign accent. However, this process can be found in Uzbek as /l/ is pronounced with dark form in all cases.

These are just a few example of how the orthoepic norm and the articulatory habits regulate the various modifications of sounds in connected speech. Yet certain phonetic modifications are have been for many centuries, characteristic of English.

The phonetic modifications that occur in a speech continuum may affect (1) its sound structure (those modifications are due to assimilations, accommodation, reduction, elision of consonants, the appearance of the linking /r/ or the intrusive /r/); (2) its syllabic structure (due to elision of syllabic sounds); (3) the accentual structure of words (due to rhythm).

In a speech continuum sounds are so closely one to another it is hardly to say exactly where the articulatory and acoustic boundary between the sounds occurs. The reason of this is the fact that while one sound is being formed the speech organs are already moving on to the position in which the next sound is to be formed. So the articulation of a sound in a speech continuum is modified under the influence of neighbouring sounds.

For purposes of analysis it is convenient to distinguish between the following three phases in the articulation of an isolated speech sound;

(1) the initial phase, when the speech organs are placed in the position necessary to produce the sound;

(2) the central phase, during which the speech organs retain their position for a certain period of time;

(3) The final phase, during which the speech organs return to a position of rest.

In connected speech the phases of the sounds interpenetrate.

The extent to which the phases of the neighbouring sounds interpenetrate depends mainly on the nature of those sounds (whether both the sounds are consonants, or one of them is a consonant and the other a vowel).

When the neighbouring sounds are of a different nature (e.g. a consonant+ a vowel, or vice versa), the final phase of the first sounds penetrates into the initial phase of the following sound, and both the sounds are but slightly modified. This process is called accommodation which can frequently be found in English and Uzbek languages.

Accommodation is the process of adapting the articulation of a consonant to a vowel, or a vowel to a consonant.

Accommodation results in allophonic modifications only. It never affects the essential qualities (i.e. the phonologically relevant features) of each of the two sounds.

The different phenomena that occur when a consonant and a vowel accommodate are as follows:

1. Canalization – the lowering of the soft palate sue to which vowels assume a nasal shade when they are in contact with nasal consonants (/n/, /m/, /ŋ/). (of “men”- “tell”).

2. Shortening of vowels before consonants, especially before fortis consonants (of “see”- “seize”-“cease”).

3. The lengthening of /m, n, ŋ, l/ after short vowels (of “sun”-“soon”).

4. Labialization – the rounding of the lips which consonants acquire when in contact with rounded vowels (o/, /u:/, /ou/).

5. Velarization – the raising of the back the tongue towards the soft palate, hence the velar grave colouring which consonants acquire in contact with back vowels(/u/, /o/, /uə/).

6. Labio-velarization – the raising of the back of the tongue and the rounding of lips, hence the valer and labial features which consonants acquire when in contact which lip-rounded back vowels (/o/, /u:/).

7. Palatalization – the raising of the central part of the tongue, hence the palatal shade which such consonants as /f,ʒ, tʃ, dʒ, l/ acquire when followed by vowels or /j/. But in should be noted that palatalization in English is rather weak,

and the palatalizing tendency is much less obvious in English than it is in Russian and French.

All these phenomena, except the shortening of vowels and the lengthening of /m, n, ŋ, l/, involve a change in the work of the active organs, which modify the acoustic features of the sounds (than can be clearly seen on spectrograms).

Accommodation can be progressive, regressive, or mutual in English whereas in Uzbek it can only be progressive and regressive.

If the articulation of a sound is modified under the influence of the preceding sound, i.e. its articulation is adapted to the articulation of the preceding sound, the accommodation is progressive. (E.g. the nasalization of /i/ in “me”).

If the articulatory of a sound is adapted to the articulation of the following sound, the accommodation is regressive. ( E.g. the labialization of /t/ in “toe”).

If the articulatory movements of both the sounds are adapted to each other, the accommodation is mutual ( this is specific for English only).

In a speech continuum not all the syllables are equally stressed. Therefore, not all the sounds are produced with equal articulatory effort.

