

port another view and advocate the autonomy of the phoneme and its independence from the morpheme. They state that allomorphs of a single morpheme may differ from each other on the synchronic level not only in their allophonic, but also in their phonemic composition. The content of the morpheme is constant. Speech sounds in phonologically neutral positions belong to that phoneme with whose principal variant they completely or nearly coincide. Thus:

- in ‘*вода*’ the first vowel sound should be assigned to phoneme [a];
- in ‘*кот — код*’ the sound in question belongs to phoneme [т].

III. According to the representatives of **Prague phonological school** (N.S. Trubetzkoy, R. Jakobson, and others), there are types of units higher and broader than phonemes: the so-called ‘archiphonemes’. An archiphoneme represents a combination of distinctive features common to two different phonemes excluding their specific features. So in ‘*кот — код*’ the sound in question is neither [т] nor [д] but an abstract unit combining their voiceless-fortis and voiced-lenis characteristics and making them similar in neutral positions.

It should be mentioned that none of these conceptions is recognized as ideal in modern linguistics.

Seminar 4

1. What are the main types of sound junction in English?
2. Name and characterize the stages of articulation when speech sounds are pronounced in isolation.
3. Explain the notions of interpenetration and merging of stages of articulation.
4. Characterize the combinative and positional changes of articulation. What types of units are they caused by? Give examples.
5. Comment on the term ‘sound modifications’. What types of variations do they concern? What units do they characterize?
6. Give an overview of consonant modifications in modern English. Discuss the following variations and give your own examples to illustrate each of them:

- a) assimilation;
 - b) accommodation;
 - c) elision;
 - d) insertion.
7. Speak about vowel modifications in modern English. Discuss the following variations and give your own examples to illustrate each of them:
 - a) reduction;
 - b) elision.
 8. What do you know about complex vowel and consonant modifications?
 9. Comment on the term ‘sound alternations’. What types of variations do they concern? What units do they characterize?
 10. What types of sound alternations are presented in the English language?
 11. Discuss the peculiarities of historical alternations. Illustrate your words with examples.
 12. What do contextual alternations concern?
 13. Is there any difference between the study of contextual alternations from that of sound modifications? Prove your opinion.
 14. How are the problems of contextual alternations and phoneme identification connected? Is it important in case of the English language?
 15. Why is the problem of phoneme identification significant for the Russian language? Does it get a single interpretation in linguistics?
 16. Survey the conceptions of phonemic neutralization put forward by scholars of different linguistic trends. Comment on the theories presented by:
 - a) Moscow phonological school;
 - b) St. Petersburg phonological school;
 - c) Prague phonological school.