

**Madiyeva Gulmira Bayanzhanovna**  
**Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan**  
**Doctor, Professor at the Department of Turkic Studies**  
**and Language Theory**  
[gbmadiyeva.kz@gmail.com@mail.ru](mailto:gbmadiyeva.kz@gmail.com@mail.ru)

**Abdirakhman Nuray Bauyrzhankyzy**  
**Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan**  
**Master`s student**  
[nuraiabdrakhman@mail.ru](mailto:nuraiabdrakhman@mail.ru)

## PROBLEMS IN ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION

### Abstract

The object of research of this topic is the phonetics of the English language. This article examines the role of the English language in modern communication between people and how the pronunciation problem affects perception. The author explores the functions of intonation, describes the peculiarities of pronunciation, suggests methods for its effective development and describes the difficulties that students usually face. This article examines the typical phonetic and phonological errors that Russian-speaking students face when learning English, and also examines the types and causes of errors in the pronunciation of English sounds and discusses ways to prevent these errors.

**Keywords:** pronunciation, articulation, modern English, sound system, pronunciation problems.

## ПРОБЛЕМЫ В АНГЛИЙСКОМ ПРОИЗНОШЕНИИ

### Аннотация

Объектом исследования данной темы является фонетика английского языка. В этой статье рассматривается роль английского языка в современном общении между людьми и то, как проблема произношения влияет на восприятие. В фокусе исследования – функции интонации, описываются особенности произношения, трудности, с которыми обычно сталкиваются учащиеся, предлагаются методы эффективного освоения произношения. В статье рассмотрены типичные фонетические и фонологические ошибки, с которыми сталкиваются русскоязычные студенты при изучении английского языка, а также рассматриваются типы и причины ошибок в произношении английских звуков и рассматриваются способы предотвращения этих ошибок.

**Ключевые слова:** произношение, артикуляция, современный английский, звуковая система, проблемы произношения

## АҒЫЛШЫН ТІЛІ АЙТЫЛУЫНДАҒЫ ПРОБЛЕМАЛАР

### Андатпа

Бұл тақырыпты зерттеу нысаны-ағылшын тілінің фонетикасы. Бұл мақалада адамдар арасындағы қазіргі қарым-қатынастағы ағылшын тілінің рөлі және айтылу мәселесі қабылдауға қалай әсер ететіні қарастырылады. Автор интонация функцияларын зерттейді, айтылу ерекшеліктерін сипаттайды, оны тиімді игеру әдістерін ұсынады және студенттер арасында әдетте кездесетін қиындықтарды сипаттайды. Бұл мақалада орыс тілді студенттер ағылшын тілін үйренуде кездесетін типтік фонетикалық және фонологиялық қателер қарастырылады, сонымен қатар ағылшын дыбыстарының айтылуындағы қателіктердің түрлері мен себептері және осы қателіктердің алдын-алу жолдары қарастырылады.

**Кілт сөздері:** айтылу, артикуляция, қазіргі ағылшын тілі, дыбыстық жүйе, айтылу мәселелері

### Introduction

Every year the number of people who want to learn English is increasing, as in the modern world, learning foreign languages is already becoming a necessity. Foreign languages broaden our horizons, help us build a successful career and find acquaintances in different countries of the world.

Language as a means of communication arose and exists, first of all, as a sound language and possession of its sound system (the presence of pronunciation skills) is a prerequisite for communication in any form. The speech will be understood by the listener with difficulty, distorted or not at all understandable if the speaker violates the phonetic norms of the language. The listener will not understand or will have difficulty understanding the speech addressed to him if he himself does not have the pronunciation skills. An utterance in writing is necessarily preceded by its detailed pronouncing in internal speech, and reading to oneself, even very cursory, is accompanied by the voicing of a visually perceived text. Therefore, voicing is of a collapsed nature, but it can only be accessed through an expanded one, first in external speech (reading aloud), and then in internal (reading to oneself), therefore, the imperfection of pronouncing skills slows down the development of reading fluency. It is often the cause of inaccurate or even incorrect understanding of the text.

Thus, the presence of solid pronunciation skills ensures the normal functioning of all (without exception) types of speech activity.

