
Seminar 8

1. State the difference between the spoken and written language forms.
2. Can spoken language be the object of theoretical investigation? Why? / Why not?
3. What factors influence pronunciation?
4. Define the object of phonovariology.
5. What is your idea of the national variant of a language? How do they appear?
6. What groups of national variants of the English language are distinguished? List variants included into each of them. Name the most widely used national variants of English.
7. What is meant by the terms 'dialect' and 'accent'? What types of accents do you know?
8. How can you define the term 'national pronunciation standard'? Give reasons for the fact that it is not homogeneous.
9. Speak about the origin and development of RP. Is it relevant nowadays?
10. Prove that the BBC English can be considered a new pronunciation model. What factors caused its appearance?
11. What components of the pronunciation system of English are subjected to changes? Give an account of:
 - a) the main changes in vowels;
 - b) the main changes in consonants;
 - c) combinative changes.
12. What types of American pronunciation are distinguished? Explain the peculiarities of each type.
13. Give arguments pro and contra the treatment of GA as a standard pronunciation type in American English.

14. Comment on the main peculiarities of American pronunciation. Discuss specific features in:
 - a) vowel pronunciation;
 - b) consonant pronunciation;
 - c) placement of stress and intonation patterns.
15. Is it possible to consider certain peculiarities observed in the pronunciation of foreign speakers as the rise of new variants of English? Explain your point of view.
16. What is the object of phonostylistics?
17. Name the main components of speech communication and prove their interrelation.
18. State the difference between the style-forming and style-differentiating factors.
19. Give the classification of style-forming factors. Which factor is the most significant? Why?
20. Give an overview of other style-forming factors.
21. What variations do the style-differentiating factors imply? Give a brief characterization.
22. Is it possible to determine the style of speech according to phonetic variations only? Why? / Why not?
23. Speak about different classifications of phonetic styles. Discuss this problem in connection with:
 - a) functional styles;
 - b) degrees of formality and familiarity;
 - c) style-forming factors.
24. Which of these classifications is the most relevant in your opinion? Give your reasons.
25. Comment on the following statement: 'any style is seldom realized in its pure form'.