

**:: STRUCTURE ::****12.0 Objectives****12.1 Introduction****12.2 Phonetics and phonology**

- **Check Your Progress : 1**

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- **Check Your Progress : 1**

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**12.0 OBJECTIVES**

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In this unit we shall discuss

- English phonetics, phonology and phonemes and
- Discuss syllable and its function
- Significance of Stress, Rhythm, Intonation etc. in communication

On completing the unit, you should be able to

- Understand phonology and phonemes, and
- Syllable and importance of Stress, Rhythm, Intonation in effective communication.

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**12.1 INTRODUCTION**

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Wonderful mechanism is working in human oral lingual communication, in any language including English. The Airstream Mechanism produces speech sound. This human speech sound has a very wide variety. The study and classification of the speech sound is known as phonetics. It includes production of sound, transmission, reception and analysis of the sound. Twenty six Roman alphabets are used in English language but

they are not sufficient to represent all sounds of English language. The Symbols – (The International Phonetic Alphabet) (IPA) – are used to represent the speech sound known as phonetic transcription. It deals with physical aspects of sound. Phonetics earlier known as a science that studies sounds of human speech but in the first International Congress of Linguists held 1928, at the Hague. R. Jakobson, S. Trubetzkoy presented their *Proposition 22* that marked the birth of new discipline phonology. Phonology is the branch of linguistics, it includes the study of system of human sound within a language or between different languages. Phonetics is the study of the sounds of parole, phonology is observed as the study of the sounds of langue with particular emphasis on the relationship between sound and its meaning. Phonology studies what one is conscious of pronouncing or of hearing pronounced and that is a constant within a given linguistic community. In Trubetzkoy's words, "concerned that which fulfills a definite function in langue." To sum up, selection and organization of sound forms the phonology of the language.

Sound units of the language are known as phonemes of particular language. In English language there are 44 phonemes that represent different sounds and 26 letters in alphabets. There are two major phonemes vowels and consonants.

Syllable is accepted as single unit of speech, word which usually contains vowel. In other words a syllable is to be defined its possession of vowel at the centre. It is the unit of pronunciation, sometimes with or without consonants. It plays very significant role in speech sound.

To make the oral verbal communication effective stress – accent –, rhythm, and intonation perform very significant role. Stress means in a pronunciation give particular emphasis on syllable to make it more effective to express emotions, thoughts or ideas. In day today life, in oral communication a speaker uses it. Rhythm means melody in utterance. It takes place through stressed and unstressed syllables. It is a literary device. Intonation means variation of the pitch of the voice- by rising tone and falling tone- that forms intonation. It is the musicality of the language. It is a musical pattern of utterance. The variation of pitch meant for adding meaning to the utterance.

Stress, Rhythm, Intonation etc accent means emphasis is given on a particular word by the speaker. It is the particular way to pronounce the language.

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## **12.2 PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY**

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Phonetics deals with the physical aspects of speech sound production of speech sound, the airstream mechanism and how the organs of speech are working during the production of human speech sound. It includes the physiological aspects in sound production. The organs of speech like lips, teeth, hard palate, soft palate, tongue, nasal cavity, vocal cord and lungs produce the sounds –consonants and vowels – for communication. To

identify the sounds IPA are used as the signs.

