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THE STRUCTURE OF MODERN ENGLISH

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QUESTION PAPER

(June – 2019)

(Solved)

THE STRUCTURE OF MODERN ENGLISH

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Attempt Answer all questions.

Q. 1. (a) Write short notes on the following:

(i) Affixes

Ans. An affix is a morpheme that is attached to a word stem to form a new word. Affixes may be derivational, like English -ness and pre-, or inflectional, like English plural-s and past tense-ed. They are bound morphemes by definition; prefixes and suffixes may be separable affixes.

(ii) Diphthongs

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 8, 'Introduction' and 'The English Diphthongs'.

(iii) Free and bound morphemes

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 92, 'Free Morphemes and Bound Morphemes'.

(iv) Weak forms in speech

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 27, 'Weak Forms'.

(b) Mark the primary stress in the following words :

(i) gratitude

(ii) photographer

(iii) myself

(iv) material

(v) academy

(vi) lament

(vii) distinction

(viii) decade

(ix) nationality

(x) attendance

Ans. (i) gra'titude (ii) photo'grapher (iii) 'myself (iv) mate'rial (v) aca'demy (vi) 'lament (vii) dis'tinction (viii) 'decade (ix) nationa'lity (x) atten'dance.

Q. 2. (a) Give phonetic symbols for the following description of the English consonants. The first one has been done for you:

Voiced bilabial plosive /b/

(i) Voiced velar plosive

(ii) Voiceless alveolar plosive

(iii) Voiceless glottal fricative

(iv) Voiced palato-alveolar fricative

(v) Voiced labio-dental fricative

Ans. (i) /s/, (ii) /d/ (iii) /g/ (iv) /tʃ/ dz (v) /f/

(b) Write short notes on the following:

(i) Nasal sounds in English

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 16, 'The Nasals'.

(ii) Regular and Irregular Verbs

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-14, Page No. 56, 'Regular and Irregular Verbs'.

(iii) Noun Clause.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-30, Page No. 118, 'Types of Dependent Clauses'.

(iv) Fricative consonants

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-4, Page No. 13, 'The Fricatives'.

(c) Divide the following words into their constituent morphemes :

(i) insanity

(ii) organisation

(iii) incomplete

(iv) ceaselessly

(v) mismanagement

Ans.

- (i) Morpheme/insani/Morphy/ty/
- (ii) Morpheme/ organ/morphy/is/ation/
- (iii) Morpheme/ incomp/Morphy/ lete/
- (iv) Morpheme/ceas/Morphy/less/ly
- (v) Morpheme/ mis/manage/Morphy/ment/.

Q. 3. (a) Write a note on the different types of questions, giving three examples of each type.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-28, Page No. 111, 'Types of Questions' and 'Structure of Questions'.

(b) Frame 'Wh' questions corresponding to the italicized words in the following sentences:

- (i) He went to Mumbai last *week*.
- (ii) Aryan has forgotten *his friend's telephone number*.
- (iii) The final match was played *in Delhi*.
- (iv) The key were found *in the drawer*.
- (v) My frined's name is *Radha*.

Ans. (i) When he went to Mumbai? (ii) What Aryan has forgotten? (iii) Where was the final match played? (iv) Where the key was found? (v) What is your's friend name?

(c) Add question tags to the following sentences:

- (i) Geetika looks very graceful _____ ?
- (ii) You haven't received your salary _____ ?
- (iii) The train was late, _____ ?
- (iv) Let's eat out tonight, _____ ?
- (v) Peacocks look beautiful, _____ ?

Ans. (i) Is she, (ii) Isn't, (iii) Is (iv) Can we, (v) Are'nt they

Q. 4. (a) Explain the difference between restrictive and non-restrictive relative clauses, giving examples.

Ans. A restrictive relative clause provides essential information about the noun to which it refers. It cannot be left out of the sentence without affecting the meaning. The highlighted section of the first sentence above is a restrictive relative clause. If it was left out, the sentence would not make sense:

It reminded him of the house. [which house?]

A non-restrictive relative clause provides information that can be left out without affecting the meaning or structure of the sentence. The highlighted section of the second sentence above is a non-restrictive relative clause. If it was left out, the sentence would still make perfect sense:

The items included a grandfather clock worth around £3,000.

You do not need to put a comma before restrictive relative clauses. On the other hand, non-restrictive relative clauses should be separated from the rest of the sentence by a comma or commas. For example:

A list of contents would have made it easier to steer through the book, which also lacks a map. Bill, who had fallen asleep on the sofa, suddenly roused himself.