Reduction is another type of modification which is only specific for the English language is a process of the quality and length of a vowel due to a weakening of its articulation and a shortening of its duration. Reduction can be found in the Uzbek language with borrowings. i.e. the words borrowed from other languages (e.g. traktor – traktr, direktor direktr).

Reduction of vowels occurs only in weakly stressed position in English.

Vowels can be partially reduced (these are generally called semi-weak vowels). Vowels can also be reduced to /ə/ which is the weakest English vowel and its quality is most indistinct. E.g. /sou/ - where the vowel is of full formation,

/so`leit/ - where the word “so” contains a semi-weak vowel,

/not sə`leit/ - where /ou/ is obscured to /ə/.

The degree of reduction depends on a number of factors:

1) the extent to which the duration of the sound is shortened, which L.Scherbe considers to be the main factor, as the shorter the sound, the less time there is for its articulation, and, therefore, the less distinct is its quality;

2) the extent to which the articulatory effort is decreased, that results in indistinctness of the quality of the sound.

Any English vowel can be reduced if it occurs in weakly stressed syllables. The general tendency is that /i:/ and /e/ are reduced to a weaker front vowel /ɪ/, while the rest of the vowels are obscured to the central vowel /ə/.

It is characteristic of present-day English to use /ə/ in weakly stressed syllables where the more conservative form had and has the stronger /ɪ/, as has been noted by A.Gimson. E.g. /aɪ bə`li:v/ for /aɪ bɪ`li:v/, /`intrəstiŋ/ for /`Itristiŋ/. That very often results in neutralization of the oppositions between words, e.g. accept –except, forward – foreward, affect-effect, etc. But /ɪ/ 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 rule.

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”).

It is feature of English that in clusters of consonants there takes place a phonetic phenomenon known as elision.

Elision is the leaving out of a sound as a means or simplifying the pronunciation of a word or a rhythmic group. 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 plosion.

Such cases of elision occur rather often even in careful speech.

E.g., pos(t)man, gran(d)father, nex(t) day, kep(t) quiet, ask(ed) them, bread an(d) butter, up an(d) down, wasn’(t) that. Doesn’(t) she know?

The elision of one of a cluster of two consonants at the boundary of words is considered to be vulgar and occurs in rapid careless speech only.

E.g., he went away /hɪˈwen əˈwei/,

I want to come /aɪˈwʌnəˈkʌm/,

Let me see /ˈlemiːsi/,

Give me /ˈɡɪmi/

The elision of consonants modifies the sound structure of words.

In a speech continuum words are generally linked into higher phonetic units: the intonation groups. Every language has its own peculiarities of linking words. The manner of linking neighboring words is known as liaison. Liaison is a phonetic phenomenon which modifies the sound structure of an utterance. Though liaison has not as yet been fully investigated, there are two features which are clearly distinguished: the occurrence of the “linking” /r/ and the use of the “intrusive” /r/.

The linking /r/ is inserted after words that in their old pronunciation (the 16<sup>th</sup> century and earlier) had a final /r/, which still remains in the spelling of those words.

Phonetic analysis shows that the linking /r/ is inserted after /ɑː, ɔː, ə/, or after diphthongs that have a /ə/ glide (such as /Iə, uə, eə/, if they are immediately followed by a word beginning with a vowel.

E.g., here /r/ and there,

for /r/ a minute.

later /r/ on,

for /r/ instance.

But if the above mentioned sounds are preceded by /r/ (as in “bearer”, “drear”, “error”, “horror”, “roar”), there generally does not appear any linking sound.

E.g., a roar of laughter /ə`roʊv `la:ftə/,

an error of judgment /ən`erə əv`dʒʌdʒmənt/,

horror of war /`horə əv `wɔ/.

The linking /r/ does not normally occur before words pronounced with emphasis.

E.g. we were ``absolutely sure.

The linking /r/ is usually inserted at the juncture of two words belonging to one and the same intonation group.

E.g., the door /r/ opened and I peeped in.

But: He locked the door and put the key into his pocket.