- **Consonants:** In producing such sound in human language air comes through the mouth or nose and mouth does not flow easily but it is obstructed outer organs of speech like lips, teeth, tongue etc. So according to its process to release air consonants are identified according to the articulation. Types of consonants are as below;
  1. **Bilabial:** The two lips are the articulators. In English word *pile*, *boy*, and *mile* are the bilabial sound, where two lips are first closed then open with sound.
  2. **Labio-dental:** The active articulator is the lower lip and passive articulators are the upper front teeth. The English word *fine* and *fan* are the labio-dental sounds.
  3. **Dental:** The tip of the tongue is the active articulator and the upper front teeth are the passive articulators. In English *that* and *then* are the dental sounds.
  4. **Alveolar:** The blade of the tongue or the tip of the tongue is the active articulator and the teeth ridge is the passive articulator. In English the words *tin* and *sin* are the example of alveolar sound.
  5. **Post-alveolar:** The tip of the tongue is active articulator and roof of the mouth immediately after teeth ridge is the passive articulator. English words *try* and *fry* are the example of the sound.
  6. **Palate-alveolar:** Tip of the tongue or the blade remains active articulator. English words *jeep* and *cheap* are the examples of that sound.
  7. **Retroflex:** The curled back of tip of the tongue is the active articulator and the teeth ridge or hard palate is the passive articulator. The sound represented by  $\ddot{\text{r}}$ , and  $\ddot{\text{l}}$  in Hindi alphabets.
  8. **Palatal:** Front of the tongue is active articulator and the hard palate is the passive articulator. *Yes* is the example of English word.
  9. **Velar:** Back of the tongue is active articulator and soft palate is the passive articulator. *Back* and *bang* are the examples of this sound.
  10. **Uvular:** Rear part of the back tongue is the active articulator and the uvula is the passive articulator.
  11. **Glottal:** Here the sound is produced at the glottis and the two vocal cords are the active articulators. In English sound *hat* is the example.
- **Vowels:** When the lung air escapes through mouth without any friction, the sound produced are vowels. During the articulation of vowel there is no obstruction in the mouth. The letters *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, *u* and sometimes *y* are the examples of vowels. Types of vowels are as under;
  1. **Front Vowel:** During the articulation of this vowel the front of the tongue is raised in the direction of hard. In English sound *Bad* and *bed* are the examples of that.
  2. **Back Vowel:** During the articulation of this vowel back of the tongue is raised in the direction of soft palate so there is sufficient gap so air escape without friction. Example *push* and *pool*.

3. *Central Vowel*: The vowel produced by raising the centre of the tongue in the direction where the hard palate and soft palate meet. These vowels are known as central vowel. *Cup* and *heard* are the examples of the vowel.

Phonology is concerned with selection and organization of sound of particular language. It is concerned with pronunciations. Human utterance includes tone unit and the tone unit consist at least one syllable. Phonology also includes study of musicality of the sound of particular language. The units of phonology are as under;

1. *Phoneme*: Phoneme is the smallest unit of sound of the particular language and it distinguishes one word from another. Examples *seed*, here there are three sounds *s- ee- d* Initial and the last sounds are consonants *s – d* and *ee* the central sound is *ee* vowel.
2. *Allophone*: In the speech sound, the sound which functions as member of a phoneme is known as allophone. In other words allophone means allophones are different pronunciations of words which do not change the meaning of these words. Example, the /p/ in the word 'pill' is slightly different from the /p/ in the word 'spill'. It is slightly different way that a phoneme can be pronounced.
3. *Minimal Pair*: It means in phonology pairs of the words or phrases of a particular language that are different from each other in one sound only, for example like the /f/ and /v/ in *fan* and *van*, or the /e/ and /ɪ/ in *desk* and *disk*

Syllable is a unit of pronunciation and it has one vowel that is more prominent than rest. It creates meaning in language. Vowel generally takes the central position in syllable and it is called the *nucleus* of the syllable. If a syllable has one sound, that will be vowel, example *Oh*, *ah*. And a syllable has one or more speech sounds, one of them will be vowel and rest will be consonants. Example, *relate* here 're' and 'leit', are two syllables. A syllable begins with consonant is called '*releasing consonant*'. And the one comes at the end of syllable is called '*asserting consonant*'. Symbol V is used for vowel and C is used for consonant in syllable.

1. Syllables with nucleus; eye /ai/ , I /ai/,
2. Syllables with releasing consonants; she /ʃi:/, go /gəʊ/
3. Syllables have the nucleus and asserting consonant; am / æm / all /ɔ:l /

More examples, the noun *call* /kɔ:l/ has a one syllable and its plural *calls* /kɔ:l/ has also one syllable. For the syllable structure, C is used for consonant and V is used for vowel. For example, under /ʌn-də/ here the structure is VC., some /sʌm/ CVC structure, in syllable *tents* /tents/ CVCCC.

