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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**THE EMERGENCE OF NEW TENDENCIES
AT THE PHONETIC LEVEL IN MODERN ENGLISH**

Speciality: 5708.01 – Germanic languages

Field of science: Philology

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MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESEARCH

Relevance and degree of development of the topic. English, which belongs to the Germanic languages of the Indo-European language family, is becoming much more important means of communication over time. Currently, a number of linguists study the tendencies happening in global English. Although these tendencies are observed at the phonetic, morphological, lexical, and syntactic levels of language, they are more prominent in pronunciation. The relevance of the research is primarily due to the need for a much deeper study of new tendencies in the language.

It may sometimes be considered that language changes belong to the past, and it is not appropriate to talk about new tendencies. There is even an opinion that Standard English has become solid, and it is not subject to any changes. However, gradual change and emergence of new tendencies are undeniable facts. In the research we try to indicate that Modern English pronunciation is changing, and we can study this alteration.

The theoretical part of the dissertation focuses on the explanation of general phonetic processes based on the development of standard pronunciation in Britain. It also discusses the importance of speaking in an adequate accent. The main reason for modernizing the norm of Received Pronunciation is that this norm has not changed since the 18th century. It is necessary to adapt Received Pronunciation to the real act of speech. C. Upton and his colleagues modernized the original model by reconsidering it again, and consequently, they applied certain changes to the phonetic system of the language. However, many of us are not yet aware of these changes, or some of us take a more conservative position and do not accept innovations. If we heard the pronunciation of the vowel in the Old English word / hūs /, we would feel how different it is from the modern word /haʊs/. Such alterations have been happening over the last 50 years. For example, long vowels tend to centralize and to be pronounced as short ones. Meanwhile, recently the pronunciation of central diphthongs as monophthongs has become widespread. Nowadays, long pronunciation of the diphthong in the word cure /

ʔkʊə / as / ɔ: / is one of the most common alternatives. However, outdated variants are still taught in educational institutions, and the transcriptions do not reflect new versions. Traditional symbols are phonetic reflection of an older version of prestigious British pronunciation. However, we must keep in mind that a language adapts to changing conditions and is constantly developing, and we should accept these changes.

Moreover, new tendencies in pronunciation should be widely accepted by foreign language teachers who teach students a real language and instil self-confidence.

So, the relevance of the thesis is to study the innovations observed at the phonetic level of modern English systematically, to identify tendencies, to put forward ideas based on linguistic evidences and to conduct experimental analysis to prove theoretical hypothesis.

The object and subject of the research. The main object of the research is modern English speech. It is a global language taught all over the world. The subject of the research is to explore new tendencies happening at the phonetic level of modern English and to conduct experimental-phonetic analysis. For this purpose, the words selected from TV and radio programs are analyzed in the computer program “Praat” and the features of the phonetic changes are revealed.

The aims and objectives of the research. The main purpose of the research is to reveal characteristic features of new tendencies, to review and analyze theoretical and experimental research of various linguists, to collect audio materials of different periods and to provide experimental analysis of new tendencies at the phonetic level.

The purpose of the research intends the formulation and solution of the following problems:

- to interpret modern English as a global language in scientific literature;
- to study national variants and dialects of modern English;
- to analyze the views about the present and future of modern English and to compare the results obtained and come to a final conclusion;
- to investigate new tendencies in the vowel system of modern English;

- to study new tendencies in the consonant system of modern English;
- to provide experimental phonetic analysis of new tendencies in modern English and to highlight the results that have been achieved.

Methods of research. Research methods are determined by the solution of the tasks put forward and the nature of the subject. General methods such as comparison and observation are used in this research. In the analysis of language material, the main scientific method, experimental-phonetic method was used, acoustic indicators were revealed and the achievements were compared. All these allow to reveal new tendencies at the phonetic level of modern English. The language material was analyzed in the Praat program.

Main provisions of the defense:

- As a means of international communication, English has become a lingua franca;
- Currently, this language has entered into the stage of globalization, as it is increasingly used as a native language, second language and foreign language;
- This position of the English language has a long history and there is no other language that can replace it in the XXI century;
- English, which has become a means of international communication, is gradually changing as a result of social, political and cultural factors;
- Although these changes are observed at all levels of language, they are more prominent at the phonetic level;
- New tendencies in the vowel-consonant system of modern English are noticed vividly at the spoken level.
- Experimental-phonetic research is aimed to reveal these tendencies;

Scientific novelty of the research. The scientific novelty of the research stems from the fact that it deals with the English language, which is constantly developing. In the dissertation new tendencies at the phonetic level of modern English are systematically studied for the first time based on the opinions of linguists such as D.Crystal, C.Upton, A.Cruttenden, J.Wells, P.Trudgill, etc. and

specific language material is experimented to identify changes. All these can be considered as a scientific novelty of the research.

Theoretical and practical importance of the research. The *theoretical importance* of the work is to deepen the knowledge about the phonetic system of modern English, to identify alterations that occur in the vowel-consonant inventory, and to reveal their characteristics. Alterations that happened at the phonetic level of modern English can be included in textbooks and teaching resources.

Practical importance of the work. The practical part of the dissertation is devoted to the experiment and revealed samples. The results of experimental-phonetic analysis can be widely used for practical purposes. This can help to work out a specific program about tendencies in the phonetic-phonological system of modern English and to assess real language situations in the teaching of modern English at secondary and high schools.

Approbation and usage. The results of the research have been discussed at the meeting of the department, the main concepts have been reflected in various scientific publications, different reports have been made at international and national scientific conferences.

Name of the organization where the dissertation was completed. The dissertation was performed at the Department of General Linguistics of the Azerbaijan University of Languages.

The structure and volume of the dissertation with a character including a separate volume of each structural units of the dissertation. The dissertation consists of an introduction, 3 chapters, conclusion and list of used literature. The introduction consists of 7 pages, 12 714 signs, the first chapter consists of 38 pages, 71 822 signs, the second chapter consists of 40 pages, 70 152 signs, the third chapter consists of 48 pages, 45 692 signs, conclusion consists 5 pages, 7 828 characters. The total volume is 208 208 signs, excluding the list of references used.

THE MAIN CONTENT OF THE RESEARCH

In the **Introduction** of the dissertation the relevance of the topic and the degree of its development are justified, the object and subject, aims and objectives, research methods, main concepts are defined, scientific novelty, theoretical and practical importance, approbation and application of the research, the name of the organization where the dissertation was implemented, the volume of the sections and total volume of the thesis work are mentioned.

The I chapter of the dissertation is called **“Research of the English Language in Modern Scientific Literature”**. This chapter consists of three subchapters.

The first subchapter of the first chapter entitled **“Global English and English as a foreign language”** deals with the global status of the English language, teaching of English as a second language and a foreign language, and the received pronunciation norm.

A language acquires global status only if it has a special role accepted in every country. First of all, “a special role” stems from the fact that a large number of people speak the language as their native language. English is the native language of the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, some Caribbean countries and other countries. However, the use of the language as a mother tongue cannot give it a global status. In order to obtain this status, the language must be presented to other countries of the world and have a special role in society. There are two main ways to do this: first, a language becomes an official language of the country by dominating education, media and judiciary. Once it becomes an official language, it is important for the society to master it. D.Crystal¹ describes such a language as a “second language”. This language is considered to be a mother tongue or a language that complements the first language. Currently, English has a special status as an official language in about 70 countries, including Ghana, Nigeria, India, Singapore and Vanuatu. The second important role of a language to become a global language

¹ Crystal, D. English as a Global Language / D.Crystal. Cambridge University Press, – 2003. – p.4.

is that it must have an advantage in foreign language teaching classes. Moreover, there is also a close connection between the language and its economic, technological and cultural dominance, and this connection is even more evident when looking at the history of the English language. Without power no language can become a means of international communication.