D.Jones writes: “The insertion of /r/ is unusual if a pause is possible between the words, even if no pause is actually made”.

The intrusive /r/, which has been brought about by analogy with the linking /r/, is believed to have appeared in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. But until lately it was looked upon as a vulgarism. In the latest papers and article on English pronunciation it is generally noted that the intrusive /r/ is being used more widely, even by RP speakers.

The intrusive /r/ is more commonly inserted after /ə/ or any diphthong containing /ə/ as a glide.

E.g., Asia /r/ and Africa,

the idea /r/ of it,

the sofa /r/ over there.

It is sometimes inserted after /o/ and /ɑ:/.

E.g., the law /r/ of the sea,

Papa /r/ isn't in.

It should be noted that not all Englishmen use the intrusive /r/. moreover, not all Englishmen use the linking /r/. nevertheless it is clearly evident that the usage of the linking /r/ is the standard. As for the intrusive /r/ it is more widely used by RP speakers than it was some 20-30 years ago.

Elision of vowels is closely connected with the process of reduction. Just as reduction, it is conditioned by the general tendency to produce the weakly stressed syllables with minimal articulatory effort.

Elision of a vowel is the leaving out of a vowel.

In English there are certain phonetic position in which the elision of a weakly stressed vowel does not affect intelligibility of speech. Moreover, instances of such elision are commonly used by RP speakers.

A.C. Gimson notes that the elision of vowels can now be observed in the following phonetic position:

1) in post-nuclear positions in the sequence Consonant + /ə/ + /r/ + weak vowel, e.g. “preferable” /ˈprefrəbl/, “temperature” /ˈtempərətʃə/, “territory” /ˈtɛntri/, “murderer” /ˈmɜːdrə/, “nursery” /ˈnɜːsri/, “camera” /ˈkæmrə/, robbery /ˈrɒbri/;

2) in post-nuclear position in the sequence Consonant + weak vowel + /l/ + weak vowel, e.g. “easily” /iːzli/, “carefully” /kɛəfli/, “novelist” /ˈnɒvəlɪst/, “family” /ˈfæmli/;

3) in pre-nuclear positions, /ə/, or /i/ of the weak syllable preceding the primary stress is apt to be elided in very rapid speech, e.g. “police” /pliːs/, “terrific” /ˈtrɪfɪk/, “correct” /kɹekt/, “believe” /bliːv/, “direction” /dɹekʃn/, “phonetics” /ˈfnetɪks/, “photography” /ˈfɒtəgrəfi/, “suppose” /spəuz/, “perhaps” /præps/.

Elision of vowels may occur at word boundaries as well. The elision occurs in rapid colloquial speech when followed by linking /r/ + weak vowel,

e.g. “after a while” /ˈaː ftərəwɪl/,

“as a matter of fact” /æ zəˈmætərɒvˈfækt/,

“father and son” /ˈfɑːðərənˈsʌn/.

Many words, which are usually weakly stressed in speech, are also obscured and of the sounds that constitute them are elided. If the elided sounds are vowels or syllabic sonorants, the syllabic structure of such words is modified.

E.g. "I had" or "I would" are often pronounced as /aɪd/,

"it is" as /ɪts/,

"he will" as /hi:l/,

"he is" or "he has" /hi:z/,

"This is a fine day!" as /ɪsɪsəˈfaɪn ˈdeɪ/.

The accentual structure of English words is generally retained in speech. But it appears that English is a language in which a relatively high percentage of words change their accentual structure in the speech continuum under the influence of rhythm.

Modifications of the accentual structure (or shifting of stress) in English involves words that in isolation are double-stressed. In English double-stressed words may be either simple, or compound.

e.g. ˈdisaˈgree	ˈafterˈnoon
ˈthɪrˈteen	ˈwell-ˈknown
ˈsɪxˈteen	ˈso-ˈcalled
ˈɪnˈcapable	ˈgrey-ˈhaired

When in the speech continuum such words are preceded or followed by a strongly stressed syllable, their accentual structure is modified,

e.g. ˈthis afterˈnoon	ˈafternoon ˈtea
ɪtˈs ˈnɪn θɪrˈteen	ˈθɪr teen ˈpence
ˈnɒt full-ˈgrown	a ˈfull-grownˈman

Thus, in a speech continuum there can be observed a variety of phonetic phenomena, which affect the sound structure, the syllabic structure and the accentual structure of words constituting the speech continuum.