(b) Rewrite the following sentences as directed:

(i) She is too honest to cheat anyone.
(Remove *too*)

(ii) Someone has stolen my dog.
(Change into interrogative sentence)

(iii) We reached the airport. The flight had already landed.
(Combine into a single sentence)

(iv) Mansi says she prefers tea to coffee.
(Rewrite indirect speech)

(v) The thief was caught red-handed.
(Rewrite in the active voice)

Ans. (i) She is so honest to cheat anyone. (ii) Who had stolen your dog? (iii) The flight had already landed when we reached airport. (iv) Mansi told that she prefers tea over coffee. (v) The thief was caught red-handed.

(c) Correct the following sentences:

- (i) Do you know what did he say to his boss?
- (ii) I returned back from Lucknow this morning.
- (iii) I am having all the plays written by Shakespeare.

Sample Preview of The Chapter

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THE STRUCTURE OF MODERN ENGLISH

Phonetics and Phonology-1



An Introduction to Phonetics

INTRODUCTION

Phonetics is the study of speech sounds, concerning with its description and classification on the basis of how they are produced and how they are perceived by our hearing mechanism.

Phonology, on the other hand, is concerned with how the sounds of a particular language are organised into distinctive units (called phonemes), how the phonemes are combined into syllables, and how the prosodic features of length, stress and pitch are organised into patterns.

THE PRODUCTION OF SPEECH

The spoken language passes through different phases—in the first phase, the concept in the speaker's mind gets transformed into a linguistic form and communicated by the nerves to the speech organs. The movements of these organs create disturbances in the air, which carry these sound waves to the listener's ear, who receives it. This sensation is carried by the nerves to the brain, where the sounds are perceived and their meaning is interpreted.

The production of speech requires a source of energy, which is provided by the air-stream coming out from the lungs.

Some of the important organs of speech are as follows:

- (a) **Trachea**— It is like a wind pipe that carries air-stream from the lungs.
- (b) **Larynx**— It is situated at the top of trachea.

(c) **Vocal Cords**—It can also be brought together to close the air passage completely.

(d) **Glottis**—It refers to the wide opening between the vocal cords.

The vibration, or the closing and opening of the glottis at a fast ratio, produces voice.

The position of the tongue and lips decide the shape of mouth cavity.

The roof of the mouth is divided into three parts—the teeth ridge just behind the upper teeth, the hard palate and the soft palate.

In order to make the air come out through the nose, the soft palate can be lowered.

Similarly, the lips can also assume various positions.

It can be said, that the tongue has three sections.

(a) **Blade**— Part opposite to the teeth ridges and its end is called tip.

(b) **Front**— The part opposite the hard palate, and

(c) **Back**— The part opposite the soft palate.

All these parts of the tongue can be raised towards the roof of the mouth to produce different sounds.

PHONETIC DESCRIPTION OF SPEECH SOUNDS

Vowels and Consonants

All the speech sounds can be divided into two broad categories—vowels and consonants. The former is produced, when the air comes out freely from the lungs without any closure or narrowing of the air passage and the vocal cords vibrate to produce sound. All other sounds are called consonants.

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Description of Vowels

Vowels can be described on the basis of tongue positions and lip positions.

(i) The vowels can be classified as front vowels, back vowels and central vowels on the basis of which part of the tongue is the highest.

For example:

Front Vowels—words like **sheep, ship, bed, bad**

Back Vowels—words like **calm, pot, caught, put, boot.**

Central Vowels—words like **cut, bird and father**

(ii) Vowels can also be classified into close (near the roof of the mouth and open (as low as possible) or half-close and half-open (belonging to one of the two intermediate categories), on the basis of height to which the tongue is raised.

For example:

Close Vowels—words **sheep and boot**

Open Vowels—words **calm and pot.**

(iii) For the production of different vowels, lips can be

1. Spread (for word **keep**)
2. Neutral (word **bed**)
3. Open (word **calm**)
4. Open Rounded (word **pot**), or
5. Close Rounded (word **boot**)

Description of Consonants

While describing a consonant, certain things should be indicated:

(a) Whether the sound is voiced (vocal cords vibrate) or voiceless (vocal cords do not vibrate),

Examples:

Voiced— / b, d, g, v, z, m, o, l, r /

Voiceless— / p, t, k, f, s, h /

(b) Whether the palate is raised (air-stream passes through the mouth) or lowered (air-stream passes through the nose only).

Examples:

Oral Sounds— / p, b, t, d, k, g, f, v, s, z /

Nasal Sounds— / m, n /

(c) The place of articulation i.e. where in the mouth, the closure or narrowing takes place.

(d) The manner of articulation i.e. the kind of closure or narrowing, and the nature of sound produced.

