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THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH PHONETICS

COURSE PAPER

ON THE THEME:

***THE SYLLABIC STRUCTURE OF ENGLISH
WORDS***

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THE SYLLABIC STRUCTURE OF ENGLISH WORDS

Plan

INTRODUCTION

MAIN PART

1. THE DEFINITION OF SYLLABLE

2. TYPES F SYLLABLEIN ENGLISH

3. FUNCTIONS OF SYLLABLE AND SYLLABLE DIVISION

CONCLUSION

USED LITERATURE

INTRODUCTION

It is well known that one hundred thirty years ago our nation, being deprived of its historical statehood, was under colonial dependence. During that period the nation passed through hard trials. After these hard times, our motherland became independent and this 2016 year we'll celebrate its 25th anniversary of independence and now Uzbekistan has its own Constitution, flag, emblem, anthem and its rights.

After Independence all conditions are created to review national culture and morality. Owing to reforms and renewal of our society that has started. There opened powerful layers of human cultural wealth high morality and culture, prerequisites for revival of fine national customs and traditions, opportunities for accessibility to enormous spiritual inheritance of our ancestors who have contributed much to the world civilization. There opens the historical memory of the people, there comes spiritual enlightenment and along with it the feelings of national pride and love for one's Motherland stir up a new.

One of the major achievements of Uzbekistan Independence is the fact that the nation, the people were give back the memory of great sons of the Uzbek people such as: Al Beruni, Ibn Sino, Muhammad Khorezmi, Ahmad Fargoni, Al Bukhari, At Termiziy, Amir Temur, Mirzo Ulugbek, Hodja Bakhouddin Nakhshband, Alisher Navoi, Bobur Mirzo and dozens and hundreds of other. Great concern is shown today restoration of famous names of the sons of the Uzbek people belonging to our recent history – the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20es – 30es of this century in particular. They were undeservedly forgotten, calumniated and annilulated undercolonial, ideologized and totalitarian regime.

What can one measure with what has been done by us for the revival of national customs and traditions, spiritual, cultural and moral values revival of religion, desecrated faith of our ancestors, for returning to people their sacred

places and objects – restoration of mosque, madrasahs and other historical monuments.

Uzbekistan is directly and purposefully going forward on its own way of development that is thoroughly and basically thought over by the President of the Republic. World wide reforms in multinational state during the years of independence are being effected and will be effected for the noble goal itself-peace, prosperity and happy life. [1]

At present reputation and essence of science and scientists are increasing throughout the world. Because of rapid development of science and techniques, a number of countries develop thoroughly, they enter into the new way of progress and in that way improve their position. Essential work is carried out in our country in this matter too. No doubt that the Resolution “On accelerating the organization of scientific research activity” signed by President I.A.Karimov. And the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan also will be of high importance when organizing the scientific – technical activity and its development in the country.

Much attention is paid to the problems of the development of scientific and research work because the state will not have its future without all – sided elaboration of science. Taking this into account much attention in the Republic is attached to expansion of research work, efficient application of scientific achievements in various fields of the national economy.

The government policies of Uzbekistan have build up 50,000 new educational institutes annually for the past few years. More schools are yet required to fulfil the public demand. All the educational institutes of Uzbekistan aim at educational development. They follow certain principles, such as:

- Modifying and further improving the educational and socializing content
- Developing new schools, curriculum and textbooks

-Stress on individual capability and talent

-Vocational and Professional training, keeping in mind the changing economical needs

In fact the future of Uzbekistan is in the hand of the youth. For serving their motherland they must be healthy both physically and culturally. If children are paid attention by the childhood of them intellectual educated, and great people in future. To become this purpose a lot of activities are being made in the field of sport and education according to the orders of President I. A. Karimov. [2]

New higher educational institutions have appeared: the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Academy of State and Public Structuring, Academy of Armed Forces, Academy of Ministry of Internal Affairs. English language is the national language of GB, USA, Australia, New Zealand .The English language is also one of the official languages of the United Nations Organization. We are learning such kind language which serves to connect people all over the world, this language is the language of the official documents of international organizations. It is the language of world famous poets, writers , beginners of the English literature. So our President I. Karimov payed attention learning foreign languages and on December 10, 2012 he signed a decree “On measures to further improve foreign language learning system”. It is noted that in the framework of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On education" and the National Programme for Training in the country, a comprehensive foreign languages’ teaching system, aimed at creating harmoniously developed, highly educated, modern-thinking young generation, further integration of the country to the world community, has been created. During the years of independence, over 51.7 thousand teachers of foreign languages graduated from universities, English, German and French multimedia tutorials and textbooks for 5-9 grades of secondary schools, electronic resources for learning English in primary schools were created, more than 5000 secondary schools, professional colleges and academic lyceums were equipped with language laboratories. [1]

The great future of our independent motherland which had defined the way of development, it closely connected to what degree our youth intellectual possibilities are involved.

In Uzbekistan, we have set up the successfully functioning branches of the leading educational institutions of Europe and Asia with a high international reputation and deep historical roots, including Westminster University, Management and Development Institute of Singapore, Turin Polytechnic University, Russian University of Oil and Gas, Moscow State University, Russian University of Economics. Bachelor's and master's majors in mechanical engineering, oil and gas business, information technologies, economics and business management, finance management, commercial law are taught in these higher educational institutions, and their graduates receive diplomas acknowledged across the globe.

