

Lecture: Introduction to Phonetics (Articulation)

Stage 1 – Department of English Language and Literature

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1. Definition of Phonetics:

Phonetics is the branch of linguistics that studies the sounds of human speech. It focuses on how sounds are produced, transmitted, and perceived.

2. Branches of Phonetics:

- Articulatory Phonetics: Studies how speech sounds are produced by the human vocal organs.
- Acoustic Phonetics: Studies the physical properties of sound waves.
- Auditory Phonetics: Studies how sounds are heard and interpreted.

3. Organs of Speech:

The main organs involved in speech production include:

- Lungs
- Larynx (vocal cords)
- Pharynx
- Tongue
- Teeth
- Lips
- Nose

4. Types of Speech Sounds:

A. Consonants:

Produced with some obstruction in the airflow.

Examples: /p/, /b/, /t/, /k/

B. Vowels:

Produced without obstruction; air flows freely.

Examples: /a/, /e/, /i/, /o/, /u/

5. Voiced vs Voiceless Sounds:

- Voiced: Vocal cords vibrate (e.g., /b/, /d/, /g/)
- Voiceless: No vibration (e.g., /p/, /t/, /k/)

6. Place of Articulation:

Where the sound is produced:

- Bilabial: /p/, /b/, /m/
- Dental: /θ/, /ð/
- Alveolar: /t/, /d/, /s/
- Velar: /k/, /g/

7. Manner of Articulation:

How the sound is produced:

- Stop (Plosive): /p/, /b/, /t/
- Fricative: /f/, /v/, /s/
- Nasal: /m/, /n/
- Approximant: /w/, /j/

8. Importance of Phonetics:

- Helps in correct pronunciation
- Improves listening skills
- Essential for language learners and teachers

9. Practice Exercises:

A. Identify whether the following sounds are voiced or voiceless:

/ b / , / s / , / g / , / f /

B. Classify the following sounds according to place of articulation:

/ p / , / t / , / k /

C. Give two examples of vowels and two examples of consonants.