The second subchapter of the I chapter is called “***National variants and dialects of modern English***”. In this subchapter the variants and dialects of the modern English language, their influence on each other, and the diffusion of linguistic forms are discussed.

The spread of English around the world has led to the emergence of variants in different areas. These variants became known as New English Languages. “*National variants of the language are usually mentioned when they are used as the official language of several countries*” F.Veysalli² said. The British and American variants are vivid examples of this. Besides, Australian, New Zealandian, Canadian, South African, Irish, Scottish, and Welsh English within the UK can be given as examples. Currently, there are also South Asian including Indian, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka and West African variants of this language.

Traditionally, dialects in the United Kingdom are classified according to the territory as follows: *English dialects*: 1) Northern English dialects (Northumberland (Cordi, Pitmatik), Durham (Mackem), Cumbrian, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Merseyside (Scous), 2) Midlands dialects (Derbyshire), Nottingham, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Black Country (Yam-Yam), Birmingham (Brummi), Norfolk, 3) Southern dialects (Cockney (London), Estuary, Somerset, Cornwall, Devon). *Scottish dialects*: 1) Scottish English (Scotch), 2) Highland English dialect. *Welsh dialects*: 1) Wenglish, 2) Pembrokehire. Northern Irish dialects: 1) Mid Alster, 2. Hiberno.

London speech has always played a major role in the development of standard British English phonetics. The combination of the standard British and London dialects gave rise to the hybrid language Estuary English. The change that took place in the last

² Veysalli, F.Y. Dilçilik ensklopediyası / F.Y.Veysalli. – Bakı: Mütərcim, – 2006. – s.15.

decade of the twentieth century was due to the development of Estuary English. The term was named in 1984 by D.Rosewarne³ in honor of the estuar of the Thames. From a phonetic point of view, Estuary English shares a common position between RP and Cockney dialect. The reason is that the exact border is not drawn. Here a question arises: “Is Estuary English an accent or a dialect?” We can characterize it with such a diagram: [cockney] [EI] RP [informal English <... estuari English> formal]. So, Estuary English occupies a central position between formal and informal speech. The reason for this is that the informal language is more widely accepted in the media. D.Rosewarne explains Estuary English as follows: “*Estuary English is a modified form of regional speech. It is a mixture of non-regional and local southeastern pronunciation and intonation*”⁴.

The issue of “language in contact” was raised by J.Weinreich⁵ with reference to bilingual people. From a social point of view, the languages in contact are subject to certain linguistic changes. In this case, we can clearly observe the impact of language variants on each other in different situations. For example, in a conversation between an American English speaker and a British English speaker, one can influence the other without any communicative purpose. The explanation of this linguistic modification was explained by sociolinguist J.Weinreich as follows: “*in mutual communication, a speaker who conveys a message can adapt his or her speech to the other party in order to satisfy the recipient.*”⁶ The author calls this process accent convergence and notes that the opposite process “accent divergence” happens when a speaker wants to be distinguished from the other side. These processes of convergence and divergence are also reflected in other grammatical and lexical levels of language. Linguists call this theory accommodation.

³ Rosewarne, D. Estuary English. Times Educational supplement. Estuary English: tomorrow’s RP? English today 37(10,1) – 1994. – p.3-8.

⁴ Ibid, – p.3

⁵ Weinreich, J. Language in Contact / J.Weinreich. Linguistic Circle, – 1953. – p.6.

⁶ Ibid, – p.6

The youth and children can accommodate faster than adults. They are able to completely adapt to the conversation of their peers. This issue has been extensively studied by V.Labov⁷ and his colleagues, and they have come to the conclusion that children tend to use the dialects and accents of their friends more than their parents and teachers. That is why territorial dialects have maintained their features in the face of geographical mobility.

The term hyperdialectism in linguistics is also widespread. Hyperdialectism is a form of hyperadaptation and is known as hypercorrection. New forms emerge when accepting a more prestigious variant of language; we do not find these forms in the target variant. For example, such a hypercorrection occurs when Northern England tries to adopt a southern pronunciation.

Correction /bʊt/ > /bʌt/ but

Hypercorrection /bʊtʃə/ > /bʌtʃə/ butcher

Apparently, while trying to adopt southern pronunciation, there was a transition to /ʊ/ > /ʌ/, but in the word butcher /bʊtʃə/, this transition happened not in the south, but in the north.

So, a dialect is a variation that differs from other language variants in terms of grammatical, phonetic, and lexical composition. Modern English is rich in various dialects. Dialects affect each other, the transition from one dialect to another results in diffusion of linguistic forms, and this has a number of linguistic consequences.

The third subchapter is called ***“Predictions about Today, Tomorrow and Future of Modern English”***. This subchapter looks into the history of modern English, analyzes its current position, and makes predictions about its future.

In general, the transformation of English into a global language has been a long historical process. Currently, this language is used as a mother tongue, second language and foreign language, so it has passed the stage of globalized language. It is hard to believe that in coming years, another language will replace English as a global lingua franca. English has a long history of achieving this position,

⁷ Labov, W. Sociolinguistic patterns. Philadelphia / W.Labov. – University of Pennsylvania Press, – 1972. – 374 p.

and no other language can replace it in the 21st century. Hopefully, this language will serve the world community for a long time.

The II chapter of the dissertation is called “**New trends observed at the phonetic level of the modern English language**”. This chapter consists of three subchapters. The first subchapter called “*General characteristics of the phonetic level of the modern English language*” provides general information about the phonetic level of the modern English language.

F.Veysalli⁸ distinguishes three levels in the study of language: language system, norm and speech. There are phenomena that do not belong to the phonological system of language, they are purely phonetic, but phonology cannot pass without events.

Alterations are the process of collecting phonetic tendencies from generation to generation. Alterations are developed independently by each individual.

A.Baudouin de Courtenay explained the reason for the alteration as follows: “*If language is considered as a continual and uninterrupted existence of any linguistic society in its time sequence, it is clear that the primary reason of alteration is purely phonetic or anthropophonic in nature.*”⁹

The second subchapter of the II chapter is entitled “**New Trends in the Vowel Inventory of Modern English**”. The new trends occurring in the vowel system are analyzed here.

In modern English, J.Wells, L.Bauer, A.Fabricius, J.Vikstrom and other linguists have extensively studied the tendencies in the vowel system. Our main goal is to review these tendencies and verify these changes through empirical observations. In order to achieve this, an experiment was conducted on original materials taken from BBC, FOX and CNN, and acoustic results were recorded.

In the words belonging to the KIT lexical group the sound /ɪ/ is replaced by the neutral sound /ə/ - as we mentioned earlier, the

⁸ Veysalli, F.Y. Struktur dilçiliyinin əsasları / F.Y.Veysalli. I hissə. – Bakı: – 2005. – s.8.

