

# Phonology

# What is phonology?

Phonology is the study of the sound systems of languages.

Phonology is the aspects of language related to the distinctive features of the representation and reception of sounds of language.

Phonology is the study of the sound system of a given language and the analysis and classification of its phonemes.

Phonology is the study of how sounds are organized and used in natural languages.

Phonology is the study of the way sounds function in languages, including phonemes, syllable structure, stress, accent, intonation, and which sounds are distinctive units within a language; The way sounds function within a given language.

# Phonology:

- According to Bloomfield:

“Phonology is the organization of sounds into patterns. In order to fulfil the communicative functions, language organize their material and vocal noises into recurrent bits and pieces arranged in sound patterns.”

- It is the study of this formal organization of languages which is known as phonology.
- Phonology has in fact been called functional phonetics.

# Branches of phonology

There are four branches :-

1. Segmental phonology :- It analyses speech into discrete segments, such as phonemes.
2. Supra- segmental phonology :- It analyses those features which extend over more than one segment such as intonation , stress.
3. Diachronic phonology :- It studies the patterns of sound system through the history of language.
4. Synchronic phonology :- It studies the patterns of sound regardless of the process of historical change.

# Define phone , phoneme , allophone

Phone :- 1. Phone is the smallest , perceptible , discrete segment of sound in the stream of speech.

OR

Phone is the minimal unit of speech.

2. Phones are the physical realization of phonemes.

3. The speech is segmented and each of the segment is called phone.

4. Phone are grouped into phonemes through phonemic analysis.

5. Phone is enclosed within square bracket i.e [ p ]

Phoneme :- 1. Phoneme is the smallest , distinctive and segmental unit of sound.

OR

Phoneme is the minimal distinctive unit in the sound system of a language .

2. Phoneme is enclosed within slants i.e / p /



3. Phonemes are useful to analyze language at the phonological level.

4. Phonemes /p/ and /b/ are similar in place of articulation and manner of articulation but differ in voicing. So they are two phonemes.

Allophone : - Allophone is a variant of a phoneme. The allophones are very similar to each other ; they do not change the meaning of a word and they don't occur in the same phonetic environment.

for example :- Syllable initial as opposed to syllable final.

All allophones are phones but all phones are not allophones.

# Syllable

## Definition

A syllable is a unit of sound composed of :-

1. a central peak of sonority (usually a vowel), and
2. the consonants that cluster around this central peak.

or

The syllable is a basic unit of speech studied on both the phonetic and phonological levels of analysis.

or

A syllable is a unit of organization for a sequence of speech sounds. For example, the word water is composed of two syllables: wa and ter. A syllable is typically made up of a syllable nuclear (most often a vowel) with optional initial and final margins (typically, consonants).

# Difference between phone and phoneme

## PHONE

- One of many possible sounds in the languages of the world.
- The smallest identifiable unit found in a stream of speech.
- Pronounced in a defined way.
- Represented between brackets by convention.
  - Example:
    - [b], [j], [o]

## PHONEME

- One of many possible sounds in the languages of the world.
- A minimal unit that serves to distinguish between meanings of words.
- Pronounced in one or more ways, depending on the number of allophones.
- Represented between slashes by convention.
  - Example:
    - /b/, /j/, /o/

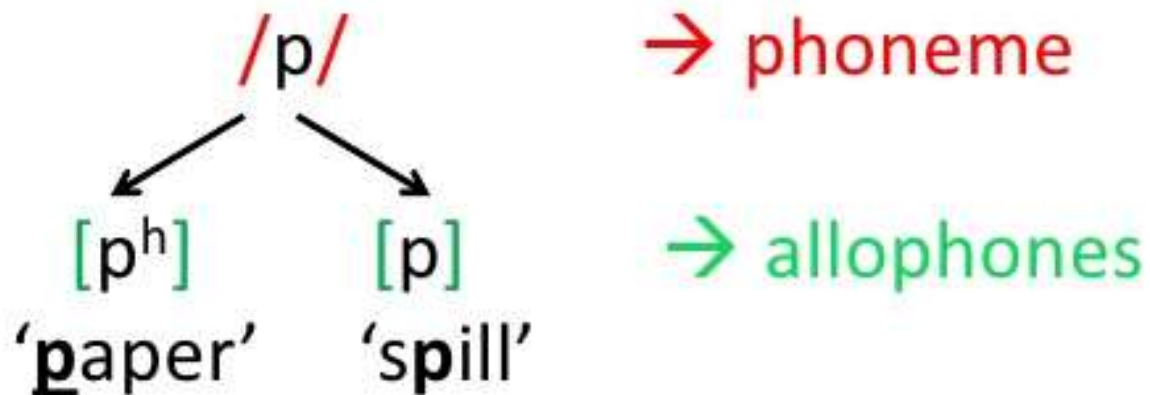


# Sounds in contrast

- Phoneme: The phonological unit of speech that differentiates or extinguishes meaning.
- Phone: Any speech sound in human language.
- Allophones: Variants of a phoneme, usually in complementary distribution and Phonetically similar.

# English Phoneme /p/

[p<sup>h</sup>] and [p] are the allophones of the same phoneme /p/ in English:



The 'p' in 'paper' is normally pronounced with aspiration. That is, there is a release of a puff of air. The 'p' in 'spill' is normally not aspirated.



# KINDS OF PHONEMES

## PHONEMES

### SEGMENTAL

#### Vowels/Vocoids

nonfriction, open, continuous

a i æ ^ u ɔ: ʊ

#### Consonants/Contoids

friction, short, lack of sonority

ŋ f tʃ dʒ θ l

### SUPRASEGMENTAL

#### Pitch (melody)

#### Stress (force/articulation)

#### Juncture (transition)



# Difference b/w Phonetics & Phonology:

- The difference between phonetics and phonology is that of generality and particularity.
- Phonetics is the science of speech, sounds, their production, transmission and reception and the signs to represent them in general with no particular reference to any language. Whereas phonology is the study of vocal sounds and sound changes, phonemes and their variants in particular language.
- **Phonetics** is general (i.e. concerned with speech sounds as such without reference to their function in a particular language), descriptive and classificatory. **Phonology** is particular (having a particular language or languages in view) and functional (concerned with working or functioning of speech sounds or a language).



# Phonetics vs. Phonology

## **PHONETICS**

- Is the basis for phonological analysis.
- Analyzes the production of all human speech sounds, regardless of language.

## **PHONOLOGY**

- Is the basis for further work in morphology, syntax, discourse, and orthography design.
- Analyzes the sound patterns of a particular language by determining which phonetic sounds are significant, and explaining how these sounds are interpreted by the native speaker.

# The Different Branch of Linguistics