The pronunciation of one and the same word uttered in the speech continuum will not be identical if its phonetic environment and phonetic position differs. The neighbouring sounds, the rhythmic patterns, the degree of prominence,

the speed of utterance and other factors affect the extent of the phonetic modifications, such as accommodation, assimilation, reduction, elision, liaison and shifting of stress. This is why; the extent of these phonetic modifications varies in different styles of pronunciation: in rapid and careless colloquial style the modifications that a word may undergo are much greater than those that occur in careful styles of pronunciation.

Besides, the pronunciation of a word with special prominence in the utterance (the nucleus of the utterance) is modified less than the pronunciation of the same word when weakly stressed.

Therefore, the phonetic modifications of the sounds structure, the syllabic structure and the accentual structure of a word in the speech continuum depend on

- a) the phonetic environment of the word,
- b) its phonetic position in the speech continuum,
- c) the prosodic features of the speech continuum the word occurs in (the main prosodic features being the pitch pattern, the tempo of speech, the rhythmic pattern, the degree of prominence).

At the same time, the extent of phonetic modifications is regulated by the orthoepic norm of the language and intelligibility, which prevent modifications that may hinder intercommunication.

The investigation of the phonetic modification that occur in the speech continuum reveals the phonetic tendencies of a language. This is one of the main reasons why there is a need for further investigation of this problem, especially of the influence of the prosodic features upon the sound structure of speech which has received almost no treatment at all.

There is a process called dissimilation which is rarely found in English. As for Uzbek this process is quite common. Dissimilation is a phonetic change in which two phonemes become different. Dissimilation is taken from Latin word “dissimilation” and means “different”. Dissimilation is also divided into two types: (1) progressive, and (2) regressive.

Progressive assimilation:           birorta – bironta;

zarur – zaril.

Regressive assimilation: ittifoq – intifoq;

Koridor – kolidor.

Metathesis which is also specific for the Uzbek language is a process when two adjacent sounds change their places. For example: tuproq – turpoq, aylanmoq – aynalmoq, yomg'ir – yog'mir, ahvol – avhol, o'rganmoq – o'granmoq, to'g'ramoq – to'rg'amoq, ovqat – avqot.

The vowel harmony is also specific for Uzbek. In vowel harmony the vowel of the syllable may become more like the vowel of some other syllable, and vowels agree with each other in certain features. Vowel harmony is widely used in Turkic languages. According to the rules of vowel harmony the next coming syllable's vowel should be similar to the preceding one's vowel (e.g. : quruq, quyuq, burun, uzun, uzum, tuzum, uyqu)

## 2. Main features of assimilation in English

Assimilation is the process of adapting the articulation of sounds that are of a similar as identical nature.

Assimilation involves changes in the central phases of the adjoining sounds (as in /n=/) or even in all their phases (as in /sj>/f/).

When two consonants assimilate, different phonetic phenomena may occur, such as.

1. Vocalization and devocalization, which involve the work of the vocal cords (as in /tra:nz'leit/; /aɪft'θɪŋk, sou/ and /aɪfd'du:ɪt/; /aɪ'hæftə'gou/).

2. Coalescent assimilation, when under the influence of mutual assimilation there appears a new phoneme (as in /sj>/f/, /zj>/ʒ/, /tj>/tʃ/, /dj>/dʒ/).

3. Labialization under the influence of /w/ (as in /tw/, /kw/, etc.)

4. Dentalization, which is a change in the articulation of alveolar sounds under the influence of dental sounds /as in /nθ/, /z=/).

5. Loss of aspiration, when a fortis plosive is unaspirated under the influence of a neighbouring sound (as in /spi:k/, /spot/).