• **Check Your Progress : 1**

1. What is phonetics and its importance in language?

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2. Discuss the types of consonants.

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3. Write a note on vowels.

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4. What is phonology and units of phonology?

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5. Explain syllables in details

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**12.3 SYLLABLE AND MUSICALITY OF LANGUAGE THROUGH STRESS, RHYTHM AND INTONATION**

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**Stressed/ Unstressed Syllables:** In oral communication when we talk to somebody, we use groups of words or a word. The groups of words become sentence. And when we use a word or sentence or sentences at that time we do not speak continuously- without pause. Pause comes. And in talk when a speaker wants to highlight, we stress the syllable. Through stressed and unstressed syllable effective communication takes

place.

Examples;

1. 'action. here in this word there are two syllables, first is 'a'-second is 'ction'. 'ækʃn 'a is stressed syllable here.
2. half-hearted two syllables 'ha:f 'ha:tid. First and second h/h are stressed syllables.
- 3 Examination, the word is analyzed thus ɪg-zæ-mɪ'neɪ-ʃən, here five Syllables, two are stressed, ig, zæmɪ'neɪʃən.

Such word like 'Hardly' has always stresses on the first syllable and 'Believe' always has stress on the second syllable. In the pronunciation, when such words are not stressed, they are weak forms of these words or known as unstressed.

Example;

1. Black and white here 'blæk ənd 'waɪt here 'and' is a weak form of the word so does not stressed.
2. When does the train leave/? 'wen dʌz ði 'treɪn li:v? in this sentence 'does' remains unstressed
- 3 How can I help? In this sentence ' haʊ kæn aɪ 'help? 'can' remains unstressed.

Such words are weak form like 'as', 'but', 'he', 'him', 'was', 'has/have', 'than' and other words.

Such words become strong forms so stressed.

Example; Can I? here in this sentence 'Kæn aɪ? 'Can' is strong so stressed. Notes:

1. Word with weak prefixes always stressed on root syllable, Examples; alone -ə'ləʊn, because- bi'kɒz, beneath - bi'ni:θ
2. The inflexional suffixes – ed, es, and ing do not affect stressed syllable Examples; recommended-rɛkə'mendɪd, successes-sək'sɛsɪz, happening- 'hæpɪŋ
- 3 . The derivational suffixes – age, en, ful, hood, ish, ness, ship, zen, ter, are expressed thus; actress-'æktɪs, marriage-mærɪdʒ, beautiful-'bjʊ:təfʊl, achievement-ə'ʃi:vmənt, scholarship-skɒləʃɪp, citizen-'sɪtɪzn
- 4 The word ending in ' ion' follows thus application- æplɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n, preparation-prɛpə'reɪʃən,
- 5 . The word ending- ic, ical, ious, ial, ially follows thus , Ceremonious-sərə'məʊniəs, dramatically- drə'mætɪk(ə)li, , biological - baɪəʊ'lədʒɪkəl,

**Rhythm:** In human utterance, consonants and vowels are used. While utterance, the voice rises and falls, in other words some syllables are stressed and others are not stressed. This regular pattern of utterance creates melodies. And melodies become meaningful. The rhythm of speech depends on the number of stressed syllables it contains. English has stress timing. So the stressed syllables are comparatively long and prominent, and unstressed syllables are short. In utterance stressed

syllables followed unstressed create rhythmic pattern. In speech technical term tone unit is used for 'chunk'.

Example; 1.

I 'promise to 'come.

The pattern is unstressed+stressed+unstressed+unstressed+ stressed.

2. They 'walk. Here the pattern is unstressed+stressed.

3. He's 'lost his 'pen. Here the pattern is unstressed+stressed+unstressed+unstressed+ stressed.

The choice of the syllable getting primary accent or secondary depends on the meaning the speaker wants to communicate. When the speaker emphasizes on particular syllable, he communicates different meaning.

**Example; 1.**

1. I should 'walk.

2. I 'should ,walk.

3. 'I should ,walk.