Place of Articulation

Consonants can be classified on the basis of the place of articulation:

Bilabial—The gap between the two lips gets closed or narrowed down. Example— / p, b, m /

Labio-dental—The gap between the lower lip and upper teeth gets narrowed down. Example— / f, v /

Dental—The gap between the tip of the tongue and upper teeth gets closed or narrowed down. Examples: English sounds / θ, ð / and the beginning of words **thing** and **then**.

Alveolar—The gap between the blade of the tongue and teeth-ridge gets closed or narrowed down. Examples: / t, d, s, z, n, l /

Palato-alveolar—The gap between the blade of the tongue and the teeth-ridge gets closed or narrowed down and the front of the tongue is raised towards the hard palate. Examples: / tʃ, dʒ, ʃ / at the beginning of English words **cheer, jump** and **short**.

Velar—The gap between the back of the tongue and the soft palate is closed or narrowed down. Example: / k, g /

Glottal—The gap between vocal cords gets narrowed down. Example: / h /

Manner of Articulation

The consonants can also be classified on the basis of the manner of its articulation.

Plosive—The air passage gets completely closed down, the air is held up and then released with an explosion. Example: / p, b, t, d, k, g /

Affricate—The air passage gets completely closed down and then air is released slowly with friction. Example: / tʃ, dʒ / at the beginning of English words **cheer** and **jump**.

Nasal—The air passage in the mouth gets completely closed, but the soft palate is lowered to let the air come out through the nose. Examples— / m, n /

Lateral—Though the middle is closed but the air freely comes out along the sides. Example— / l /

Fricative—There is a narrow passage for the air to pass through, therefore, there is audible friction. Examples: / f, v, s, z, h /

Approximant—There is less narrow opening between articulators, so that the sounds can pass relatively freely without any friction, as for example, /w j/.

Broader Classification of Sounds

Speech sounds are classified across the vowel-consonant distinction on account of shared phonetic properties.

Obstruent—In the production of certain consonants the air passage in the oral cavity, the air pressure before the closure is higher than outside the closure. The manners of articulation involved in the production of such sounds are plosive, fricative and affricate. These sounds are called **obstruents**.

Sonorant—In the production of sounds produced with opener transitions or with closure in one cavity but

free release through another cavity, the air-pressure inside and outside the mouth is the same. These types are called **sonorants**. All the vowels and remaining consonants, namely, nasals, laterals and approximants are sonorant sounds.

THE USE OF PHONETIC SYMBOLS

The phonetic symbols suggested by the International Phonetic Association, shall be used to represent the sound of speech.

LET US SUM UP

Thus, the phonetics, phonology and the phonetic description of speech sounds—vowels and consonants have been introduced through this chapter.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q. 1. What is Phonetics?

Ans. Phonetics is the study of speech of sound concerning with its description and classification on the basis of how they are produced and how they are perceived by our hearing mechanism.

Q. 2. What is Phonology?

Ans. Phonology is concerned with how the sounds of a particular language are organised into distinctive units (called phonemes), how the phonemes are combined into syllables and how the prosodic features of length, stress and pitch are organised into patterns.

Q. 3. Give the names of the important organs of speech.

Ans. Some of the important organs of speech are: lungs, trachea, larynx, vocal cords, teeth, teeth-ridge, hard palate, soft palate, nasal cavity, tongue, lips etc.

Q. 4. What is the source of energy for most speech sounds?

Ans. The air-stream coming out from the lungs provide the required source of energy to for most speech sounds.

Q. 5. Distinguish between voiced and voiceless sounds, giving examples.

Ans. Voiced—It refers to the sound in whose production, the vocal cords vibrate to produce a musical note. Example: / b,d, g, v, z, m, n, l /

Voiceless—It refers to the sound in whose production the vocal cords do not vibrate. Example: / p, t, k, f, s /

Q. 6. What is the phonetic difference between vowels and consonants?

Ans. The vowels are phonetically produced when the air comes out freely from the lungs without any closure or narrowing of the air passage and vocal cords vibrate to produce sounds. All other sounds are called consonants.

Q. 7. How do we classify vowels?

Ans. The vowels can be classified in the following ways:

(a) On the basis of which part of the tongue is highest into front vowels, back vowels and central vowels. Examples:

Front Vowels— words like sheep, ship, bed, bad.

Back Vowels—words like calm, pot, caught, put.

Central Vowels—words like cut, bird and father.

(b) On the basis of height to which the tongue is raised into close (near the roof of the mouth), open (as low as possible) or half-close and half-open (belonging to one of the two intermediate categories).

Examples:

Close Vowels—words like sheep and boot

Open Vowels—words like calm and pot.