⁹ Boduen de Kurtene, İ.A. Ümumi dilçilik üzrə əsərləri (tərcümə edənlər: fil.e.d., prof. F.Y.Veysalli, fil.f.d. C.M.Babayev, fil.f.d. N.M.Abdullayeva) / – Bakı: – 2014. – 336 s.

pronunciation of the neutral /ə/ vowel in the unstressed environment is a widespread tendency. In words belonging to the KIT lexical group, the pronunciation of /ɪ/ was replaced by a neutral sound in a weak environment. A.Fabricius¹⁰ later notes that this tendency has already become common, and the pronunciation of suffixes such as -ily, -ity, -able and -ness with a neutral sound is widespread. However, this alternation is so weak that linguists have to rely on spectrogram to observe it.

In lexical group of words GOOSE - /u:/ vowel tends to be pronounced as a front vowel. So, the quality of the traditional /u:/ vowel has changed and it is pronounced with a sound similar to /i/. In general, there are two types of monophthongs in British English: 1) more centralized monophthong /ü/ or unrounded /ʉ/; 2) short diphthong /ou/ or unrounded /iʉ/. This quality change can also be observed in the spectrogram.

While pronouncing the word FOOT, we notice that the vowel tends forward, as in the word GOOSE described above. J.Wells¹¹ describes this vowel as short, weak, backward and closed. The symbols of this vowel are described as /ʉ/ and /i/.

GOAT-comparative study of formants is mainly carried out on monophthongs, diphthongs are somehow excluded. However, A. Cruttenden¹² tried to measure the formant value of diphthongs. As a result, diphthong /əʊ/ or /əɻ/ is pronounced backwards and /əʉ/ forwards with the second sound.

Trap /æ/ > /a/ - One of the most widely accepted tendency in RP is the lower pronunciation of front short vowels. In words like TRAP, /æ/ is replaced by more open /a/. This pronunciation originated from the northern dialect, but now middle-aged representatives of RP also pronounce it in the same way. More close

¹⁰ Fabricius, A. RP as sociolinguistic object // Nordic Journal of English studies 1 (2), Department of British and American Studies, University of Oslo, – 2002. – p.355-372

¹¹ Wells, J.C. The cockneyfication of RP? Non-Standard Varieties of Language, – 1994. – p.198-205 // Source:

¹² Ibid

pronunciation of the vowel belongs to the upper class, including the British Royal Family.

PRICE AND MOUTH - In RP, the initial form of the diphthong /aʊ/ is not pronounced by fronting of the tongue, as the initial form of the diphthong /aɪ/. B.Collins and I.Mees¹³ note that PRICE is slightly behind the central position, while MOUTH is slightly front. In general, words belonging to the MOUTH lexical group are pronounced in more front position than in PRICE

Happy-tensing, means a tense pronunciation of the last vowel /ɪ/ in words belonging to the “happy” lexical group in British English. So, a phonetic quality of the sound changes at the end of the words (city, duty, happy). It is possible to observe voice change and its synchronous variant in people belonging to the same community (V.Labov, P.Trudgill). Similarly, these analyzes can be done by comparing pronunciation differences between young and old speakers over a period of time.

LOT and THOUGHT - While conducting acoustic research, S. Hawkins and J.Midgley¹⁴ observed different pronunciation of the vowel in the word LOT in RP. In addition to the scientific interest there is also practical interest to the words belonging to the LOT lexical group. Thus, the pronunciation quality of the vowel in these words is more open. If this vowel is characterized by the rise of the tongue, then it should be taken into account in EFL classes.

When it comes to the pronunciation of the word THOUGHT in RP, J.Wells¹⁵ notes that the vowel in this word is more open than the sound in the outdated RP. From a sociolinguistic point of view, they cover the entire southern dialect. According to our results, young people tend to pronounce both words more open.

BATH /ɑː/ > /a/ - In words like *bat*, *path* or *last*, the pronunciation of /ɑː/ was like /a/ in the North and long /ɑː/ in the

¹³ Collins, B. Practical Phonetics and Phonology / B.Collins, I.M.Mees. A resource book for students, 3rd edition. –London and New York: Routledge, – 2014. – 353 p.

¹⁴ Hawkins, S.& Midgley J. Formant frequencies of RP monophthongs in four age groups of speakers // In Journal of the International Phonetic Association,– 2005. 35, 2, – p.183-199.

¹⁵ Ibid, – p.183-199.

South. Based on the principle that RP is not local, C.Upton¹⁶ considers short /a/ as a variant of long /ɑ:/ in his system. Although short /a/ was the only model accepted by northerners, only this feature distinguished it from RP.

Price /aɪ/ > /Λɪ/ - The new realization of diphthong in the words like *price*, *nice* or *horizon* has happened recently. The diphthong changed from its open central front position to semi-open back pronunciation of / Λɪ /. C. Upton gave a real symbol of the sound which is used today.

Monophthongization of central diphthongs. As we know, monophthongization is the process of converting diphthongs into monophthongs. This phenomenon is given a special attention in the study of new tendencies in RP. In the last few decades, pronunciation of central diphthongs as monophthongs has become widespread. Here includes /ʊə/, /eə/ and /ɪə/ diphthongs.

Monophthongization of diphthong /eə/. Many linguists agree with the fact that this diphthong changed into /ɛ:/. (A.Cruttenden , C.Upton, G.Lindsey). For example, *square* /eə/ > /ɛ:/ [ˈskwe:].

Monophthongization of diphthong /ʊə/. One of the most common alternation is the change of the diphthong /ʊə/ into/ɔ:/. Thus, in words like *cure*, *sure*, *tour* the diphthong /ʊə/ is pronounced like long /ɔ:/ [ˈkɔ:], [ˈʃɔ:]. Even many linguists (L.Bauer, J.Wells, A.Cruttenden, B.Collins and I.Mees) consider diphthong pronunciation as obsolete, but in some words monophthong transformation does not occur, for example, *during* [ˈdʒʊərɪŋ].

Monophthongization of diphthong /ɪə/. The monophthongization of /ɪə/ diphthong to /ɪ:/ is considered to be a novelty of recent years. Unfortunately, this tendency has not been sufficiently studied. Most linguists who have studied it (B.Collins and I.Mees 2003, Lindsey 2012) are based on auditory observations and have not given much attention to acoustic research. For example, in the word *theater*, diphthong monophthongization can be observed in modern English /θɪ:tə/.

¹⁶ Hawkins, S.& Midgley J. Formant frequencies of RP monophthongs in four age groups of speakers // In Journal of the International Phonetic Association,– 2005. 35, 2, – p.183-199.

The third subchapter, entitled “*New Tendencies in the Consonant Inventory of Modern English*”, examines new trends in the consonant system. Mainly three issues attract our attention: glottalization, /j/ - coalescence or dropping, linking-/r/.

/t/ – glottalling – In the last few years, a new tendency /t/ - glottalization, which combines non-standard features, has become widespread among young people who speak in RP. Glottalization is a complete or partial closure of the glottis (the path between the vocal cords) during pronunciation. If an explosive sound is completely replaced by a glottal stop, such as it was /ɪʔ wəz/ and butter /'bʌʔə/, it is called a glottal stop. So, /t/ -glotting is the explosive /ʔ/ pronunciation of the consonant /t/. In the past, we encountered this event both in the middle and at the end of the word before the consonant, but now it can be found before the vowel as well. However, /t/ - glotting between vowels is not considered to be a norm of RP.