It is on the world that due to the higher education establishment is successfully cooperating with the world leading universities and scientific research centers. Our youth are being taught at the leading universities of the U.S.A, England, France, Germany and Malaysia. Uzbekistan is facing to the world.[2]

The subject of my course paper is very interesting and worthy to discuss: “**The syllabic structure of English words**”.

The problem of my work is concerned with Theoretical Phonetics and Phonology.

The aim of my course paper is to study deeply investigate the works of phoneticians and analyze the syllabic structure of English words

In this work it is necessary to solve the following **primary objectives**:

1. Theoretically to comprehend and approve importance of studying the syllabic structure
2. To analyze phonological features of syllabic structure of English words

During the work the following **methods of research** were applied:

1. The analysis of the scientific literature on a theme of course paper;
2. The analysis of programs and internet resources such as official sites of foreign authors and websites of both domestic and foreign universities;

Practical value of the given theme is included in the formation of modern scientific resources for language learners and students of the Higher Education.

This course paper consists of the introductory, three chapters, conclusion and the list of used literature.

The chapters are: 1. The definition of syllable.

2. Types of syllables in English.

3. Functions of syllable and syllable division.

THE DEFINITION OF SYLLABLE

Listening to utterances of any language one can observe the peaks of loudness in the speech continuum. The discrete sounds, in which the segmental phonemes are realized, is the result of the most minimal segmentation of the speech continuum. The combination of speech sounds constitutes the longer segments in which the complex unity of all the phonetic elements and their features may be found. The minimal unit of utterance is known as a syllable. The syllable is the result of the natural segmentation of the speech continuum. The definitions of the syllable differ greatly, as linguists choose the acoustic, articulatory and functional criteria. There are wrong conceptions as well, which state that the syllable, as a phonetic phenomenon, does not exist and that the grouping of phonemes in syllables is a mere convention without any objective reality (a view held, for example by G. Panconcelli – Calzia, O. Von Essen)¹. Nonetheless, most linguists admit the existence and the articulatory- acoustic reality of the syllable. From the articulatory point of view the syllable may be regarded as a single uninterrupted unit of utterance which may coincide with a word (ex. cat /kæt/) or a part of a word or a word form (ex. little /lit-l/ making /mei-kiŋ/). Syllables consisting of two or more phonemes, joining the articulations, have a complex structure characterized by on-glides, retention and off-glides which is essential also for the ordinary combination of phonemes.

From the acoustic and perceptual point of view a syllable is a wave of loudness characterized by prosodic features such as stress, pitch, sonority and length. The acoustic – auditory shape of the syllable depends on the sonority of the sounds. The peak of the syllable is often formed by a vowel as in pet, act, see; less often by the sonants or sonorants (m,n,l) , as in the second syllable of table, tension, times, middle, cotton, autumn. The peak of the syllable may be followed by less sonorous sounds (consonants). One sound, which is characterized by the great force of utterance (accent and pitch of voice), sonority and length, may function as a syllable. For example, /ai/, little/lit-l/, rhythm/rið-m/.

From the functional point of view a syllable like other phonetic units, fulfills four functions: 1) constitutive function, i.e. a syllable or syllables act as material carriers of words, word-forms, word-combinations and phrases; 2) distinctive function, i. e. the syllables may serve to distinguish minimal pairs of words, word-combinations and phrases. For example: *an apron* /ən `eɪprən/- *a napron* / ə`neɪprən/, *an ice house* /ən `aɪs `haus/ - *a nice house* /ə `naɪs `haus/, *its lips* /ɪts `lɪps/ - *it slips* /ɪt slɪps/. *Is there any mistake here? – Is there any Miss Take here?* 3) recognitive function, i.e. the recognition of the right syllable formation and syllable division rules; 4) delimitative function, i.e. some syllables may occur only in initial or final positions in words.

Phonologically it is possible to distinguish two types of syllables:

1) genuine syllables, the phonemic structure of which has consonant functional relevance. For example: *bottle* /bɒt-l/ - *bottom* /bɒt-əm/, *make* /meɪk/ - *maing* /meɪkɪŋ/;

2) the secondary syllables are unstable and their phonemes have not the same functional relevance as the phonemes of genuine syllables. There are two or more peaks of sonority in the secondary syllables. For example: *a black tie* /ə `blæk `taɪ/ - *a blacked eye* /ə `blæktt`aɪ/, *ice-cream* /aɪs `krɪ:m/ - *I scream* /aɪ `skrɪ:m/. [7.133]

Open and closed

A coda-less syllable of the form V, CV, CCV, etc. (V = vowel, C = consonant) is called an open syllable or free syllable, while a syllable that has a coda (VC, CVC, CVCC, etc.) is called a closed syllable or checked syllable. Note that they have nothing to do with open and close vowels, but are defined according to the phoneme that ends the syllable: a vowel (open syllable) or a consonant (closed syllable). Almost all languages allow open syllables, but some, such as Hawaiian, do not have closed syllables. Note that when a syllable is not the last

syllable in a word, the nucleus normally must be followed by two consonants in order for the syllable to be closed. This is because a single following consonant is typically considered the onset of the following syllable. For example, Spanish For example: *casar* "to marry" is composed of an open syllable followed by a closed syllable (*ca-sar*), whereas *cansar* "to get tired" is composed of two closed syllables (*can-sar*). When a geminate (double) consonant occurs, the syllable boundary occurs in the middle, e.g. Italian *panna* "cream" (*pan-na*); cf. Italian *pane* "bread" (*pa-ne*).