### **Main part**

Pronunciation is an important aspect in learning a particular language. Based on Dmitry Nikolaevich Ushakov's explanatory dictionary, pronunciation is the articulation of speech sounds, that is, the reproduction of a particular sound using different parts of the oral cavity. Pronunciation in English plays one of the most important roles, but, unfortunately, correct English pronunciation is very rare even among foreign language teachers. Many people do not base and do not understand the importance of pronunciation, they prefer a grammar-translation system, which consists in mechanically memorizing words and learning the rules. In fact, it is necessary to train English pronunciation from the very beginning of learning a foreign language. Otherwise, it will be quite difficult to correct and catch up with fixed errors. Everyone has faced the problem of pronunciation at the initial stages of language learning. It is important to master sound speech from the beginning of training, to learn how to pronounce sounds the way native speakers do. The peculiarity of solving this problem (pronunciation practice) is the large time costs. It is necessary to understand that without correct pronunciation it is impossible to master the language comprehensively and perfectly.

The main goal of acquiring the correct pronunciation in a particular language (in our case, it is English) is knowledge and excellent use of orthoepic norms in practice, as well as the development of the ability not only to hear, but also to understand the speech of a native speaker, so that it does not cause any difficulties with understanding. Let's not forget about the phonetic features of the English language, namely, how to intonate the English pronunciation, which members of the sentence are stressed, and which are unstressed, and so on.

The problem of correct pronunciation of English sounds is one of the most serious in teaching English, since it is impossible to fully master a foreign language without pronouncing skills. The reasons for the incorrect pronunciation of English sounds may be different. This is ignorance of the rules of articulation of sounds, violations of phonemic perception and hearing, insufficient training cognitive skills. However, one of the main ones is the Russification of English sounds.

Another problem that causes Russian-speaking students difficulties when trying to pronounce English sounds correctly is their inability to distinguish the features that distinguish the articulation of English sounds from the Russian equivalent. Another difficulty lies in the transfer of the habits of Russian pronunciation (general rules of articulation and classification of sounds, cases of assimilation, etc.) on the way of articulation of English sounds. All these facts explain the relevance of this topic.

Before you fully immerse yourself in the English language, read and, with all this, pronounce words correctly, you need to study the transcription of English letters, given that everything is different in English pronunciation than in Russian. In Russian, "as a word is written, so it is pronounced." In English, almost always every word does not correspond to how it looks on the letter. Some English words are reflected in the same way on the letter, but their

pronunciation is completely different (it depends on the context), while some, on the contrary, are pronounced exactly the same, but at the same time have completely different meanings and are written differently. Based on all this, everyone who studies English should, first of all, understand how to read transcription signs. Without knowledge of these basics, the student will not be able to move further in learning the language, and also we must not forget about the exceptions that "flood the expanses" of the English language.

The correct pronunciation of the sounds of a foreign language can be a big problem for those who study it. When learning a foreign language, it is necessary to understand that it uses a different set of sounds and spelling rules that differ from the native language (i.e., for example, the same letter written in another language may be pronounced differently). The native language of the student determines the degree of difficulty and the types of difficulties that he will experience. As mentioned earlier, any change in the phoneme invariant affects the meaning. Naturally, anyone who studies a foreign language makes mistakes in the articulation of specific sounds. L.V. Shcherba classifies pronunciation errors as phonological and phonetic.

If an allophone of a phoneme is replaced by another allophone of the same phoneme, then the error is called phonetic. This happens when the phoneme invariant does not change, and, consequently, the meaning of the word does not change.

So, first let's look at what are the most popular phonetic mistakes students make when learning English and which sounds are more likely to cause difficulties.

Let's conditionally divide all errors into two large groups: those associated with incorrect pronunciation of consonant sounds and with incorrect pronunciation of vowel sounds. To begin with, let's focus in more detail on the first group associated with consonants.

Often you can encounter the opinion that Russian-speaking students "croak", that is, they pronounce [r] instead of the English sound, for example, as in the words rain [re?n], ring [r??], road [r?ud], analog Russian [r] (река, рыба, речь). Unlike the sound [r], the English sound [r] is lighter, musical and almost semi-vocal. When it is pronounced, the tongue does not touch the alveoli or the transalveolar part of the upper arch of the oral cavity. It is also worth noting that English language learners often pronounce the sound [r] where it is not necessary to pronounce it at all, for example, in the words car [k??], far [f??], dark [d??k]. pronouncing the wrong sound [r], of course, does not change the meaning of the word, but significantly complicates understanding.

The next common mistake is pronouncing the sounds [p] (pet [pet]), [t] (team [ti?m]), [k] (kite [ka?t]) without breathing in a percussive position according to the type of Russian sounds [p] (dad), [t] (тень), [k] (корова). Unlike Russian sounds, English ones are more noisy and explosive.