6. Changes in the articulation of plosives, such as:

a) nasal plosion produced by the soft palate when a plosive is followed by a nasal consonant (as in /tɫ/, /dn/, /pm/);

b) lateral plosion produced at the sides of the tongue when a plosive is followed by /l/ (as in /tɫ/, /dl/);

c) restricted plosion, which is an incomplete plosion that occurs when a plosive is followed by a constrictive (as in /pɫ/, /gr/, /kr/).

d) Loss of plosion when a plosive is followed by a plosive (as in /dt/, /tt/, /kk/, etc.)

7. Changes involving both the work of the active organs and the place of obstruction, which result in allophonic and phonemic changes. (E.g. /kən'grætjuleɪt/ or /keŋ'grætjuleɪt/ where /n/>/ŋ/ under the influence of /g/).

The mutual influence that the sounds of a similar or identical nature exert upon each other may result in either allophonic modifications or phonemic changes.

Phonological analysis shows that assimilation resulting in phonemic changes occurs mainly at the junctive between words: won't you /tj/ > /t=/, would you /dj/ > /dʒ/, of course /vk/ > /fk/.

It may also occur at the juncture between the parts of a compound word: goseberry /sb/ > /zb/, newspaper /zp/ > /sp/, horseshoe /sf/ > /ff/.

Assimilation resulting in allophonic modifications may occur within a syllable (e.g. in "train" /r/ is voiceless, or party devoiced), at the juncture of two words (e.g. "but the" where /t/ is dental).

The assimilation that occurs at work juncture is termed junctural assimilation.

The nature of the adjoining sounds determines the degree of the modifications that these sounds undergo. It should also be noted that the extent of these modifications depends largely upon the tempo of speech and the style of pronunciation. The faster and more careless the delivery, the greater is the degree of these modifications.

The degree of the modifications that the assimilated sound undergoes may vary.

If the assimilated sound is completely altered and acquires all the main features of the assimilating sound (as in "horseshoe"), the assimilation is said to be complete.

If the assimilated sound is partially altered and acquires some of its features (as in "cry", where /r/ is partly devoiced under the influence of /k/), the assimilation is progressive.

If the sounds influence each other equally, i.e. each sound acquires some features of the other sound (as in 'twenty', where /t/ is labialized under the influence of /w/, and /w/ is partly devoiced under the influence of /t/), the assimilation is mutual.

Besides that, we distinguish obligatory assimilation and non-obligatory assimilation.

Obligatory assimilation occurs in everybody's speech, no matter what style of pronunciation is used.

Non-obligatory assimilation appears mainly in rapid and careless conversational styles. The more rapid and careless the speeches, the more cases of non-obligatory assimilation occur in it.

In "in the (dental /=/), "last Tuesday", (/tt/), "horseshoe" /ff/ Assimilation is obligatory. But /dʒenouə/ for "Do you know her", /aɪfl ˈɪtʃə/ for "I shall hit you", /amgənəˈgou=ɛə/ for "I'm going to go there" sound vulgar and are instances of non-obligatory assimilation.

Junctural assimilation may also vary in the extent of the modifications that take place. It may either be complete (as in "is she" /ɪʃfi/, "has she" /hæʃfi/, "good bye" /gʊbˈbaɪ/), or partial (as "in the", "at the", where /n/ and /t/ are central). It may vary in direction as well, and we distinguish progressive junctural assimilation (as in "what's" /w=ts/, "it's" /ɪts/, "Open the door" /ˈoʊpm =ə do/), regressive junctural assimilation (as in "of course" /əfˈkɔːs/, "with thanks" /wɪθˈθæŋks/, "in case" /ɪŋˈkeɪs/, "I have to go" /aɪˈhæftəˈgou/), and mutual junctural assimilation (as in "won't you" /ˈwɒntʃə/, "would you" /ˈwʊdʒə/).

Junctural assimilation may be either obligatory (as in "in the", "at the") or non-obligatory (as in "let me" /lemmi/, "give me" /gɪmmi/, "during" /ˈdʒuəriŋ/), "How do you do" /ˈhaʊdʒəˈduː/, "good bye" /gʊbˈbaɪ/.