This can be also identified as weak-w and strong-s syllable.

**Example;**

1. 'Send them 'letter . The pattern is Sws

2. 'Let him 'take it. The patter is Ssws.

3. I am 'going 'home for 'Charismas. The patter is wSswS

The basic rule of English rhythm is each stress group within a word group is giventhe same amount of time.

**Example;**

1. I am 'going 'home. Pattern is wwssw

2. I am 'going 'home for ten 'days. Pattern is wwswws

3. I 'didn't under'stand . Pattern is wswswS

4. 'What's the 'matter? Pattern is swSw

5. 'How do you 'know 'that? Pattern is swwsS

**Intonation:** Every language has its intonation. When a speaker speaks, in his speech, he doesn't flatly utter the words. But to make the speech effective and meaningful the pitch rises and sometimes it falls. This pattern of variation of speech forms the intonation of the language. Considering the pitch different signs are used to indicate the tone.

( ' ) the pitch falls from very high to very low, at that time this sign is used.

And it is called *high fall*.

( , ) The pitch falls from very low. It is called *low fall*.

( ' ) The pitch rises from very low to very high. It is called *high rise*

( , ) The pitch rises from low to mid. It is called *low rise*.

( ^ ) The pitch falls from mid to low and then falls again to low. It is called *fall rise*.

( ^ ) The pitch rises from low to about mid and then falls again to low. It is called *rise fall*.

A syllable is identified on the base of its level of tone, high or low, that is known as static tone and if there is pitch change is called kinetic tone.

**The Falling Tone:** When a speaker has delivered the speech and s/he does not want to communicate anything more so the long fall generally suggests completion of the speech. At that time long fall is commonly used. The long fall may be used for command also. If in a speech, the contour consists of stressed syllable followed by one or more syllables at that time falling tone step down- high pitch to low pitch. <sup>F</sup> indicates falling tone and <sup>R</sup> indicates rising tone. The signs F for , R for , are used. But preferably for falling tone <sup>F</sup> and for rising tone <sup>R</sup> are used.

Examples; 1. 'How do you <sup>F</sup>do?

2. They're <sup>F</sup>leaving.

3. I'm rather <sup>F</sup>busy

4. 'Please 'close the <sup>F</sup>window.

5. 'Where can we 'get a <sup>F</sup>taxi?

6. The 'teacher was <sup>F</sup>looking for you.

According to the change of the tone, the utterance becomes a question or a statement;

1. 'Looking for <sup>F</sup>something? The falling tone indicates a statement.

2. "Looking for <sup>R</sup>something? The rising tone suggests a question.

3. 'Shut the <sup>F</sup>door. The falling tone indicates command.

4. 'Shut the <sup>R</sup>door. The rising tone suggests request.

5. 'Going to <sup>F</sup>London. The falling tone indicates statement.

6. 'Going to <sup>R</sup>London? The rising tone suggests question. In yes/ no questions tone changes thus;

1. Is she <sup>F</sup>going?

2. Could you <sup>F</sup>meet him?

In exclamations and greeting tones are used thus;

1. 'How sur<sup>F</sup>prising!

2. "Good <sup>F</sup>morning.

**The Rising Tone:** The rising tone is opposite to falling tone. The tone suggests the message is not completed, not final. It is asked for repetition of what is earlier asked. It is frequently in yes/no questions.

Examples; 1. 'Are you <sup>R</sup>ready?

2 'Do you <sup>R</sup>agree?

3 'Are you <sup>R</sup>sure this will go?

4 'Are they <sup>R</sup>going?

5 'When are they <sup>R</sup>going?

6 'Would you 'like <sup>R</sup>coffee or <sup>R</sup>tea? The tones in question tags are <sup>F</sup> and <sup>R</sup>. S

1. The 'Johns are 'coming, <sup>F</sup>aren't they?

2. The 'johns are 'coming, <sup>R</sup>aren't they?

In the first sentence the questioner is not much looking for information and in second sentence really asks for information.