In phonetic pronunciation, it is necessary to preserve both the meaning-distinguishing capabilities of a foreign language and all its articulatory subtleties. Here no detail can be superfluous: the position of the tip of the tongue during articulation of sounds, the degree of inhalation, duration, the influence of the processes of interaction of sounds, the nature of syllabification, rhythmic organization, variability of prosodic structure and many other factors. [1, pp. 7-9] Articulatory organs play a primary role in speech communication. At the same time, it is important to remember that there are no articulatory organs as such, and articulation of speech sounds is a secondary function of the respiratory organs, swallowing, chewing and charm. From the point of view of speech production, these organs are a speech apparatus. The speech apparatus consists of movable and stationary speech organs. The first group includes: 1) tongue, 2) lips, 3) soft palate with a small tongue, 4) posterior wall of the pharynx (pharynx), 5) vocal cords located in the larynx, 6) lower jaw. The stationary organs of speech include: 1) upper lips, 2) alveoli (the tubercle located directly behind the upper teeth), 3) hard palate. [2, p. 16] Pronunciation or reading of English words is not a process of spelling words. More often it is the result of converting letter combinations into sounds. Additional difficulties arise due to the fact that many rules have exceptions. In such cases, the correct sound of the word will prompt the transcription in the dictionary. In addition, when learning English, working with a dictionary

takes a significant part of the time, and knowledge of the basic rules of reading makes it optimal. [3, p. 77] It is also necessary to take into account that in English articulation, that is, the pronunciation of vowels, is almost not influenced by consonants. The vowel sound is the leading one in articulation. In this regard, it is recommended to combine as many different consonant sounds as possible with the vowel sound when setting English pronunciation. In Russian, the articulation of vowels, to a greater extent, depends on the hardness or softness of neighboring consonants: "вол" - "вѣл"; "нос" - "нѣс". The number of sounds in English is a subject of dispute among linguists around the world. The fundamental difference is not so great, but there are a great many points of view on this issue. The classical theory distinguishes 44 sounds in the English language: 20 vowels and 24 consonants. Most sounds in English have analogues in Russian, some are almost identical, but there are also those whose equivalent, even with a strong desire, will not be found.

As a rule, the greatest difficulty for English language learners is represented by the interdental consonants [θ] and [ð]. In the case of the English sound [θ], Russian sounds [c] or [ϕ] are usually obtained. Instead of [ð], [ʒ] or [β] sound. This mistake is quite understandable, because in the Russian language there are no sounds, when pronouncing which you need to clamp your tongue between your teeth. Next comes a rather complex and incomprehensible sound [ŋ]. It is quite difficult to explain the pronunciation of this sound — in some ways it looks like a soft [n'], but at the same time, it is pronounced not so much in the mouth as through the nose. Another complex sound is the [w] sound. When it is pronounced, the lips are rounded and something similar to the Russian sound [y] is obtained, but only more energetic. Next, it is worth mentioning the explosive sounds [p, t, k]. Their difficulty is that they are pronounced with some breathiness at the beginning, hence their name. The next sound that deserves attention is the sound [h]. Contrary to a common mistake, it is not pronounced as the Russian sound [x]. To pronounce it correctly, try to make a light exhalation through your mouth. When you breathe on the glass in order to draw a funny face on it, it turns out exactly the sound that we need. The other consonant sounds are generally similar to Russian, although they have their own characteristic features. With vowels in English, everything is much simpler. Most of them have analogues in Russian, but despite this, it is always worth paying attention to the shades of sound, because there are no trifles in learning a foreign language, every detail is important. [5]

Another type of mistakes that foreign language learners make in their speech is phonological. Phonological errors occur when the allophone of some phoneme is replaced by the allophone of another phoneme, and the meaning of this word is inevitably violated. This happens when one or more relevant phoneme features are not implemented. For example, when the vowel [i:] in the word beat [bi:t] becomes a little more open, more advanced or no longer diphthongized, then the word beat [bi:t] can be perceived as a completely different word bit [bit]. It is quite obvious that this type of error is not allowed when teaching pronunciation to any student.