The investigation of non-obligatory assimilation in a language is important, as it disclosed the main phonetic tendencies of the language. Very often phonetic changes first occur among the uneducated before they are recognized by the educated speakers. For instance, Ch.Barber notes that before the Second World War the pronunciation with /dʒ/ in "duke", "during", "education" were vulgar, while nowadays that is quite common in rapid educated speech.

Assimilation in different languages has been studied by a number of well-known scholars (M. Grammont, P.Passy, A.Martinet and others). Most of them

consider that such phonetic modifications are to a great extent caused by an unconscious economy of effort referred to as “the law of least effort”, which is universal for all languages.

### 3. Specific peculiarities of assimilation of speech sounds in

#### Uzbek

According to Hamroyev M.A.: “Assimilation is a process in which speech sounds influence and adapt each other. Assimilation is divided into two types: (1) progressive, and (2) regressive.

In progressive assimilation the following consonant is influenced by preceding consonant<sup>1</sup>.

For example, the preceding sound [d] influence next coming [t] or [t] influence [d] and become similar to each other: aytdi – aytti, ochdi – ochti, botdi – botti.

“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<sup>2</sup>”.

Here are other examples:

qarich – qarish, toj – toch, boj – boch, massaj – massash.

“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<sup>1</sup>”.

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<sup>1</sup> Хамроев М.А. “Ўзбек тилидан маърузалар мажмуаси”. Тошкент, 2005. 27 бет.

<sup>2</sup> Abdurahmonov G., Rustamov H. “Ona tili” 10-sinf uchun darslik. T., “O’qituvchi” 2003. 31-bet.

<sup>1</sup> Rafiyev A., G’ulomova N. “Ona tili va adabiyot”. “SHARQ” nashriyot-matbaa aksiyadorlik kompaniyasi bosh tahririyati. T., 2004. 24-bet.

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, yonbosh – yombosh, manmanlik – mammanlik, yonma-yon – yomma-yon, ko’rinmaslik – ko’rimmaslik, shanba – shamba; uchta – ushta, uchdi – ushdi, kichkina- kishkina; so’zsiz – so’ssiz, yuz so’m – yusso’m, iztirob – istirob, izchil – ischil, bo’zchi – bo’schi, izquvar – isquvar, tuzsiz – tussiz, muftalo – muftalo, ibtido – iptido, maqtov – maxtov, taqsim – taxsim, avtobus – aftobus, avtomat - aftomat<sup>2</sup>”.

Assimilation may be complete and partial. For example: otdan – ottan is a complete; and uchta – ushta is a partial assimilation.

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<sup>2</sup> Rafiyev A., Gulomova N. “Ona tili va adabiyot”. “SHARQ” nashriyot-matbaa aksiyadorlik kompaniyasi bosh tahririyati. T., 2004.36-37- bb.

### III. Conclusion

Every utterance is a continuous flow of speech interrupted by pauses. When we linguistically interpret this it means that in a speech continuum there appears a variety of realizations of one and the same phoneme, its allophones.

Phonetic modifications that occur in a speech continuum may affect: a) its sound structure; 2) syllable structure, and 3) the accentual structure of words.

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 neighbouring 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.

Assimilation is usually defined as the process of adapting the articulation of sounds that are of a similar or identical nature. This process is quite common in English and Uzbek languages. In most cases main features of assimilation in both languages are similar, to some degree. However, there are certain cases where the types of assimilation can be different as such case where according to its direction

there are three types of assimilation such as progressive, regressive and mutual whereas in Uzbek it has two types progressive and regressive, as for its degree there are three types of assimilation as such complete, incomplete and partial whereas in Uzbek we have two types complete and incomplete. Moreover, main features of assimilation in both languages have their specific peculiarities in both languages.

Thus, summarizing all above mentioned it is possible to draw a conclusion that the comparative analysis of assimilation in English and Uzbek language is one of this most interesting and important problems of modern phonetics.

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