The sound Patterns of Language

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Phonology and Phonemes :

- Phonology: it is essentially the description of systems an patterns od speech sounds in a language, it is about the underlying design, the blueprint of each sound type, which serves as a constant basis pf all the variation in different physical articulations of that sound type in different contexts.

- Phonemes: Each meaning – distinguishing sound in a language is described as a " phoneme ". It is the single sound type which came to be represented by a single symbol. Slash marks a re conventionally used to indicate a phoneme, /t/ .

Phones and Allophones:

- They are different versions of a sound type. Phones are represented in square brackets. When we have a set of phones, all of which are versions of one phoneme, we refer to them as the allophone of that phoneme. e.g. Bean, bead.
- Aspiration: When we are producing the same sound in different words, sometimes extra puff of air is produced for the same sound. This feature is just for stops (b, p, t, d, k, g) e.g. Pit, spit.
- The basic distinction between phonemes and allophones; substituting one phoneme for another will result in a word with a different meaning, but substituting allophones only result in a different pronounciation of the same word.

Minimal Pairs and Sets:

- When two words such as " pat " and " bat " are identical in form expect for a contrast in one phoneme, occuring in the same position, the two words are described as a minimal pair. e.g. Feat, fit, fat, fate
- On the other hand, when a group of words can be differentiated, each one from the others, by changing one phoneme =, then we have a minimal set.

Phonotactics:

- There are definite patterns to the types of sound combinations permitted in a language. We can form nonsense words which are permissible forms with no meanings. They represent identical gaps in the vocabulary of English. E.g. “lig” or “vig” (not English words but possible).
- But “sing” or “mig” are not obeying same constraints on the sequence. Such constraints are called the “ Phonotactics “ of a language

Syllables and Consonant Clusters:

- A syllable is composed one or more phonemes and it must contain a vowel sound. Every syllable has a nucleus, usually a vowel-liquid or nasal. The basic elements of the syllable are the onset (one or more consonants) and the rhyme. Plus any following consonants treated as the coda.
- The syllabus which hasn't got a coda are known " OPEN SYLLABUS " , when a coda is present, they are called " CLOSED SYLLABUS" . Cup => closed syllable no => open syllable
- Both onset and coda can consist of more than one consonant known as a CONSONANT CLUSTER. /s/ + (/p/, /t/,/k/) + (/r/, /l/, /w/)

Coarticulation Effects:

- Our talk is fast and spontaneous and it requires our articulators to move from one sound to the next without stopping. The process of making one sound almost at the same time as the next is called coarticulation. Articulation effects are called “ assimilation” and “ Ellision” .

Assimilation and Elision:

- Assimilation: When two phonemes occur in sequence and some aspect of one phoneme is taken or copied by the other the process is known as “ assimilation “ .This process is occasioned by “ ease of articulation in everyday talk. For example, only vowel becomes nasal whenever it immediately proceeds a nasal. E.g. can => I can go.
- Elision : Omission of a sound segment which would be present in the deliberate pronunciation of a word in isolation is technically described as “ elision “ . In consonants clusters, especially in coda position, /t/ is a common casualty in this process, as in the typical pronunciation for He must be - Aspects