English single-syllable words that have both a nucleus and a coda (i.e. closed syllables), where v denotes "nucleus" and κ "coda":

- *in*: v = /ɪ/, c = /n/
- *cup*: v = /ʌ/, c = /p/
- *tall*: v = /ɔ:/, c = /l/
- *milk*: v = /ɪ/, c = /lk/
- *tints*: v = /ɪ/, c = /nts/
- *fifths*: v = /ɪ/, c = /fθs/
- *sixths*: v = /ɪ/, c = /ksθs/
- *twelfths*: v = /ɛ/, c = /lfθs/
- *strengths*: v = /ɛ/, c = /ŋθs/

The following single-syllable words end in a nucleus and do not have a coda (i.e. open syllables):

- *glue*, v = /u:/
- *pie*, v = /aɪ/ or /aɪ/
- *though*, v = /əʊ/ (UK) or /oʊ/ (US)

- boy, v = /ɔɪ/

A list of examples of syllable codas in English is found at English phonology:
Coda. [16]

TYPES F SYLLABLEIN ENGLISH

Syllable is a basic unit of written and spoken language. It is a unit consisting of uninterrupted sound that can be used to make up words. For example, the word hotel has two syllables: ho and tel. These will be marked here as in ho/tel. There are the various generally accepted classification of syllables. 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 syllables:

V – uncovered, open;

VC – closed, uncovered;

CVC – closed, covered;

CV – covered, open.

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

V – fully open;

CVC – fully closed;

CV – initially covered;

VC – finally covered.

Besides he distinguished 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 – structs, 10) CVCCCC – sixths, 11) CCVCCCC – twelfth, 12) CVCCCCC – sixths /sɪksθ/ (with optional /t/)

The initially covered syllable has three sub-types: 1) CV – sea, 2) CCV – play, 3) CCCV – straw.

According to the generally accepted classification of syllables they may be of 4 types: open, closed, covered and uncovered.

The first type (open) includes only one form -V

The second type (closed) includes:

CVC, CVCC, CCVC

The third type (covered) includes - CV, CCV, CCCV

The fourth type (uncovered) includes - VC, VVC, VCCC

As to the number of syllables in the English word it can vary from one to eight.

For example:

Come -1

City -2

Family -3

Simplicity -4

Unnaturally -5

Divisibility -6

Incompatibility -7

Unintelligibility -8

The finally covered syllable also has three sub-types: 1) VC – at, 2) VCC – apt, 3) VCCC – acts. Thus, there are nineteen structural sub-types of syllables in modern

English and their peak is formed by a vowel or consonant when it follows or precedes constrictive consonants. For example, CS (S – indicates a sonorant); /rɪ/ – tɪ/ written; CSC / (ˈlaɪ - sɪz/ licens; CCSC: /ˈsæŋ) - kʃnɪz/ sanctions; CSCC: / (ˈskæ) – fɪldz/ scaffolds; CCSCC: / (ˈen) – trɪnts/ entrants.[11.167]

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. /aɪ/ I, /ɪt/ it, /bʊk/ 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.

According to statistic investigation almost half of the syllables frequently used in English are CVC. In Russian the universal type of the syllable is CCVC while in Uzbek CV type of syllable is regarded as a universal type. CVC type has lower frequency of occurrence in Russian and Uzbek. In the Turkic languages CVC is regarded the oldest universal type which originated the other syllable types as (C)VC, CV(C), (C)V(C).

G.P.Tursuyev gave the statistic data of sound combinations used in initial, medial and final positions of words and syllables. All the consonants except /ŋ/ may be used in the initial positions of syllables preceding vowels. The same may be observed in Uzbek in which the consonant /ŋ/ cannot occur in initial syllables of words, while in Russian all 36 consonant phonemes may appear in the initial syllables which precede vowels. More than 50 combinations of two consonants may occur in the initial syllables of words affricates and two similar consonants (geminate) cannot take part. There are 230 combinations of two consonants occurring in the initial syllables of a Russian word. Their number is very small in Uzbek as there are no combinations of consonants used in the initial position of the words of Turkic origin. In modern Uzbek as the result of linguistic contacts some

combinations of consonants began to be used in the initial syllables of words (for example; stakan, stadion, brigade, shnur, start, slesar, traktor). Many words of this type have been borrowed from Russian and other languages through Russian into Uzbek. There are also a great number of combinations of three and four consonants in the medial and final positions of the Russian and English words which do not exist in Uzbek at all or in a very small number used only in borrowings. According to the number of phonemes constituting syllables they may be classified into simple and complex.

As we stated above a syllable is a constructive unit of prosodic, i.e. it can be characterized by a certain degree of stress, i.e. by the force of utterance, pitch and duration. On the basis of these properties syllables may be classified into: a) stressed and unstressed; b) short and long; c) high, mid, low etc.

English, Russian and Uzbek are languages with dynamic stress, i.e. the changes in the force (acoustically intensity) of utterance are the primary property in them. But duration and pitch are secondary property of the English, Russian and Uzbek accent.

