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13.1 OBJECTIVE

- To familiarize students to the earlier standardization of English i.e. Received pronunciation(RP)
- To acquaint students with the varieties of English pronunciations.
- This basic informative chapter may help them to develop further interest in the field of phonetics and phonology and understanding the role of international intelligibility in English

13.1 INTRODUCTION

In the first decade of the twenty-first century, English language is itself taking new forms. This, of course, has always been true; English has changed substantially in the five hundred years or so of its use, reflecting patterns of contact with other languages and the changing communication needs of people. Again, in many parts of the world, as English has been taken in the fabric of the social life, it has acquired a momentum and vitality of its own, developing in ways which reflect local culture and languages.

English is also used for more purposes than ever before. Everywhere it is at the leading edge of technological and scientific development, new thinking in economics and management, new literatures and entertainment genres. Nowhere is the effect of this expansion of English into new domains seen more clearly than in communication. These give rise to new vocabularies, grammatical forms and ways of speaking and writing. Alan Cruttenden writes that a written form of English, based on the Latin alphabet, has existed for more than 1000 years and, though the pronunciation of English has been constantly changing during these times, few basic changes of spelling have been made since the fifteenth century. The result is that written English is often inadequate and misleading.

Presently, the language is in its global purview. The number of people who speak English as a second language will exceed the number of native speakers. The implications of this are likely to be far reaching; the centre of authority regarding the language will shift from native speakers as they become minority stakeholders in global resources.

In this scenario, linguistics studies are getting more and more significant these days. Particularly the study of various aspects of communication is more prominent in linguistic studies. The craze for learning English for communicative purposes is also increasing. In addition, the degree of willingness on the part of learners to be effective and impressive in oral communication is very high.

13.2 STANDARD OF PRONUNCIATION

Every language speaker remains usually sensitive towards a pronunciation of the particular language. India is a multilingual nation so we do not have much attention on the national language pronunciation. The British are quite alert regarding English language pronunciation in compare to English speaking countries, for instance, America Canada island etc. language is so dynamic that it goes continuous on changing. Cruttenden mentions, “there are those who claim from in elocution standpoint that modern speech is becoming increasingly slovenly full of mumbling and mangled vowels and missing consonants.”. Comparison within the same language speakers is also quite natural and what is found more appropriate or say more beautiful may be regarded and accepted as the standard of the particular language.

13.3 THE EMERGENCE OF A STANDARD

There was no controversy in the written English language. Grammatical rules and vocabulary of English was almost fixed in the eighteenth century and accepted to the majority of educated English speakers but in speaking English there has been always remained a great debate on consideration and accepting which pronunciation as the standard one.

English has always had its regional pronunciation in the same way that other languages have been pronounced in a variety of ways for physically geographical reasons. In the span of last five centuries, regional accent was getting preferable acceptance due to its prestige particularly speaking pronunciation of south east of England and more specifically to that of the London region that this prestige was attached. John Hart in 1569, the early phonetician notes that it is in the court and London that ‘the flower of English tongue is used...’ In time being, the speech of the court has been the prestige and value and become the speech of ruling class. This has been supported by the influence of public schools of the 19th century. The issue of pronunciation became a maker of position in society. In the first edition of the dictionary *Cambridge English Pronouncing Dictionary*(1917) Daniel Jones described the type of pronunciation recorded as “that most usually heard in everyday speech in the families of Southern English persons whose menfolk have been educated at the public boarding-school”. He referred his model initially as ‘public School Pronunciation’ (PSP). But afterward in 1937 he also remarked by saying that boys in boarding schools tend to lose their markedly local peculiarities, whereas this is not the case for those in day-schools. By 1926, he left to use the term ‘PSP’ in favour of ‘Received Pronunciation’.

13.4 RECEIVED PRONUNCIATION

Received Pronunciation (RP) is one of the forms of British English. Frequently, RP has been referred to as the Queens or kings English. The Monarch as well as Queen's English society used RP accent for their daily speech. Earlier BBC has also preferred RP but now BBC has made many changes. It is also referred to as Oxford English because the RP accent was in fashion among Oxford University people. Moreover the production of dictionaries in Oxford University earned prestige in matter of language. Now in this recent time, many regional accents can be heard in Oxford University as well as in BBC also.

We can find reference of the form RP quite early in H C Wyld’s ‘A Short History of English’ in 1914 while in Daniel Jones’ ‘An Outline of English Phonetics’, it is used in detail. Fowler describes the term ‘Received’ as it conveys its original meaning ‘accepted or approved’ in his book *Modern English Usage*’ in 1965.

During this time span, mainly three forms of RP have been recognized by different scholars. Cruttenden named them as General RP, Refined RP and Regional RP. General RP was associated with a traditional accent having fully influenced by certain social background. Refined RP is often considered neutral regarding age, occupation and lifestyle of the speaker while regional RP refers to the speech of younger generation of British who are comparatively bold enough to accept other regional dialect of English.

13.5 PRESENT DAY ROLE OF RP

In the present scenario, the modern style of RP accent is used as a model to teach or train non native speakers learning British English. It helps them to be trained specifically under one purely designed model. Such trained speakers can modify their English pronunciation and can communicate effectively. There are many tests available online of this Standard English having RP accent. These certifications can also be proved helpful for career advancement. RP is used as the standard for English in most books on general phonology and phonetics.