**High Rise Tone:** this tone is generally connected to questions.

1. 'Did you 'say <sup>HR</sup>bread?



2. 'Are you <sup>HR</sup> Abraham?
3. 'Is she <sup>HR</sup> here?

**Falling –Rising tone:** this tone normally indicates something is not expressed in utterance. This tone can also express other attitudes. Fall and rise may take place within same syllable.

- Examples;
1. 'Joseph's here al<sup>FR</sup>ready.
  - 2 'That was <sup>R</sup> nice.
  - 3 'She was <sup>F</sup> quite <sup>R</sup> kind.

**Rising-Falling Tone:** It is a combination of rise and fall of the pitch. Rising tone conveys the message and falling tone.

- Examples:
1. Do you agree? <sup>F</sup>No.
  - 2 . Are you <sup>R</sup> that will go?
  - 3 But is his <sup>R</sup>son in the <sup>F</sup>picture?

**Check your progress: 2:**

1. What is the stressed syllable and its importance in speech?

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2. What is the unstressed syllable and its importance in speech?

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3. What is rhythm and its importance in speech sound?

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4. What is intonation and its use in speech?

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5. Give your views on tones with examples

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**Check your progress: 3:**

Find the stressed syllable/s and put the mark/s on them.

- A. 1. Oppose \_\_\_\_\_  
2. Without \_\_\_\_\_  
3. Succeed \_\_\_\_\_  
4. Protect \_\_\_\_\_  
5. Exchange \_\_\_\_\_

- B. 1. Please present your case \_\_\_\_\_  
2. Who is the present Principal? \_\_\_\_\_  
3. He's busy at present. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. I have no suggestions. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Why did you insult her?

C . Find out the rhythm pattern from the following sentences by using 'S' and 'W'

1. What's the matter? \_\_\_\_\_  
2. That is a nice view. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. How do you know it? \_\_\_\_\_  
4. I didn't expect. \_\_\_\_\_  
5. Raise the window. \_\_\_\_\_

D. Identify the patten of the tones from the following. Use F and R.

1. I understand. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. I'm rather busy. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. Please close the door. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. Are you ready? \_\_\_\_\_  
5. When are you going? \_\_\_\_\_

**Answers:**

- A 1. Op'pose  
2. wi'thout  
3. suc'ceed.  
4. pro'tect.  
5. ex'change.

**Answers: B.**

1. "Please pre'sent your "

- 2 “Who is the ‘present ‘principal?  
 3 He’s ‘busy at ,present.  
 4 I have ‘no sug’gestions.5 ‘why did in’

**Answers: C**

1. swSw
2. swwsS
- 3 swwsS
- 4.wswwSw
- 5.swSw

**Answer: D:**

1. ,I ,under<sup>F</sup>stand.
2. I’m ‘rather<sup>F</sup>busy.
3. ‘Please close the<sup>F</sup>door.
4. ‘Are you<sup>R</sup>ready?
5. ‘When are you<sup>R</sup>going?

**12.4 LET US SUM UP**

In this unit you have learnt

- To distinguish phonetics and phonology.
- To understand phonology in a better way learnt Stress, Rhythm and Intonation with various examples.

**12.5 KEY WORDS**

<b>The mark</b>	is used to indicate stress the syllable. There are the words carry primary stress or secondary stress. Oxford and Cambridge English dictionaries print as well as online show the stress marks in the pronunciations.
<b>‘Bicycle</b>	Here the stress comes on the first syllable.
<b>‘Capital:</b>	The stress comes on the first syllable.
<b>Ex’change</b>	Here the stress comes on the second syllable.
<b>To’morrow:</b>	The stress comes on the second syllable.
<b>‘After,noon</b>	Here there are three syllable and first and third syllables are stressed. ‘Under’sand: Here first and second syllables are stressed.
	A speaker’s stress on particular syllable communicates the utterance is command or exclamation.
<b>Shut the ,window</b>	Here the message is command.
<b>‘How extra’ordinary!</b>	Here the tone indicates exclamation.

**12.6 BOOKS SUGGESTED**

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