

Supplement 2

Phonetic phenomena

1. Shades of the sonorant [ɫ].

‘Dark’ [ɫ] is pronounced when the sonorant [ɫ] is before a consonant or in the final position. In such cases the back part of the tongue is raised high to the soft palate forming an obstruction and giving a dark colouring to the sound.

Eg: *all, tall, fall, help, salt*

‘Light’ or ‘clear’ [l] is pronounced before vowels or the sonorant [j]. Then the front part of the tongue is raised to the soft palate together with the tip.

Eg. *live, silly, value*

2. Aspiration.

Occlusive stops [p, t, k] in the initial position in a stressed syllable are accompanied with aspiration. Aspiration is a strong puff of breath in a voiceless interval after the explosion of [p, t, k]. There are three degrees of aspiration:

- 1) it is very strong before a long vowel or a diphthong (*port, pale*);
- 2) it is weaker before a short vowel (*pit*);
- 3) it is less noticeable before an unstressed vowel (*joker*) or in the final position (*look*).

When [p, t, k] are preceded by [s] (*sky*) or followed by a noise consonant (*looked*), there’s hardly any aspiration at all. For example:

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| <i>tall,</i> | <i>tale,</i> | <i>till,</i> | <i>baker.</i> |
| [to:l], | [teɪl], | [tɪl], | [ˈbeɪkə] |
| 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 |

3. Loss of plosion.

Occlusive consonants [p, b, t, d, k, g] lose plosion if they are followed by another occlusive or affricates [tʃ, dʒ]. The first plosive loses its

explosion and becomes unreleased, instead of the release a pause is heard. They also lose plosion when preceded by [s].

Eg: *and* *dad* [ənd dæd], *that* *tape* [ðæt teɪp], *fact* [fækt], *scale* [skeɪl]

4. Lateral plosion.

A plosive, preceding the lateral sonorant, becomes laterally exploded: it has the explosion during the pronunciation of the sonorant [l]. The release before [l] is made by a sudden lowering of the sides of the tongue, and the air escapes along the lowered sides with lateral plosion.

Eg. *please* [pli:z], *cattle* [kætl], *apple* [ˈæpl]

5. Nasal plosion.

When a plosive is followed by the syllabic [m, n], it has no release of its own, and the so-called nasal plosion is produced. A plosive becomes nasally exploded: its explosion is produced during the pronunciation of the sonorant [m] or [n].

Eg. *happen* [ˈhæpn], *kitten* [ˈkɪtn], *submarine* [sʌbməˈri:n]

6. Assimilation.

The articulation of one sound affects the articulation of the neighbouring one assimilating the latter. There are four types of assimilation:

- 1) assimilation affecting the direction;
- 2) assimilation affecting the place of obstruction;
- 3) assimilation affecting the position of the lips;
- 4) assimilation affecting the work of the vocal cords.

The first type is divided into three subtypes: progressive, regressive, and double (reciprocal) assimilation.

- a) Progressive assimilation happens when the preceding sound affects the articulation of following one, and the preceding sound remains unchanged. For example:

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| <i>looked,</i> | <i>opened,</i> | <i>cats,</i> | <i>dogs.</i> |
| → | → | → | → |
| [lʊkt], | [ˈəʊpnd], | [kæts], | [dɒgz] |

b) Regressive assimilation happens when the following sound affects articulation of the preceding one. For example:

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| <i>months,</i> | <i>in the,</i> | <i>gooseberry.</i> |
| ← | ← | ← |
| [mʌnθs], | [ɪn ðə], | [ˈgu:zbrɪ] |

c) Double assimilation means complex mutual influence of the adjacent sounds. For example:

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| <i>tree,</i> | <i>try.</i> |
| ↔ | ↔ |
| [tri:], | [traɪ] |

7. Wrong assimilation.

Foreign speakers shouldn't voice the voiceless consonant which is followed by the voiced one. They correspondingly shouldn't devoice the voiced consonant which is followed by the voiceless one. For example

| | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| <i>sit down,</i> | <i>these socks.</i> |
| [sɪt dʌun], | [ðɪ:z sɒks] |
| = = | = = |

8. Syllabic sonorants.

In unstressed final positions sonorants [l, m, n] become syllabic if preceded by a noise consonant. For example:

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>cattle,</i> | <i>sudden,</i> | <i>rhythm.</i> |
| [ˈkætl], | [ˈsʌdn], | [ˈrɪðm] |
| . | . | . |

9. Linking.

Instances of linking occur at word boundaries between two vowels or a consonant with a following vowel. Here belongs the phenomenon of linking [r] which reveals its potential pronunciation.

Eg: *this* ◡ *is* ◡ *a boy*; *car* ◡ *owner*,

10. Positional length of vowels.

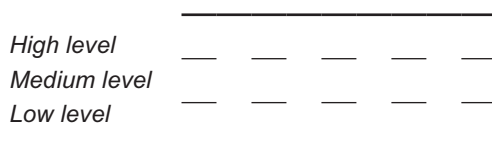
The length of the vowel depends on its position in the word. In the same phonetic context the vowel sounds the longest in the final position, a little bit shorter before a sonorant, still shorter before a voiced consonant, and the shortest before a voiceless consonant. For example:

| | | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <i>die</i> , | <i>dine</i> , | <i>died</i> , | <i>dike</i> . |
| [daɪ], | [daɪn], | [daɪd], | [daɪk] |
| ---- | --- | -- | - |

Supplement 3

Stave representation of intonation

The normal range of speaking includes three levels of human voice: high, medium, and low.



This representation is called ‘a stave’ or ‘a tonogram’. The abstract notation of intonation is usually presented at the stave with the help of dots, dashes and upward or downward slash marks, which are put at the necessary pitch level. Dots (·) represent unstressed syllables, dashes (—) represent stressed ones. Slants mark the nucleus.