/j/ - coalescence or dropping – palatal approximant /j/, known as yod in modern English, has an interesting history of development. In the traditional form of the words *tune*, *dune*, *assume*, and *presume* /j/ exists /'tju: n, 'dju: n, əsju: m, prɪzju: m/, but now this sound is either not pronounced or smoothed. Consequently, unpronounced forms of /j/ in words /'tu: n, 'du: n, əsu: m, prɪzu: m/, or assimilated forms in /'tʃu: n, 'dʒu: n, ə'ʃu: m, prɪ'zʊ: m/ appear. This phenomenon is commonly known as Yod coalescence or dropping. The realization of /j/ depends on the phonetic environment, lexical unit itself and variability of the English language.

Linking - /r/ In speech stream the pronunciation of each word changes under the influence of neighboring phonemes. Linking devices are used to eliminate the gap between two words during pronunciation. In this process the connecting sound eliminates the pause and simplifies pronunciation. R-sandhi (or r-liason) is one of the most popular means of unification and is on the focus of linguistics. English variants can be divided into two main groups in terms of the development of the /r/ phoneme: rhotic and non-rhotic variants. In rhotic variants, such as in American and Scott variants, /r/ is always pronounced regardless of its position in the syllable. For example, red /rɛd/, bar /bɑ: ɹ/, barn /bɑ: ɹn/. In non-rhotic variants, for example, RP,

it has historically disappeared, for example, bar /bɑː/, barn /bɑː n/, it can only be heard at the end of a word and before a word beginning with a vowel (a bar in London /ə 'bɑ (ɪ) in' lʌndən).

D.Jones¹⁷ studied the pronunciation of /r/ extensively and observed its pronunciation in non-r-words / idea of /aɪdɪə (ɪ) əv/. A.Hughes and P.Trudgill¹⁸ believe that intrusiveness is so widespread in South England that if someone does not use it, they are supposed not to be English.

The III chapter called “**Experimental Phonetic Analysis of New Tendencies**” consists of two subchapters. The first subchapter is called “*Principles of Language Material Selection*”. The principles of selecting language material and involvement to the experiment, the methods of doing experiment are discussed, as well as the information about reporters involved to the experiment is provided in this subchapter.

Finally, in the second subchapter called “*Linguistic interpretation of the experimental results of the language material*”, the new tendencies in the vowel and consonant inventory of the modern English language are analyzed through experiments. The results obtained from each experiment try to prove the correctness of the theoretical propositions given in the previous chapter. More than 100 words selected from the English language were involved in the experiment of the dissertation. "PRAAT" computer program was used in the experiment of language material. Linguistic interpretation of acoustic indicators carried out in the dissertation is based on the methodology developed by F.Veysalli.

As we know supersegment analysis of a word or sentence is carried out on 3 parameters: melodic, dynamic and temporal. Each of the words involved in the experiment is analyzed on these 3 parameters.

/ɪn'ʃʊː/ The total length of the word is 791 m/sec. The word consists of two syllables and four phonemes. /ɪn'ʃʊː/ (ensure) has two vowels.

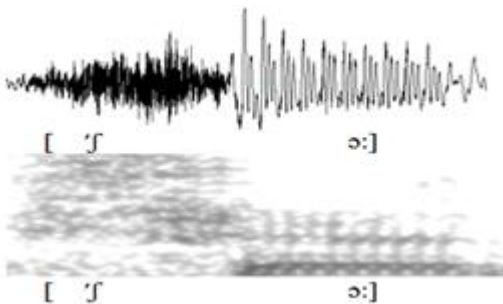
¹⁷ Jones, D. An Outline of English Phonetics / D.Jones. 9th edition. – Cambridge: – 1962.– 246 p.

¹⁸ Hughes, A. English accents and dialects: An Introduction to Social and Regional Varieties of British English / A.Hughes, P.Trudgill. – London: – 1997. – 221 p.

a) /ɪ n 'ʃ ɔ: /



In the word “sure” [ʃɔ:] acoustic indicators are expressed in the following figures: f - 195 Hz, t - 102 m/s, I - 68 dB. The low tone and intensity of the word can be explained by the fact that the vowel /ɔ:/ occurs in the neighborhood of the voiceless fricative consonant. Unlike vowel + consonant (VC) type combinations, a consonant + vowel (CV) type combinations consonant depends on the acoustic quality of a vowel and a vowel depends on a consonant.



Having experimented the words *ensure* and *sure* several times in the recordings of different speakers, we witnessed a long pronunciation /ɔ/ of the diphthong /ʊə/ in the speech of both older and younger generations.

/ p l a n i t / -the total length of the word is 429 m/sec. In this word, the movement of the tone begins at high level and decreases towards the end. Frequency of the main tone /a/ is equal to 47 Hz. and in the /i/ phoneme - 41 Hz. The average relative value obtained as a result of statistical calculations is 1.1 Hz for the first phoneme and 0.9 Hz for the second phoneme.

The figures we get from the time parameter of these phonemes are as follows: 102 m/s for the first phoneme, 84 m/s for the second

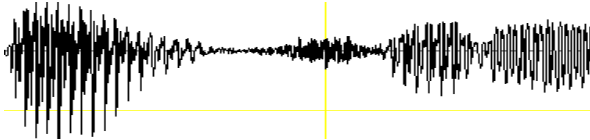
phoneme: $2 \text{ m/s} + 84 \text{ m/s} = 186 \text{ m/s}$. As a result of the calculation, 1.1 m/s was spent on the first phoneme and 0.9 m/s on the second phoneme.

When it comes to the dynamics of the word, the /ɪ/ phoneme is 68 dB, the /a/ phoneme is 61 dB: $68 \text{ dB} + 61 \text{ dB} = 129 \text{ dB}$

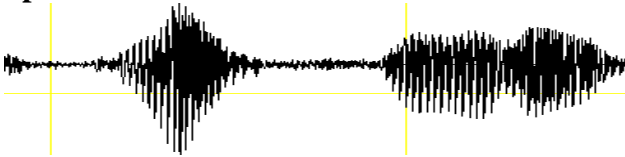
/p l a n ɪ t/



/b a t n/



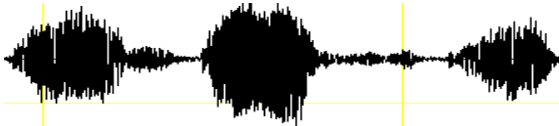
/'p l a t f ɔː m/



/'s t r a t ɪ dʒ ɪ/



/ə m' b a s ə d ə/



In our experiment, the words *planet*, *baton*, *platform*, *strategy*, *ambassador* the sound /æ/ is replaced by more open /a/. Although

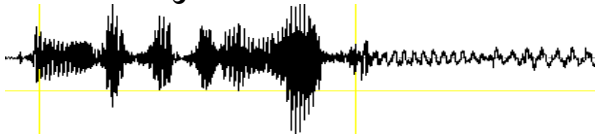
this pronunciation norm is specific to the northern dialect, we find it in RP, as well as in the southern dialect.