The stressed syllable of an English word may be pronounced by high tone and become longer, while unstressed syllables are shorter and have a low tone of voice. Besides fully open syllable is longer than a closed syllable. e.g. bee /bI:/ - longer, bead /bI:d/ long, beat /bI:t/ - shorter. English, Russian and Uzbek are regarded as languages of syllable – counting. In Latin, Greek and Czech duration is regarded as a primary property and the syllable length is distinctive prosodic feature which is usually known as the mora. Such languages are called mora – counting languages as contrary to the syllable – counting languages. [7.135]

Counting Syllables

To find the number of syllables in a word, use the following steps:

1. Count the vowels in the word.

2. Subtract any silent vowels, (like the silent e at the end of a word, or the second vowel when two vowels are together in a syllable.)
3. Subtract one vowel from every diphthong (diphthongs only count as one vowel sound.)
4. The number of vowel sounds left is the same as the number of syllables.

The number of syllables that you hear when you pronounce a word is the same as the number of vowel sounds heard. For example:

- The word *came* has 2 vowels, but the e is silent, leaving one vowel sound and one syllable.
- The word *outside* has 4 vowels, but the e is silent and the /ou/ is a diphthong which counts as only one sound, so this word has only two vowel sounds and therefore, two syllables.

Six Kinds of Syllables

There are six different kinds of syllables in English:

Closed Syllables: A closed syllable has one and only one vowel, and it ends in a consonant. Examples include *in, ask, truck, sock, stretch, twelfth, and on.*

Open Syllables: An open syllable has one and only one vowel, and that vowel occurs at the end of the syllable. Examples include *no, she, I, a, and sly.*

Silent-E Syllables: A silent-e syllable ends in an e, has one and only one consonant before that e, and has one and only one vowel before that consonant. Examples include *ate, ice, tune, slope, strobe, and these.*

Vowel Combination Syllables: A vowel combination syllable has a cluster of two or three vowels or a vowel-consonant unit with a sound or sounds particular to that unit. Examples include *rain, day, see, veal, pie, piece, noise, toy, cue and true.*

Vowel-R Syllables: A vowel-r syllable is one which includes one and only one vowel followed by an r, or one vowel followed by an r which is followed by a silent e, or a vowel combination followed by an r. Examples include *car, or, care, ire, air, and deer*.

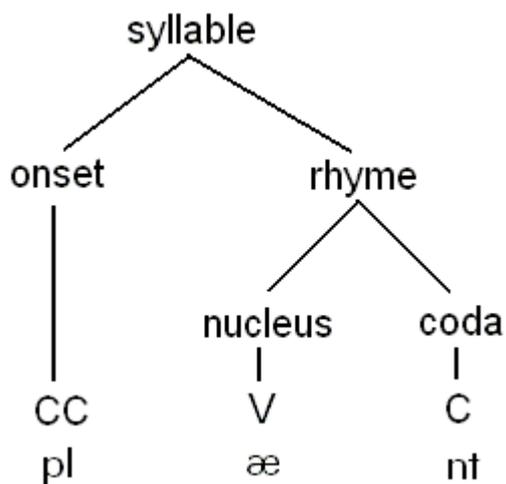
Consonant-L-E Syllables: In these syllables, a consonant is followed by le. The vowel sound in these syllables is the schwa sound that occurs before the l. Examples include *-ble, -cle, -dle, -fle, and -gle*. [17]

In tone, languages (also called languages of musical stress) various levels of pitch (tone of voice) may serve to distinguish the meanings of words, while the force of utterance and duration is not very important. For example: In Thai *maa* with high tone means “horse”, with a mid tone – “come”, with a rising tone – “dog”. Thus, *Maa maa* means “the horse comes”, whereas *m’aa maa* means “the dog comes”. E.D.Polivanov suggested the linguistic terms for each of these three types of languages. The phonological function of dynamic stress is described by the term “accenteme”. The term “syllabeme” is used to indicate the phonological function of syllables in mora-counting languages, while the term “toneme” characterizes the phonological function of tones. V.A.Vassilyev distinguishes “word-accenteme”, “phrase accenteme” and “syntagm-accenteme” used to describe the distinctive function of stress at different levels. He also uses the term “syllabeme” to indicate the phonological unit which has only distinctive feature based on syllabicity. e.g. *lightening* /laɪtənɪŋ/ - *lightning* /laɪtnɪŋ/, *finaly* /faɪnlɪ/ - *finally* /faɪnəlɪ/ etc.

The above given syllables are called phonetic syllables which are used in utterance. There are orthographic “syllables” used in writing and printing for the purpose of application of reading rules. They are also termed syllabographs. For example, *mak-ing, chang-ing, tal-king* etc. [8.158]

Syllable Structure

The syllable can be structured hierarchically into the following components:-



In this example, the English word "plant" consists of a single CCVCC syllable. This syllable has been broken up into its onset (any consonants preceding the vowel) and its rhyme (all phonemes from the vowel to the end of the syllable). The rhyme has been further divided into the nucleus, which in the vast majority of syllables is a vowel (the exceptions are syllabic consonants) and the coda, which are any consonants following the nucleus. Some other examples: [16]