13.6 VOWEL PHONEMES OF RP

British Received Pronunciation (British R. P.) has in all 20 vowels; 12-distinctive pure vowels or monophthongs and 8 diphthongs or gliding vowels. They are:

Pure Vowels:

- 1) / i: / as in reach
- 2) / ɪ / as in win
- 3) / e / as in pen
- 4) / æ / as in bat
- 5) / ʌ / as in luck
- 6) / ɔ: / as in last
- 7) / ɒ / as in box
- 8) / ɔ: / as in purse
- 9) / ə / as in banana
- 10) / ɑ: / as in all
- 11) / u / as in book
- 12) / u: / as in zoo

Diphthongs:

- 1) / eɪ / as in late
- 2) / aɪ / as in white
- 3) / ɔɪ / as in boy
- 4) / əʊ / as in close
- 5) / aʊ / as in now
- 6) / ɪə / as in really
- 7) / eə / as in hair
- 8) / uə / as in poor

13.7 CONSONANT PHONEMES OF RP

British RP accepts 24 distinctive consonants phonemes. This is given in the following tabular form:

Consonant phonemes of Received Pronunciation^[19]

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Nasal¹	m			n			ŋ	
Plosive	p b			t d			k g	
Affricate					tʃ dʒ			
Fricative		f v	θ ð ²	s z	ʃ ʒ			h ³
Approximant					ɹ ^{1, 4}	j	w	
Lateral				l ^{1, 5}				

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Received_Pronunciation 110309

13.8 LET'S SUM UP

Keeping in reference Kachru's three circles, Studies suggest that there were (in 2001) an estimated:

- 375 million users of English in Inner-Circle societies,
- 375 million in Outer-Circle (English as a Second Language) societies, and
- 750-1,000 million in the Expanding (English as a Foreign Language) Circle (McArthur, 2001)

The vast majority of teachers of English as a second and foreign language in the world today are '*non-native*' teachers working in a wide range of settings in Outer-Circle and Expanding-Circle societies. (Bolton, 2006). In the present scenario, English oral communication reaches to the international level. Jennifer Jenkins mentions in her 'The Phonology of English as an International Language':

"For those L1 speakers of English who speak no other language fluently, I suggest substituting the term 'native speaker' with 'monolingual English Speaker' (MES). L1 standards would remain operable here but not be used to measure L2 varieties of English. This would mean, to take a controversial example, that just because MESs generally use weak forms (thus pronouncing the vowel sound in words like *to*, *from* and *of* as schwa / ə /), an L2 speaker would not automatically be expected to do so. Since this pronunciation features do not appear to contribute to

international intelligibility... the speaker would not be criticized or penalized for not doing so.”

Thus, RP is now in the mode of its reform scenario. English is today accepted as a second language of communication in many countries as in India. And the first language of the particular country is going to make its impact on second language here it is English. That is why we have American English, Australian English, and Canadian English so and so forth. However, RP has been remained a barometer for centuries for millions of speakers and researchers to have it as the base of the standard.

13.9 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

(A) Answer the following questions by the choosing correct alternatives given below the statements:

1. _____ says that written form of English based in the Latin alphabet has existed for more than 1000 years.

- a) Danial Jones
- b) Alan Cruttenden
- c) Peter Roach
- d) None of above

2. The number of people who speak English as a _____ will exceed the number of native speaker.

- a) first language
- b) monolingual
- c) second language
- d) Multilanguage

3) Cruttenden mentions that modern speech is increasingly slovenly full of mumbling and mangled vowels and _____.

- a) new consonants
- b) merging two consonants
- c) missing consonants
- d) Assimilation of consonants

4) What is regarded as the standard of the particular language?

- a) found more appropriate
- b) most accepted
- c) used by rural people
- d) all of above

5) Which of the regional accents was getting preferable acceptance in England?

- a) south East
- b) north east
- c) soth north
- d) none of above

6) According to John Hart, who used the flower of English tongue?

- a) theatre and playground
- b) doctors and engineers
- c) actors and actresses
- d) court and London

7) Cambridge English Pronouncing Dictionary's first edition was published by _____.

- a) John Hart
- b) H. C. Wyld
- c) Fowler
- d) Danial Jones

8) Danial Jones initially named RP model as _____.

- a) public school pronunciation
- b) oxford english
- c) queen's English
- d) all of above

9) Cruttenden has given three categories of RP, they are _____

- a) general RP, Refined RP, Regional RP
- b) Conservative RP, Basic RP, Recent RP
- c) Both A & B
- d) none of above

10) There are _____ pure vowels in British RP.

- a) 12
- b) 20
- c) 08
- d) 24

11) In British Rp, there are _____ distinctive consonant phonemes.

- a) 12
- b) 20
- c) 08
- d) 24

12) According to McArthur, there are 750 to 1000 million users of English in the _____ circle.

- a) Inner
- b) outer
- c) expanding
- d) all of them

B. Write Answers In Brief:

1. How is the oral English communication developed in the 21st century?

2. Who initiated the concept of RP?

3. How does RP relate to the prestige issue?

4. What types of RPs categorized by Cruttenden?

5. Which are the three circles given by Braj Kachru?

C. Write Short Notes:

1. Emergence of Standard
2. Types of RP
3. Vowel Phonemes of RP
4. Present Condition of RP

D. Answer In Detail:

1. Write a detail note on how 'Received Pronunciation' concept emerged.
2. Discuss the usage and importance of Received Pronunciation in the present scenario.

13.10 KEY WORDS

Phoneme	Any of the perpetually distinct units of sound in a specified language that distinguish one word from another is a phoneme.
Phonology	Phonology is a scientific study of sounds of a particular language. It is the system of contrastive relationships among the speech sounds that constitute the fundamental components of a language.
Phonetics	Phonetics is a scientific study of sounds of any language
Vowel	A speech sound made with your mouth open and your tongue in the middle of your mouth without any friction.
Consonant	A speech sound that is made by partly or completely stopping the flow of air breathed out from the mouth.

13.11 SUGGESTED READING

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