The total length of the word /ɪ n d ɪ 'v ɪ dʒ v ə l/ is 350 m/sec. We have analyzed this word both for the modern period and for the 80s and 90s and derived average mathematical figures. The frequency of the main tone in a five-syllable word starts from the middle level 56 Hz, and increases significantly towards the end of the word - up to 81 Hz: $56 + 48 + 53 + 56 + 81 = 294$ Hz

The average relative figure obtained by calculating the time parameter starts from 1 m/s and continues in the same position until the end - 1 m/s, and in the end remains the same.

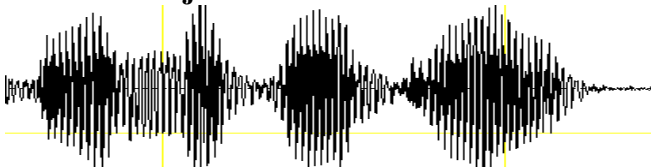
The intensity of the word starts a little above the middle level and ends with the same level: $66 + 71 + 69 + 67 + 72 = 345$ dB.

/ɪ n d ɪ 'v ɪ dʒ v ə l/



Experimental-phonetic analysis of the word /ɪ n d ɪ 'v ɪ d j u ə l/. This time the length of the word is 558 m/sec. As previous word, this word has five syllables. The beginning of the word starts from the middle level, and it drops towards the second syllable. The tone rises slightly towards the third and fourth syllables and falls again towards the end: $65 + 40 + 56 + 67 + 45 = 273$ Hz. The time parameter starts at 174 m/s, the same level as in the previous word. It continues in the same way. In the end, it falls slightly to -166 m/s: $174 + 177 + 174 + 171 + 166 = 862$ ms.

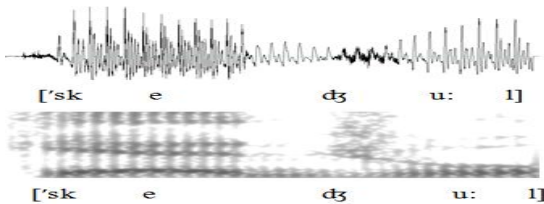
/ɪ n d ɪ 'v ɪ d j u ə l/



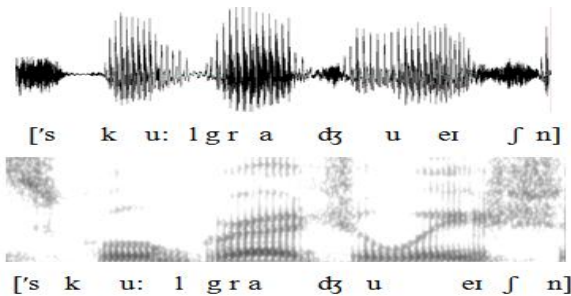
We have used the word individual twice in the experiment. In our first experiment, the recording dates back to the modern era, and

the second to the 1950s. As it is clearly seen, in the pronunciation of the modern period, /j/ - coalescence occurred in an unstressed environment. In another experiment, the /dj/ coalescence does not occur, as older generation pronounces /j/.

We have analyzed /dj/ coalescence in the words taken from CNN. Oscillographic analysis of the word “schedule” [ˈskedʒu:l], the frequency of the main tone is 147 Hz, 156 Hz, length - 81 m/s, 98 m/s, intensity - 73 dB and 72 dB. A relatively large time index was recorded at /u:/. Maximum values in the basic tone frequency and intensity values were recorded in the first syllable, /e/ vowel.



“School graduation” [ˈsku:l grədʒueɪʃn] frequency of the main tone - 195 Hz, 110 Hz, 108 Hz, 140 Hz, length - 119 m/s, 92 m/s, 71 m/s, 135 m/s, intensity - 72 dB, 73 dB, 68 dB, 70 dB. The maximum intensity of the word is recorded in the second syllable.



As it is clearly seen, the alteration /dj/ → /dʒ/ in both words is recorded in unstressed syllables.

We have analyzed the word comment /ˈk ɒ m ə n t/ in two forms, both for the modern period and for the 80s and 90s.

First, we analyze the pronunciation for the present period. The total length of the word /ˈk ɒ m ə n t/ is 502 m/sec. There are 6

phonemes in this word. The frequency of the main tone starts at 49 Hz at full intermediate level and continues at 40 Hz until the end. The average relative figure we get from the calculation is initially 1.1 Hz. As a result of statistical calculations, the average relative figures, as in the time parameter, begin with 1 dB and end with 1 dB.

/k ɒ m ə n t/



/s t r ɛ ŋ θ ə n/

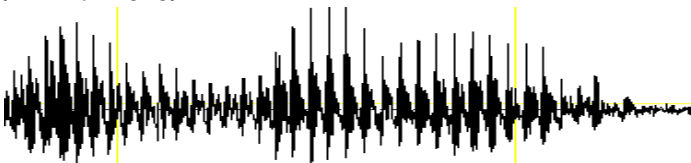


As we know, one of the new tendencies in RP is lower and more open pronunciation of vowels. The change from /e/ to /ɛ/ in the words *comment* and *strengthen* has been extensively studied by C. Upton. Our experimental-phonetic analysis confirms this tendency.

The time parameter of the word combination /r ʌ ɪ? n ə v/ decreases significantly from the highest level to the end, as in the movement of the tone. The first syllable of the combination ends with 91 m/s, the second syllable with 86 m/s, the third with -78 m/s, the fourth and the last syllable with 76 m/s: 91 m/s + 86 m/s + 78 m/s. san + 76 m/sec = 331 m/sec.

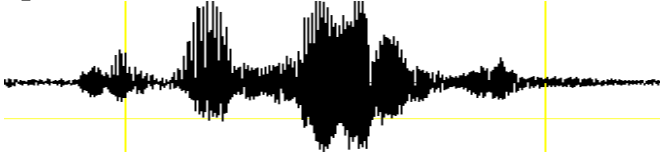
The dynamics of the word combination /r ʌ ɪ? n ə v/ starts at the average level (64 dB), rising slightly in the second syllable to 67 dB. In the third and fourth syllables, it continues at the same level (64 dB) and ends: 64 dB + 67 dB + 64 dB + 64 dB = 259 dB.

/r ʌ ɪ? n ə v/

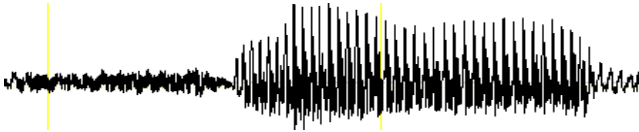


/t/ -glottalling is the fastest, most widespread, and most dramatic change in British English. In our experimental-phonetic analysis, /t/ -glottalling is clearly visible.