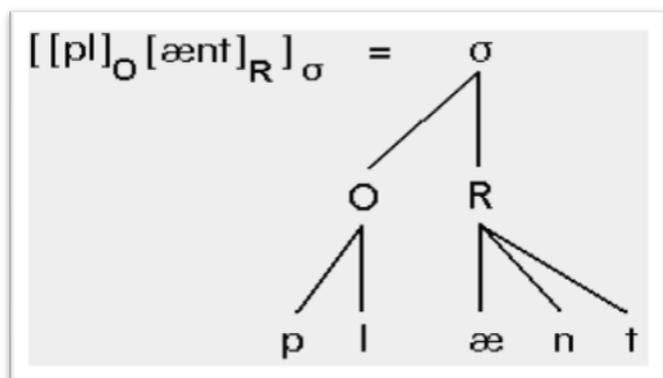
flounce: onset = /fl/
 rhyme = /aʊns/
 nucleus = /aʊ/
 coda = /ns/

free: onset /fr/
 rhyme = /i:/
 nucleus = /i:/
 coda zero

each: onset zero
 rhyme = /i:tʃ/
 nucleus = /i:/
 coda = /tʃ/

The Rhyme

The rhyme is the vowel plus any following consonants. 'plant'. Syllable is composed of an Onset = /pl/ and a Rhyme = /ænt/ (the rhyme is obligatory = the head of the syllable)



Words can be cut up into units called syllables. Humans seem to need syllables as a way of segmenting the stream of speech and giving it a rhythm of strong and weak beats, as we hear in music. Syllables don't serve any meaning-signaling function in language; they exist only to make speech easier for the brain to process. A word contains at least one syllable.

Most speakers of English have no trouble dividing a word up into its component syllables. Sometimes how a particular word is divided might vary from one individual to another, but a division is always easy and always possible. Here are some words divided into their component syllables (a period is used to mark the end of a syllable): *Tomat=to.ma.to*, *window=win.dow*,

supercalifragilisticexpialidocious: su.per.ca.li.fra.gi.lis.ti.cex.pi.a.li.do.cious
 (some people might put some of the periods in different places in this word).

Syllables have internal structure: they can be divided into parts. The parts are onset and rhyme; within the rhyme we find the nucleus and coda. Not all syllables have all parts; the smallest possible syllable contains a nucleus only. A syllable may or may not have an onset and a coda.

Onset: the beginning sounds of the syllable; the ones preceding the nucleus. These are always consonants in English. The nucleus is a vowel in most cases,

although the consonants [r], [l], [m], [n], and the velar nasal (the 'ng' sound) can also be the nucleus of a syllable. In the following words, the onset is in bold; the rest underlined. If a word contains more than one syllable, each syllable will have the usual syllable parts: *win.dow*, *to.ma.to*, *pre.pos.te.rous*, *fun.da.men.tal*

Rhyme (or rime): the rest of the syllable, after the onset (the underlined portions of the words above). The rhyme can also be divided up:

Rhyme = nucleus + coda

The nucleus, as the term suggests, is the core or essential part of a syllable. A nucleus must be present in order for a syllable to be present. Syllable nuclei are most often highly 'sonorant' or resonant sounds that can be relatively loud and carry a clear pitch level. In English and most other languages, most syllable nuclei are vowels. In English, in certain cases, the liquids [l r] and nasals [m n] and the velar nasal usually spelled 'ng' can also be syllable nuclei.

The syllable structure analysis of the words 'read', 'flop', 'strap' and 'window' are as follows (IPA symbols are used to show the sounds in the word/syllable):

Read = one syllable

Onset = [r]

Rhyme = [id] (with in the rhyme)

Nucleus = [i]

Coda = [d]

Flop = one syllable

Onset = [fl]

Rhyme = [ap]

Nucleus = [a]

Coda = [p]

Window = 2 syllables

First syllable: [win]

Onset = [w]

Rhyme = [I n]

Nucleus = [I]

Coda = [n]

Second syllable: [dow]

Onset = [d]

Rhyme = [o]

Nucleus = [o]

(This syllable has no coda)

Linguists often use tree diagrams to illustrate syllable structure. 'Flap', for example, would look like this (the word appears in IPA symbols, not English spelling). 's' = 'syllable'; 'O' = 'onset'; 'R' = 'rhyme'; 'N' = 'nucleus'; 'C' = 'coda'. (The tree may not come out well-aligned on your screen, because your computer may show this page in a different font). The syllable node at the top of the tree branches into Onset and Rhyme; the Onset node branches because it contains two consonants, [f] and [l]. The Rhyme node branches because this syllable has both a nucleus and a coda.[17]



Liquids and nasals as syllable nuclei

The English liquids [r l] and the nasals [m n] can be the nuclei of syllables under certain conditions. [r] can be a nucleus as easily as a vowel, in any position:

the words 'bird', 'word', 'her', 'fur', the first syllable of 'perceive' and 'surname' and the final syllables of 'mother', 'actor' (in casual pronunciation) all have [r] as the nucleus; in other words, there is no vowel in the pronunciation of these syllables, even though they have one in the spelling.

[l] and the nasals [m n] become syllable nuclei when they follow an alveolar consonant in the last syllable of a word. This happens in the relaxed or casual rather than very formal articulation of the word. Compare casual vs. formal pronunciations of 'button'/'bʌt(ə)n/, 'bottle'/'bɒt(ə)l/, 'bottom'/'bɒt(ə)m/.