On the basis of the lip positions. Examples:

Lip spread—words like keep

Lip neutral—word like bed

Lip open—word like calm

Lip open rounded—word pot

Lip close rounded—word boot

Q. 8. Distinguish between oral and nasal sounds, giving examples.

Ans. When the air-stream passes through the mouth only the oral sounds are produced. Examples: / p, b, t, d, k, g, f, v /

When the air stream passes through the nose only, the nasal sounds are produced. Example: / m, n /

Q. 9. How will you describe the consonants in the following English words?

(i) /s/, (ii) /p/,

(iii) /k/, (iv) /n/,

aimed

(i) /m/, (ii) /d/,

belief

(i) /b/, (ii) /l/

(iii) /f/

Ans. Spoken:

/ s /—voiceless, alveolar, fricative

/ p /— voiceless, bilabial, plosive

/ k /— voiceless, velar, plosive

/ n /— voiced, alveolar, nasal

aimed

/ m /—voiced, bilabial, nasal

/ d /—voiced, alveolar, plosive

belief

/ b /—voiced, bilabial, plosive

/ l /—voiced, alveolar, lateral

/ f /—voiced, labio-dental, fricative

Q. 10. Give examples from English of

(i) a lateral consonant.....

(ii) a nasal consonant.....

(iii) a voiced alveolar plosive consonant.....

(iv) a voiceless velar plosive consonant.....

(v) a voiced labio-dental fricative consonant.....

Ans. Spoken

(i) – / l / in lamp (ii) – / m / in map

(iii) – / d / in day (iv) – / k / in cat

(v) – / v / in very





ENGLISH VOWELS-I

INTRODUCTION

Phonology refers to the sound systems of a language, which is made up of a number of distinctive sound units called phonemes.

Phonemes are the smallest units in a language that can bring about a difference in meaning. For example, words like *pen, ten, den, hen, men, women, when* etc. gives seven distinctive consonants / p, t, d, h, m, r, w /

A syllable is formed by one or more phonemes. Every syllable has a nucleus i.e. sound more prominent than others.

Besides these, there are also prosodic features, which include length, stress and pitch.

THE ENGLISH VOWELS

As regards, vowels are two slightly different systems used in English speaking world. In some, the consonant sound / r / is used only before vowel sounds. We have received pronunciation of England in this category (the kind of pronunciation well received or accepted as the standard in England. Its abbreviated from R.P. shall be used, hence forward.

Examples: In words like *arm, born, force, serve, modern* the sound / r / is not used in R.P.

In some other varieties of spoken English, the sound / r / occurs in all positions i.e. before vowel sounds, before consonant sounds and finally, most varieties of American and Indian English is of this same category.

Examples: *shot* and *short* are distinguished by using two different vowel sounds in R.P.

VOWELS IN BRITISH RECEIVED PRONUNCIATION

According to the British Received Pronunciation, English operates on a system of 20 distinctive units or phonemes, which can broadly be divided into:

(a) **Pure vowels**—Which do not change in quality even when they are made long.

(b) **Diphthongs**—Where there is a glide from one quality to another within the same syllable in its production.

A list of these 20 vowel phonemes is being given below—(Source—Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English & Oxford Dictionary by A.S. Hornby)

Pure Vowels

S.No.	Symbol	Keyword	Keyword in Phonetic Transcription
1.	/ i: /	seat	/ si : t /
2.	/ I: /	sit	/ sIt /
3.	/ e /	set	/ set /
4.	/ æ /	sat	/ sæt /
5.	/ ɑ: /	cart	/ k α : t /
6.	/ ɒ /	cot	/ k ɒ t /
7.	/ ɔ: /	caught, court	/ k ɔ : t /
8.	/ ʊ /	full	/ f ʊ l /
9.	/ u: /	fool	/ fu : l /
10.	/ ʌ /	cup	/ k ʌ p /
11.	/ ɜ: /	bird	/ bɜ : d /
12.	/ ə /	ago	/ ə'gəu /
13.	/ eɪ /	play	/ pleɪ /
14.	/ əʊ /	go	/ gəʊ /
15.	/ aɪ /	buy	/ baɪ /
16.	/ aʊ /	cow	/ kaʊ /
17.	/ ɔɪ /	boy	/ bɔɪ /
18.	/ ɪə /	here	/ hɪə /
19.	/ eə /	care	/ keə /
20.	/ ʊə /	poor	/ pʊə /

Pure Vowels

Pure vowels can be divided into three groups—front vowels, back vowels and central vowels.

The Front Vowels

According to R.P. the four front vowels in English are:

/ i : / as in *seat*

/ I / as in *sit*

/ e / as in *set*