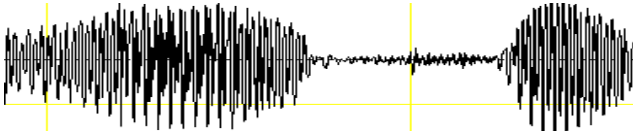
/p r ə ' m ə v t/



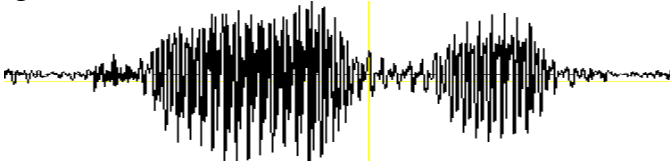
/fl ə v/



/'l ə v k ə l/



/g l ə v b ə l/



/g r ə v θ/

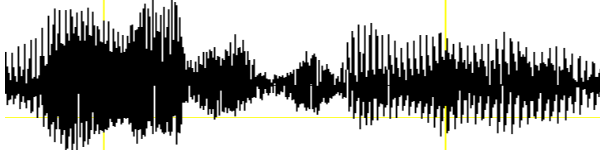


/g ə v l/



Experimental phonetic analysis shows that new carriers of RP tend to pronounce the diphthong /əʊ/ in the front position, *in the words promote, flow, local, global, growth, goal.*

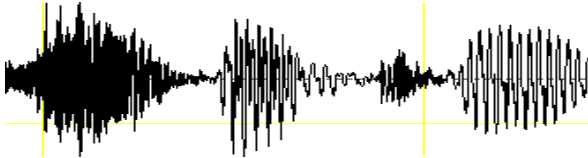
/r'ælɪti/



/vɛrɪ'həpi/

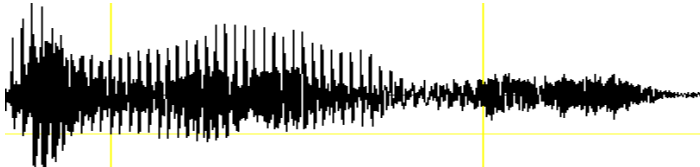


/sɪti/



During the experimental analysis of the words *reality, very happy, city*, we witness a sound change known as Happy-tensing. According to RP, the last vowel is pronounced tensely in words belonging to the lexical group “*happy*”.

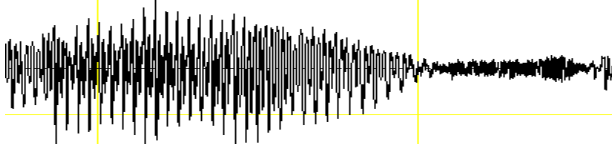
/lʌɪvz/



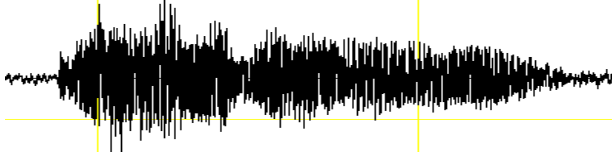
/trʌɪəl/



/m ʌ ɪ n d z/



/g ʌ ɪ d ɪ ŋ/

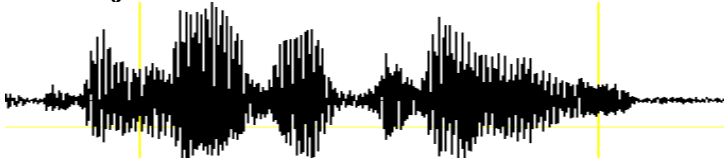


/f ʌ ɪ n ə n s ɪ z/



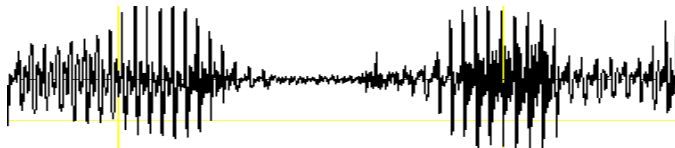
Experimental-phonetic analysis of diphthongs in the words *lives*, *trial*, *mind*, *guiding*, *finances* shows that it is pronounced slightly behind the central position. This is an indicator of the tendency of /aɪ/ diphthong to ʌ ɪ/ diphthong. Apparently, Oxford English Dictionary describes the pronunciation of these words with /aɪ/.

/k ə ' m j u : n ɪ t ɪ z/

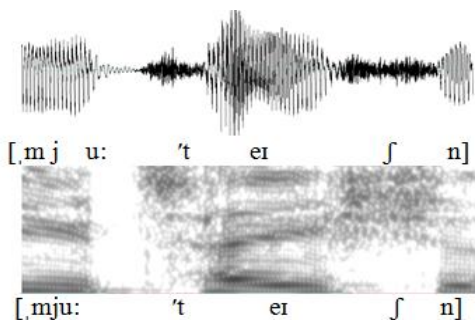


In experimental phonetic analysis, the pronunciation of /j/ is clearly audible. We noted earlier that the drop of /j/ does not occur before all consonants. For example, /j/ does not drop before the bilabial, velar, and fricative consonants. In our experiment, /j/ is clearly heard after bilabial / m /.

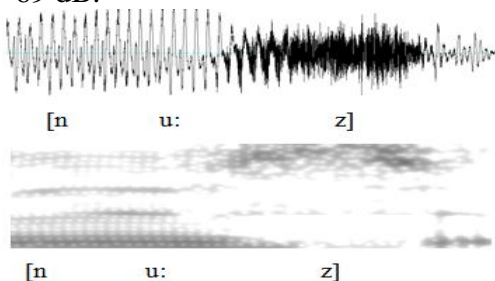
/ n u: k l ɪ ə /



In contrast to the word community given above, in the word *nuclear*, the phenomenon of elision took place. In general, /j/ - dropping is associated with American tendency. Thus, it tends to drop after alveolar consonants. We see this clearly in the pronunciation of American announcers taken from CNN. In the word “mutation” [mju:'teɪʃn], acoustic parameters are expressed by the following figures: the frequency of the main tone is 227 Hz and 181 Hz, time - 75 m/s and 148 m/s, intensity 72 dB and 74 dB. In the word acoustic parameters are expressed by the following figures: F 46 Hz, 73 m/s and 2 dB.



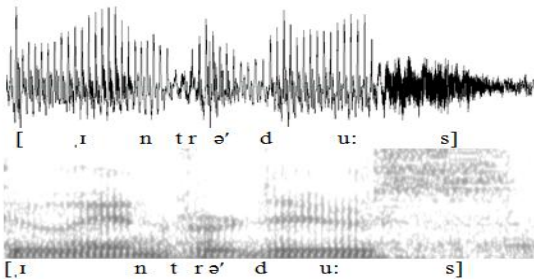
In American English one-syllable word “news” [nu: z], the acoustic parameters are recorded as the following: f - 213 Hz, t - 128 m/s, I - 69 dB.



As you can see, /j/ is pronounced in the word *mutation*, but drops in the word *news*, as it is not pronounced. This phenomenon is

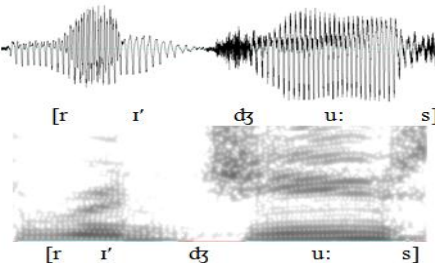
reflected in the latest versions of Oxford and Cambridge dictionaries.

Frequency of the main tone in American English three-syllable word “introduce” [ˌɪntrəˈduːs] is 143 Hz, 126Hz, 135 Hz. Time parameters in the word are 98 m/s, 64 m/s and 154 m/s. Intensity values for syllables are 68 dB, 69 dB, 72 dB. Based on the values of the main tone frequency, it can be said that maximum frequency was recorded in the first syllable - 143 Hz, maximum time consumption - 154 m/s, and maximum deviation from zero line in the oscillogram is 72 dB in the last syllable.



The given piece is a recording taken from American English. The non-pronunciation of /j/ in stressed situation is a tendency of American English, and it has recently become widespread in British English.