When one of these sounds is a syllable nucleus, this is shown in transcription by putting a very short vertical line under the IPA symbol [r l m n]. ' ' ' ' (If the vertical lines don't line up under the symbols on your screen, it is due to webpage transfer complications.)[5.78]

Summary of the elements of a phonological system

The phonological system of a language includes various units plus patterns which are used to combine the units into larger units. The units of a phonological system are: features: aspects or characteristics of a speech sound that arise from the way the sound is articulated or the way it sounds to the ear. 'Voicing' is a feature that varies according to whether or not the vocal cords vibrate during the articulation of a sound; the sound [s] is voiceless, but the sound [z] is voiced, for example. Other features include 'manner', or what sort of gesture or position is used to make a consonant sound (a 'stop' involves blocking the airstream completely for a fraction of a second, as for [p], while a 'fricative' involves creating a narrow opening through which air escapes, as for [f]). There are also suprasegmental features, which are 'overlaid' on syllables or words. One such feature is stress, known outside linguistics as 'where the accent is in a word'. In 'potato', the stress falls on the second syllable; in 'promise' on the first. Segments: a segment is a speech sound such as [m] or [i]. Speech sounds are made by putting several features together. [m], for example, is created by

vibrating the vocal cords (feature: voiced), closing the mouth at the lips (feature: bilabial), and lowering the soft palate so that air can escape through the nose (feature: nasal). These three gestures occur simultaneously. The result is a voiced bilabial nasal, [m]. Thus, segments are units that are built up from features; features are the building blocks for segments.

Syllables: a syllable is a rhythmic unit of speech. Syllables exist to make the speech stream easier for the human mind to process. A syllable comprises one or more segments; segments are the building blocks for syllables. Details on the syllable are found below.

Words: words are made of syllables.

The patterns or rule systems of a phonological system include: phonotactics, also known as sequence constraints. These are restrictions on the number and type of segments that can combine to form syllables and words; they vary greatly from one language to another. In English, for example, a word may begin with up to three consonants, but no more than three. If a word does begin with three consonants, the first will always be [s], the second must be chosen from among the voiceless stops [p t k] and the third from among the liquids [l r] or glides [w y]. Thus we get words such as 'squeeze' [s k w i z] in English, but not words such as [p s t a p]. Phonological processes, including coarticulation processes, are modifications of the feature structure of a sound that occur for one of two reasons: to make sounds that are near each other more alike, thus make articulation easier (assimilation), or to make sounds more different from each other (for instance, aspiration makes voiceless stops such as [p] and [k] more different from voiced ones such as [b] and [g]. [16]

FUNCTIONS OF SYLLABLE AND SYLLABLE DIVISION

There are four ways to split up a word into its syllables:

1. Divide between two middle consonants.

Split up words that have two middle consonants. For example: *hap/pen*, *bas/ket*, *let/ter*, *sup/per*, *din/ner*, and *ten/nis*. The only exceptions are the consonant digraphs. Never split up consonant digraphs as they really represent only one sound. The exceptions are "th", "sh", "ph", "th", "ch", and "wh".

2. Usually divide before a single middle consonant.

When there is only one syllable, you usually divide in front of it, as in: *"o/pen"*, *"i/tem"*, *"e/vil"*, and *"re/port"*. The only exceptions are those times when the first syllable has an obvious short sound, as in *"cab/in"*.

3. Divide before the consonant before an "-le" syllable.

When you have a word that has the old-style spelling in which the "-le" sounds like "-el", divide before the consonant before the "-le". For example: *"a/ble"*, *"fum/ble"*, *"rub/ble"* *"mum/ble"* and *"thi/stle"*. The only exception to this are "ckle" words like *"tick/le"*.

4. Divide off any compound words, prefixes, suffixes and roots which have vowel sounds.

Split off the parts of compound words like *"sports/car"* and *"house/boat"*. Divide off prefixes such as *"un/happy"*, *"pre/paid"*, or *"re/write"*. Also divide off suffixes as in the words *"farm/er"*, *"teach/er"*, *"hope/less"* and *"care/ful"*. In the word *"stop/ping"*, the suffix is actually "-ping" because this word follows the rule

that when you add "-ing" to a word with one syllable, you double the last consonant and add the "-ing". As stated above the syllabic structure, as a component of the phonetic system, consists of syllable formation and syllable division which are in close relationship to each other. All theories of the syllable have more often attempted to explain the syllable formation, but the problem of syllable division has not been thoroughly investigated, which is both theoretically and practically important in language description. Nevertheless, it is possible to formulate some general rules of syllable formation and syllable division in English.

In English a syllable is formed by a vowel (monophthong or diphthong) alone or in combination with one or more consonants. E. g., *ore* /ɔ:/, *more* /ɔ:/, *at* /æt, ət/, *cap* /kæp/, *consideration* /kənsɪd-ə-reɪ-ʃn/ etc. In the English words *bottle* /bɒt - l/, *batten* /bæt - n/, *rhythm* /rɪð - m/ the final sonorants (lateral /n/ and nasal /m/, /n/ and sometimes /ŋ/ may form separate syllables. But the English sonorants /w/, /j/, /r/ cannot form syllables. Thus, we can distinguish syllabic /m, n, l/ and non-syllabic /r, j, w/ sonorants.