Phonological errors are much rougher than phonetic ones, since they can change not only the meaning of one particular word, but also the meaning of sentences and whole phrases. Phonological errors occur when a person encounters an unknown sound that does not exist in his native language, and intuitively tries to replace it with a simpler analog sound of his native language. We will also conditionally divide all errors into two large groups: those associated with incorrect pronunciation of consonant sounds and with incorrect pronunciation of vowel sounds. So, first let's look at what phonological errors appear when pronouncing consonants incorrectly.

In phonological pronunciation, it is important to maintain the minimum of features, non-compliance with which can lead to misunderstanding. This is a "rough" pronunciation, without any subtleties, actually based on the native language with some innovations that a foreign language necessarily requires. For example, the English phrase "I'm not going to see him again" can be phonologically pronounced something like this: [Aim 'not 'gouin tu 'si him e gen] Or [Aim 'not 'gouing tu 'si him a gen]. It is in this way that foreign pronunciation is presented in

bilingual phrasebooks. And it is at this level that tourists most often speak. Here it is important not to replace an essential feature of a foreign language with any of the native language. For example, for a Russian speaker, a different degree of opening of the mouth (lowering of the lower jaw) does not play a meaningful role (compare: "children" and "these"), in English - with a slight opening of the mouth, [e] is pronounced, and with a greater lowering of the lower jaw - [æ]. Incorrect accentuation also makes it difficult to get the right information. So the word "written", pronounced with an accent on the second syllable, can be perceived as "retain", and the word "comfortable" - with an accent on "com" and "ta" can be heard as "come for a table". English has its own specific rhythm, and if the speaker neglects it, it also leads to speech distortion. It's like trying to dance a polka or a foxtrot to the tune of a waltz.

### Conclusion

Thus, we can conclude that pronunciation plays one of the most key roles in learning English. Unfortunately, our speech apparatus is not initially tailored to the system of any particular language. That is why learning English along with your native language at an early age gives you a huge advantage in all aspects of learning it, including pronunciation. But this does not mean that at a later age it will be impossible to formalize the sound base of the new language system. It is even possible, you just need to make yourself understand that in English there are sounds that have no analogue in Russian, and even those that at first glance are similar, are fraught with many difficulties, since even in them you need to pay attention to differences in shades of sound.

### References

1. Karmanov I.A. Pronunciation and its role in the English language / I. A. Karmanov. – Text : direct // Young scientist. – 2016. – № 25 (129). – Pp. 688-690. – URL: <https://moluch.ru/archive/129/35773> / (accessed: 11/18/2021).
2. Бондаренко Л.П., Завьялова М.О., Пивоварова С.М., Соболева В.Л. Basics of English Phonetics. Основы фонетики английского языка: учеб. Пособие. – М.: Флинта: Наука, 2009. – 152 с.
3. Буряя Е.А., Галочкина И.Е., Шевченко Т.И. Фонетика современного английского языка. Теоретический курс: учебник для студ. лингв. Вузов и фак. – 3-е изд., стер. – М.: Академия, 2009. – 272 с.
4. Ершова О.В., Максаева А.Э. Английская фонетика: От звука к слову. – М.: ФЛИНТА, 2014. – 130 с.
5. Зырянова А.В. Теоретическая фонетика английского языка: учебно-практическое пособие. – Челябинск: Юж.-Урал. гос. гуман.-пед. ун-та, 2016. – 154 с.
6. Леонтьева С.Ф. Теоретическая фонетика современного английского языка: Уч. для студентов пед. вузов и ун-тов. - 3-е изд., испр. и доп. – М.: Менеджер, 2004. – 360 с.
7. Common pronunciation errors in English // [Электронный ресурс] / <https://jakubmarian.com/common-pronunciation-errors-in-english/> (17.05.2017)
8. McMahon, A. An Introduction to English Phonology. / April McMahon. – Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2002. – 159 p.
9. Phonetics and Phonology // [Электронный ресурс] / <https://www.csun.edu/~sk36711/WWW/eng400/phonol.pdf> (16.05.2017)
10. Rapkauskienė, A. A Course In English Phonetics For Efl University Students. Segmental Phonetics. Syllable. Stress. / doc. dr. A. Rapkauskienė, prof. dr. V. Kardelis. – Vilnius: Vilnius University, 2014. – 78 p.
11. Russian Speakers' English Pronunciation Errors // [Электронный ресурс] / <https://pronunciationstudio.com/russian-speakers-english-pronunciation-errors/> (17.05.2017)
12. Трубецкой Н.С. Основы фонологии // [Электронный ресурс] / <http://www.studfiles.ru/preview/4481646/page:25/> (15.05.2017)