In English two-syllable word “reduce” [rɪˈdʒuːs], acoustic parameters are expressed by the following figures: frequency of the main tone - 195 Hz, 227 Hz, length (t) - 81 m/s, 147 m/s, intensity - 73 dB and 74.5 dB. The maximum tone frequency is recorded in the second syllable /u:/. The tone interval between syllables is 32 Hz. The maximum intensity of this word is also recorded in the syllable /u:/. The interval difference in the dynamics between the word syllables is 1.5 dB. The maximum time consumption was also recorded at /u:/ - 147 m/sec. The time interval difference in the word is 66 m/s.



This tendency is a completely new alteration in British English and can be found in dictionaries.

/k ə m' p ε:/



/'f ε: l i/

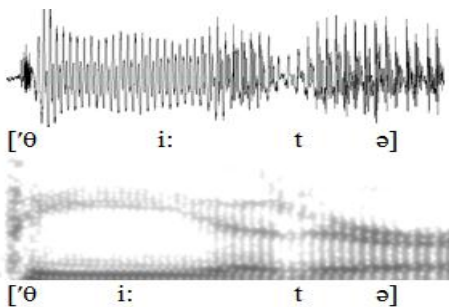


/'b ε:/



The fact that diphthong /ε:/ occurs as a simple sound in the modern variant of the words *compare*, *fairly*, *bare* must be recognized. The monophthongization of /eə/ diphthong is a common tendency, and native speakers mainly use monophthong while speaking. In our experiment, the phenomenon of diphthong monophthongization also occurs.

Acoustic parameters of the two-syllable word “theater” [’θi:ta’] are expressed as the following: basic tone frequency - 194 Hz, 162 Hz, length - 210 m/s, 91 m/s, intensity - 71 dB, 69 dB.



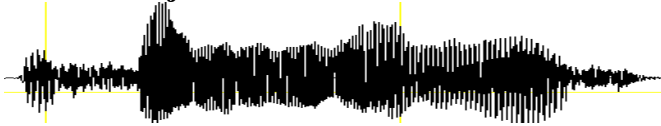
According to the experiment of the word theater, the central diphthong /iə/ changed into the long vowel /i:/. This tendency has

recently become widespread among young people, and it is also observed in RP.

/k ə n ' s u : m ə /

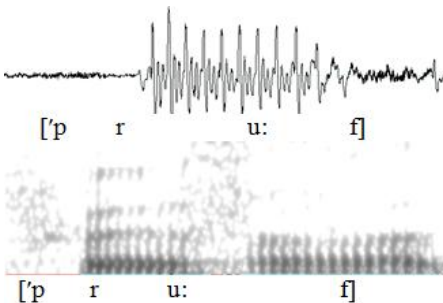


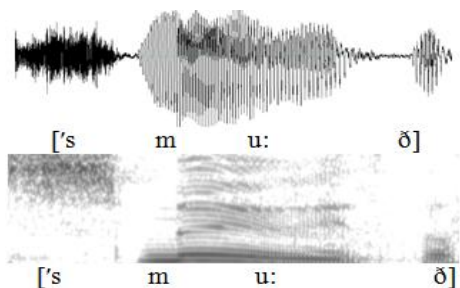
/ə ' s u : m ɪ ŋ /



The phenomenon of /j/ dropping in the words *consumer*, *assuming*, *pursue* is reflected in the experimental phonetic analysis. This is an American tendency, as we mentioned earlier, in stressed syllables after /t, d, s, z, n/ consonants /j/ tends to drop.

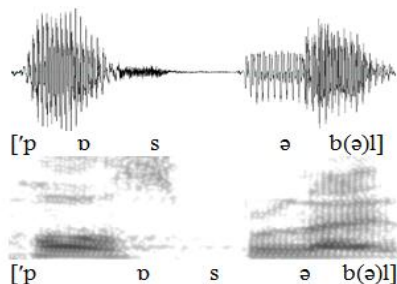
In the word “proof” [ˈpru:f] in English, the acoustic parameters are recorded as the following: f - 163 Hz, t - 137 m/s, I - 70 dB. Based on the results of oscillographic analysis, it can be inferred that main factors influencing acoustic parameters of a vowel in one-syllable words depend whether the syllable is open or closed, and the acoustic quality of the syllable in the word. For example, in the word [ˈfʊ:] the time consumption is 102 m/sec, while in the words [nu: z] and [ˈpru:f] the time values of the /u:/ vowel are 128 m/sec and 137 m/sec.



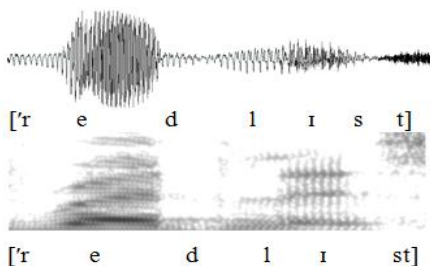


In the words *proof*, *zooming*, and *smooth* involved in the experiment, we observe that the vowel /u:/ is more front and unrounded. This tendency is especially prevalent among young people.

Oscillographic analysis of the English word “possible” reveals the following acoustic parameters: frequency of the main tone - 201 Hz, 156 Hz, time - 93 m/s, 86 m/s, intensity - 77 dB and 71 dB. The minimum acoustic performance of the analyzed word corresponds to the last syllable.

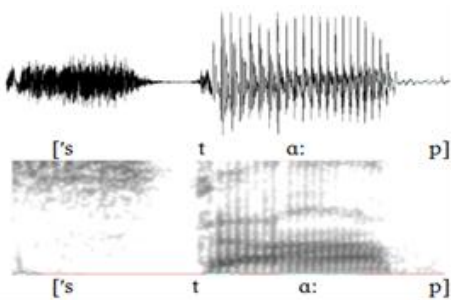


As we know, the pronunciation of the neutral /ə/ sound in an unstressed environment is a widespread tendency, and it is reflected in our experiment.



In a given word combination, the sound /ɪ/ tends to be pronounced as a neutral sound because of its weak position.

Oscillographic analysis revealed the following acoustic parameters of the word “stop” [ˈstɑː p]: basic tone frequency - 193 Hz, length - 147 m/s, intensity - 72 dB.



According to the results of the experimental phonetic analysis of the word stop, the vowel is pronounced entirely open here.

The final part of the dissertation deals with the obtained **conclusion**. The study of new tendencies at the phonetic level of modern English has yielded the following results:

1. Modern English has a global status, as it has a special role in each country. English is the dominant language both as a mother tongue and as a second language, as well as a foreign language.

2. Although a few people in Britain speak Received Pronunciation, this norm is taken as a model in foreign language teaching.

3. Research suggests that the content of RP has changed, because language is a dynamic system of communication and is subject to some modification.

4. The spread of the English language on earth led to the emergence of variants in different areas. These variants became known as “New Englishes”.

5. English has 2 main functions in the world; it is main means of international communication and main basis for the formation of cultural individuality. There is no reason to believe that English will be replaced by another global lingua franca in 50 years.

6. In phonetics, we often come across cases when some phonemes are replaced or changed. As we observe, we understand its flow and development. Periodic observations can even tell us about any changes that will take place in centuries ahead. In this study, we discuss tendencies in the phonetic level of modern English happened over the past 50 years.

7. New tendencies in the vowel system of modern English:

- In words belonging to the “GOOSE” lexical group, the vowel /u:/ tends to move forward, it is widespread in RP, especially among young people.