In English a syllable formation and syllable division depend on many factors among which the phonotactic rules, which determine the combination of phonemes or clusters and the nature of adjoining them, are regarded very important. The permissible clusters of consonants are, in part, conditioned by historical but chiefly by physiological factors. These include the following; 1) whether two phonemes which might adjoin in the same cluster have the same articulator; 2) whether they have the same type of articulation; 3) whether they are both voiced or voiceless; 4) whether they have the same or varying conditions of structure; 5) whether, especially in phonemes of the same articulation type, one is slightly more prominent than the other. Thus, /r/, an apical consonant, is never preceded by /s/, also apical stops do not combine initially with stops, etc.

Syllabic consonants occur when a syllable ends in /t/, /d/ or /n/ and the next syllable is unstressed and contains /l/, /n/ or /m/. If the other consonant clusters

except C + /l/, /n/, /m/ occur at the end of words they are regarded to be non-syllabic. This conditions the existence of the contrast «no syllable vs. a syllable». E.g. *cattle*/kæt-1/- *cats*/kæts/, *battle*/bæt-1/ - *bats*/bæts/, *muttony*/mʌt-ni/ - *matches* /mætʃz/ etc. Thus, the syllable formation and syllable division in English have a phonological (distinctive) function. From the articulatory point of view the clusters /t/, /d/ + /l/, /n/ are formed with the tip of the tongue touching the tooth ridge, i.e. they have the similar type of articulation. Clifford H. Prator, Jr. points out two other cases of the occurrence of syllabic consonants in rapid conversational speech where stops and continuants have the same points of articulation: (1) between /p/ or /b/ and /m/ as in *stop'em* /stop them/ stɔp - m/; and (2) between /k/ or /g/ and /n/, as in *I can go* /ai kŋgəu/. The English sonorants are not syllabic when they follow vowels. E. g. *Sweden* /swɪ:dən/, *highten* /haɪtən/, *lantern* /læntən/ etc.[10.92]

The following final clusters, in which the second member constitutes sonorants /m/, /n/ and /l/ may form separate syllables: /-tm/, /-ðm/, /-sm/, /-zm/, *lm*/: *bottom* /bɒt-m/, *rhythm* /rɪð-m/, *blossom* /blɒsm/, *prison* /prɪzn/, *film* /film/; /p, b, t, d, k, g, dʒ, f, v, θ, s, z, ʃ, l/ + + /n/: *open* /əu-pn/, *ribbon* /ri-bn/, *eaten* /ɪ: tn/, *garden* /ga:-dn/, *darken* /da:-kn/, *dragen* /dræ-gn/, *region* /ri:-dʒn/, *often* /ɔ-fn/, *seven* /se-vn/, *earthen* /ɜ:-θn/, *lesson* /le-sn/, *season* /si:-zn/; /p, b, t, d, k, g, tʃ, dʒ, v, f, s, z/ + /l/: *people* /pi:pl/, *table* /tei-bl/, *settle* /se-tl/, *middle* /mid-1/ *cycle*/saɪ-kl/, *bugle* /bju:-gl/, *racial* /rei-ʃl/, *cudgel* /kʌdʒl/, *rifle* /rai-fl *civil* /si-vl/, *castle* /ka:-sl/, *drizzle*/drɪ-zl/, *special* /spe-ʃl/ .

In some cases two syllabic consonants may occur in the derivatives of English words. E.g. *national* /næʃnl/, *regionally* /rɪ:dʒnlɪ/ etc.

Acoustically, the syllabic feature of /n/ and /l/ may be characterized by relative duration and intensity, which are interpreted as their prosodic properties. As to the

distribution of the non-syllabic consonants, it is conditioned by the occurrence of /ə/ or /i/ sounds between the two elements of the clusters cited above, whereas their omission is necessary for the formation of syllables.

None of the above clusters exist in final position of Uzbek words. On the contrary, in such Uzbek wordforms as *qoldi* «*stayed*», *senga* «*for you*», *tomda* «*on the attic*», *bordi* «*went*» etc. combinations of /l, m, n, p/ + S appear which are divided into two syllables. The consonants /l, p, y, v, n, m, p/ cannot form syllables in Uzbek isolately. When they occur before vowels, they signal the existence of a syllable division before or after them. E. g. *bola* /bo-la/ «*a child*», *qani* /qa-ni/ «*where*», *borgan* /bor-gan/ «*gone*», *qorda* /qor-da/ «*on the snow*», *uyga* /uy-ga/ «*to the house*», *suvda* /suv-da/ «*in the water*», *ko'rdingmi?* /ko'r-ding-mi/ «*Have you seen?*» etc. All Uzbek vowels are freely used before or after consonants and it is an important factor of syllable division and non-syllabic character of the consonants /l, m, n/. Thanks to this difference there may be cases of syllabic interference. The syllable division may depend on the free and checked character of English vowels. All the long monophthongs, two diphthongoids and diphthongs of English are regarded free, as they occur both in open and closed syllables, while all the checked vowels occur in a closed syllable. The free vowels may be separated from the word-final syllabic sonorants, when the latter form separate syllable with the preceding consonants, e. g. *cable* /kei-bl/, *people* /pi:-pl/, *garden* /ga:-dn/. When the checked vowels are separated from other vowel sounds by only one consonant sound, the exact determination of the syllabic boundary is a moot point. Theoretically this means that the syllable division can only be either within or after the intervocalic consonant and never before it, since the vowel is checked by it, and the syllable is closed. E. g. *matter* /mætə/, *sit-ter* /sitə/, *manner* /mænnə/, *lesser* /lesə/ etc. Though after the stressed checked vowels of such words as *middle*, *sunny*, *flannel*, | the syllable division regularly occurs before the consonants: /'mi-dl/, /sʌnɪ/, /flæ-nl/. In many English words the syllable division automatically coincides with the morphemic boundary. E. g. *take over* /teik'əuvə/,

day time /deɪtaɪm/, *over-dressed* /əʊvəʊvədrest/. Such a coincidence of syllabic and morphemic boundaries often occurs in English complex and compound words.

