

Section one : Introduction

1.1 Phonetics is a branch of linguistics that scientifically studies speech sounds in all human languages. There are many branches of phonetics: articulatory phonetics, acoustic phonetics (physical phonetics), auditory phonetics, etc.

The main branches of phonetics		
Articulatory Phonetics	Acoustic Phonetics	Auditory Phonetics

1.2 Phonology is a branch of linguistics. It studies the system or pattern of speech sounds used in a particular language or in language in general. Phonology is the system of rules, representations, and principles governing the distribution of sounds. Within phonology, there are two branches of study; they are usually recognized as Segmental phonology and Supra-segmental phonology.

1.3 Phoneme is the smallest unit of phonology or the minimal unit in the sound system. The complete set of phonemes is called the phonemic system of the language.

1.4 Accents and Dialects

Accent is a particular way of pronouncing words that is connected with the country, area or social class that a person comes from. One accent is different from other accents only in pronunciation. For example, Welsh accent (Wales), London, accent (London), etc.

Dialect refers to a variety of a language which is different from other dialects not just in pronunciation but also in such matters as vocabulary, grammar and word order. For example, American English, Australian English, Canadian English, British English, African English, Indian English. In fact, different dialects of English do not have a great deal in common; they have far more differences than similarities.

1.5 R.P. and BBC pronunciation

Received Pronunciation (RP): RP was for many years the accent of British English usually chosen for the purposes of description and teaching, it is also called as “**BBC pronunciation**”.

BBC Pronunciation: (The British Broadcasting Corporation) pronunciation, there is much to be said for using the “official” BBC accent as a standard for foreign learners wishing to acquire an English accent. Peter Roach prefers to treat the BBC accent as the best model for the description of English Language.

1.6 The Nature of English Spelling and English Pronunciation

Because of the confusing nature of English spelling, it is very important to study English pronunciation in terms of **phonemes** rather than letters of the alphabet (**spelling**). Examples:

1-The two English letters (ch) have different pronunciations in different words:

(school) ► [sku:l] (ch) produce [k]

(spech) ► [spi:tʃ] (ch) produce [tʃ]