- In words belonging to the “FOOT” lexical group, the vowel /ʊ/ tends to move forward, and it almost loses its back pronunciation. It is described as similar to the sound of schwa or partially closed and partly lip-rounded vowel.

- In the words belonging to the “GOAT” lexical group, the diphthong tends to be pronounced more forward /əʊ/.

- In the word “TRAP” /æ/ is replaced by more open /a/. This alternation is the most noticeable tendency and should be considered in English language teaching. Modern already dictionaries use the /a/ symbol.

- In words belonging to the lexical group “DRESS” the short pronunciation of /e/ tends to be lower /ɛ/. This alteration is already taken into account in modern dictionaries.

- In the words belonging to the lexical group “PRICE”, /aɪ/ diphthong is pronounced in the back, so, a new symbol /ʌɪ/ is used.

- In the words belonging to the lexical group “HAPPY”, the /ɪ/ vowel is stressed. The change of the last vowel occurs in the late twentieth century, and it is widely used in dictionaries as /i/.

- In the words belonging to “LOT” lexical group, the pronunciation quality of the /ɒ/ vowel is more open compared to the back rounded vowels in other languages. If this vowel tends to rise, it should be taken into account in language teaching.

- In words belonging to “THOUGHT” lexical group, the vowel /ɔ:/ is also pronounced more open.

- In words belonging to “BATH” lexical group /ɑ:/ vowel is pronounced as /a/. This is due to the tendency of long vowels to be

pronounced as central and short.

- In words belonging to the lexical group “PRICE”, the open and central /aɪ/ diphthong has changed to a partially open central /ʌɪ/.

- In the words belonging to the lexical group “SQUARE” /εə/ diphthong has changed to the long vowel /ε:/.

- In words belonging to the “CURE” lexical set the diphthong /ʊə/ is replaced by the long /ɔ:/.

8. New tendencies in the consonant system of modern English:

- In the last few years T-glottalization, a new tendency that combines non-standard features, has become widespread among the youth speaking in RP. Glottalling is the complete or partial closure of the glottis (the space between the vocal cords) during pronunciation. If the explosive sound is completely replaced by a glottal stop, it is called glottalization.

- Yod-dropping, or a coalescence is continuation of a historical process and it results in a linguistic change. /j/-falls after the consonants /t, d, s, z, r, l/. In coalescence of /j/, the approximant /j/ combines with the preceding sounds /t, d/ and results /tʃ, dʒ/ affricates. This event has been consolidated and included in dictionaries. It is not possible to find the combination /j/ in stressed syllables; e.g. gradually /'gradjʊəli/ → /gradjʒʊəli/. The /j/ dropping, on the other hand, occurs in stressed environment.

- Palatalization in /sju/ and /zju/ sequence - in the words *issue* and *assume*, pronunciation of /j/ is more conservative and traditional /'isju:, asju:m/. This feature, which is considered typical for unstressed syllables, is a novelty for stressed syllables. In the process of assimilation, the sounds /s/ - /j/ and /z/-/j/ are combined and /ʃ/ and /ʒ/ segments are formed. The smoothing of /j/ is more common among young people.

- Linking-/r/ is one of the most prominent means of communication and it has always been on the focus of linguistics. This phenomenon occurs only in non-rhotic dialects (RP, Estuary English, Norfolk, Yorkshire, etc.) and it is not suitable for rhotic dialects (American, Scottish, Irish and other British dialects).

- Intrusive /r/ is now widely used in modern English. The main reason for including it in the updated version of RP is that it helps

pronunciation as linking /r/.

9. The study of any phonetic material can be qualitative only if it is based on experiment rather than observation. The results of the experiment:

1) /ʊə/ is replaced by /ɔ:/.

2) /ɑ:/ is pronounced as /a /.

3) /æ/ is replaced by /a/.

4) The vowel /u/ leans forward /ʊ/

5) /ou/ → /əʊ/

6) /e/ → /ɛ/

7) /aɪ/ → /ʌɪ/

8) Tension of /i/ → /i:/ occurs at the end of words.

9) Monophthongization of central diphthongs

/ʊə/ → /ɔ:/

/ɛə/ → /ɛ:/

/ɪə/ → /i:/

10) T-glottalization - glottal explosion the consonant /t/ → /t̚/.

11) / j /-dropping in stressed environment after the consonants t, d, s, z, r, l and /j/ coalescence in unstressed environment → /tʃ, dʒ/.

12) The smoothing of /j/ in /sju/ and /zju/ sequences is typical for unstressed syllables. In the process of assimilation, the sounds /s/ - /j/ and /z/ - /j/ are mixed and /ʃ/ and /ʒ/ segments are formed. The smoothing of /j/ is more common among young people.

13) Linking /r/ is one of the most popular means of coordination.

14) Intrusive /r/ is now widely used in modern English.

The main concepts of the thesis are reflected in the following publications.

1. Predictions about the Present and Future of the English Language // Book of abstracts International conference on current issues in cognitive and applied linguistics, – Baku: Azerbaijan University of Languages, – 20-21 October – 2016, – p.21-23.
2. New Trends in The Pronunciation Norms of the Literary Language // – Baku: Foreign Languages in Azerbaijan, – 2016. №4, – p.50-55.

3. Global English and its Future // – Baku: Foreign Languages in Azerbaijan, – 2017. №2 (36) – p.101-107.
4. Some Phonetic Changes in the Modern English Language // – Baku: Azerbaijan University of Languages, Language and Literature, – 2018. Vol. IX, № 3-4, – p.23-27.
5. Variants and Dialects of the Modern English Language // – Baku: Baku State University, Language and Literature, International scientific-theoretical journal, – 2018. №3 (107), – p.43-46.
6. Language in Contact // Current Issues in Applied Linguistics, III International Conference, – Baku: Azerbaijan University of Languages, – 25-26 October – 2018, – p.11-12.
7. /j/ coalescence or dropping in the Modern English Language // – Baku: Baku Slavic University, Scientific Works, – 2019. №2, – p.132-136.
8. New Tendencies in Received Pronunciation // – Volgograd: Philology, International scientific journal, – 2019. №3(21), – p.51-55.
9. T-glottalling in the English Language Human Virtual: New Horizons // Collection of scientific works 1 (8) VIII International Scientific and Practical Conference. Sobornist (Ukraine) – March 14-15 – 2021, – p.18-19.
10. Intrusive /r/ in Modern English Language // Materials of the IV Republican Scientific-Practical Conference of Young Researchers, – Baku: Azerbaijan University, – 9 April – 2021, – p.46-47.
11. Some Vowel Changes in Received Pronunciation // – Kiev: International Journal of Philology, – 2021. Vol.12, №3, – p.26-30.

The defense will be held on 14 September 2023 at 11 am at the meeting of the Dissertation council ED 2.12 of Supreme Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan operating at Azerbaijan University of Languages.

Address: AZ 1014, Baku, Rashid Behbudov Street, 134.

Dissertation is accessible at the Azerbaijan University of Languages Library.

Electronic versions of the abstract is available on the official website of the Azerbaijan University of Languages.

Abstract was sent to the required addresses on 2 June 2023.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be the initials 'AP' with a stylized flourish.

Signed for print: 08.06.2023

Paper format: 60x84 1/16

Volume: 38 776 characters

Number of hard copies: 20