G.P. Torsuyev points out that there are many cases of the variation of phonemic structure of English words, which are conditioned by different types of assimilation and reduction. For example, /mpt/ — /mt/: *attempt*, /kən/ — /kn/: *bacon*, /ntʃ/ — /nʃ/: *bencher*, *open* /əʊvp(ə)n/, *total* /təʊt(ə)l/ etc. G.P. Torsuyev states that the articulatory transition is constant in syllable bound-əɾɪ but all other features of a syllable may be varied by the influence of different phonetic factors. There are also cases when the syllable boundary is within the consonant sound in an intervocalic position or within the C + sonorant: cluster in word-medial position. E. g. *ever* /ev-ə/, *difficult* /dɪf-fi-k(ə)lt/, *sunny* /sʌn-ɪ/, *middling* /mɪdl-lɪn/. A similar case may be noticed in some Uzbek words: *ola* /ol-la/, «black», *Ashirmat* /Ashir-mat/ «a name of a man». Incidentally, such cases appear as the result of metanalysis of syllables into two syllables which often occur in rapid pronunciation, but they are theoretically doubtful. The syllabic structure of English is very complex and we have analyzed some of its general problems of theoretical importance. [7.148]

CONCLUSION

The theme of my course work is “Syllabic structure of English words”. The theme is very actuality and very important in the teaching English phonetics. The theme consists of introduction, three chapters, conclusion and bibliography. The aim of this course paper is to learn: the definition of the syllable, the functions of the syllable, the classification of syllables, types of syllables in English, four functions of other phonetic units: 1) Constitutive function, i.e. syllable or syllables act as a material carries of words, word – forms, word – combinations and phrases; 2) Distinctive function, i.e. the syllables may serve to distinguish minimal pairs of words, word – combinations and phrases. 3) Recognative function, i.e. the recognition of the right syllable formation and syllable division rules; 4) Delimitative function, i.e. some syllables may occur only in initial or final positions in words, Phonological types of syllables: 1) Genuine syllables, the phonemic structure of which has constant functional relevance: bottle /bɒt-l/, bottom /bɒt-m/, 2) The secondary syllables are unstable and their phonemes have not same functional relevance as the phonemes of genuine syllables. There are two or more peaks of sonority in the secondary syllables. F.ex: a black tie /'əbælktaɪ/, a black eye /ə'bælktaɪ/;

A **syllable** is a unit of organization for a sequence of speech sounds. For example, the word *water* is composed of two syllables: *wa* and *ter*. A syllable is typically made up of a syllable nucleus (most often a vowel) with optional initial and final margins (typically, consonants). Syllables are often considered the phonological "building blocks" of words. They can influence the rhythm of a language, its prosody, its poetic meter and its stress patterns.

Syllabic writing began several hundred years before the first letters. The earliest recorded syllables are on tablets written around 2800 BC in the Sumerian city. This shift from pictograms to syllables has been called "the most important advance in the history of writing"

There are six different kinds of syllables in English:

Closed Syllables: A closed syllable has one and only one vowel, and it ends in a consonant. Examples include *in, ask, truck, sock, stretch, twelfth, and on*.

Open Syllables: An open syllable has one and only one vowel, and that vowel occurs at the end of the syllable. Examples include *no, she, I, a, and sry*.

Silent-E Syllables: A silent-e syllable ends in an e, has one and only one consonant before that e, and has one and only one vowel before that consonant. Examples include *ate, ice, tune, slope, strobe, and these*.

Vowel Combination Syllables: A vowel combination syllable has a cluster of two or three vowels or a vowel-consonant unit with a sound or sounds particular to that unit. Examples include *rain, day, see, veal, pie, piece, noise, toy, cue and true*.

Vowel-R Syllables: A vowel-r syllable is one which includes one and only one vowel followed by an r, or one vowel followed by an r which is followed by a silent e, or a vowel combination followed by an r. Examples include *car, or, care, ire, air, and deer*.

Consonant-L-E Syllables: In these syllables, a consonant is followed by le. The vowel sound in these syllables is the schwa sound that occurs before the l. Examples include *-ble, -cle, -dle, -fle, and -gle*.

In English a syllable formation and syllable division depend on many factors among which the phonotactic rules, which determine the combination of phonemes or clusters and the nature of adjoining them, are regarded very important. The permissible clusters of consonants are, in part, conditioned by historical but chiefly by physiological factors. These include the following; 1) whether two phonemes which might adjoin in the same cluster have the same articulator; 2) whether they have the same type of articulation; 3) whether they are both voiced or voiceless; 4) whether they have the same or varying conditions of structure; 5) whether, especially in phonemes of the same articulation type, one is slightly more prominent than the other. Thus, /r/, an apical consonant, is never preceded by /s/, also apical stops do not combine initially with stops, etc. [16]

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