

The semantic method is widely used in Russian and foreign linguistics, as it attaches great significance to meaning and concerns both articulatory and functional characteristics of phonemes.

A thorough investigation of the problems of phonemes, allophones and phones and different methods of phonological analysis is given in the book by M.A. Sokolova "Theoretical phonetics of the English language" [19].

Seminar 2

1. What is the phoneme? Give the definition.
2. Explain the essence of the materialistic conception of the phoneme.
3. Discuss the aspects that the phoneme includes. Why none of them can be ignored?
4. Give examples of the distinctive, constitutive and recognitive functions of the phoneme.
5. What is the difference between phonemes and allophones? Which of these notions serves as the representation of distinctive features of a speech sound? What is the representation of non-distinctive features?
6. What types of non-distinctive features of the phoneme do you know? Give examples.
7. Is it important to differentiate between the principal and subsidiary allophones of the phoneme? Why?
8. What units represent the realization of allophones in actual speech? Explain the connection between phonemes and phones.
9. Comment on the difference between phonological and phonetic mistakes. State whether it is useful in teaching practice.
10. What types of transcription do you know? Which one would you prefer in teaching pronunciation? Why?
11. Speak about the main phonological schools. Discuss the ideas represented in:

- a) the psychological view of the phoneme;
 - b) the functional view of the phoneme;
 - c) the abstract view of the phoneme;
 - d) the physical view of the phoneme;
 - e) the materialistic view of the phoneme.
12. What methods of phonemic analysis do you know?
 13. Give a brief overview of the distributional method. State if there are any lacks in this approach.
 14. Explain the essence of the semantic method. Does it get a wide acknowledgement in linguistics?
 15. State the basic principles of commutation test. Give your own examples representing its work.
 16. Speak about the theory of phonological oppositions by Trubetskoy. Name types of oppositions and illustrate them with your own examples.