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THE DEGREE OF VOICED EXPLOSIVE CONSONANTS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Abstract

The article deals with the degree of voiced explosive consonants on the development of the English language. It is noted that some linguists note a variability in the degree of voiced consonants in different phonetic contexts. The variety of points of view on the phenomenon of consonants testifies, on the one hand, to the fact that in linguistics there is still no clear and consistent attitude to this phenomenon and, on the other hand, speaks of the interest in this issue. The purpose of this article is to study the degree of sonority of English voiced explosive consonants in various phonetic contexts, to identify a set of conditions that determine different degrees of voiced consonants in British English.

Keywords: voiced consonants, voiceless consonants explosive consonants, phonetic context, language development

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Intradaction

It should be noted that researchers, as a rule, paid attention to such features of articulation of voiced explosives as: "weakness", "delicacy", "brevity" and "potentiality of the presence of a voice." For example, O'Connor described the manner of pronouncing voiced explosive consonants as follows: "In the intervocal position, voiced explosives usually retain their sonority, but it is necessary to concentrate on making them gentle and short" [7, p. 53].

Further, B. Collins and I. M. Mees write: "In English there are two classes of consonants, opposed to each other in two ways: the first – type / p, t, k / – is characterized by stronger articulation and voicelessness, the second – type / b, d, g / – is characterized by weaker articulation and the potential presence of a voice when pronouncing it" [3, p.51]. A. Cruttenden draws the attention of speakers of German and Russian languages to the need to focus on the longitude of the previous vowel in the final position in the word in order to avoid stunning voiced explosives in this phonetic environment, since in the position before the voiced / b, d, g /, vowels and sonants retain their full longitude and can serve as a signal for the sonorous pronunciation of voiced explosives [4, p. 154].

However, publications for more advanced users, such as *An Introduction to the Pronunciation*

of English by A. Gimson, noted not only the weakness of pronouncing voiced explosives, but also highlight specific positions in which devoicing occurs. According to Gimson, the initial and final positions – that is, positions after or before a pause – in which voiced explosives can either partially or completely devoiced, while retaining their initial weakness [b, d, g] [5, p. 152].

Main part

It is interesting that when devoicing, occlusive is voiced in the initial position after a pause, the question of the phenomenon of coarticulation is naturally removed. This is due to the fact that a voiceless consonant cannot follow a voiced explosive in the initial position due to the peculiarities of distribution, and there is a pause before a voiced explosive in this phonetic context. In such contexts, we are dealing with the so-called "diaphonic variation", which means the variation of the own, position-independent, qualitative and quantitative characteristics of the phoneme, the reasons for which are rooted in the history of the development of the language. Based on the foregoing, it can be argued with a sufficient degree of confidence that devoicing in the initial position is the quality of the voiced explosives themselves at the present stage of language development.

In recent years, many researchers have adhered to the point of view of A. Gimson about partially devoicing or completely voiceless pronunciation

of voiced explosives in some phonetic contexts (Cruttenden, Roach, Lass, Vereninova, etc.). For example, P. Roach notes that voiced explosives in the initial and final positions are hardly pronounced voiced. J. B. Vereninova also speaks of the presence of a certain devoiced area when pronouncing voiced explosives, “voiced explosives seem to be squeezed out of the devoiced”: bin ~ [pppbin], did ~ [tttdiddt]; Zoos ~ [ssszu: zzs] [9, p. 170].

It can be assumed that at the moment the existing innovation is strengthening its position, displacing some of the previously adopted speech implementations of voiced explosive phonemes, which are beginning to be perceived as outdated, in other words, the identity of the phonemes with themselves is violated. In accordance with the logic of the development of sound changes, the next stage in the development of / b, d, g / may perhaps be the achievement of a new quality of the system, which may indicate the completion of the sound change.

/ voiceless: / p, t, k / vs / p, t, g / [6, p. 149].

Voiced noise, as a rule, does not compare on the basis of the presence of a voice with each other. According to the classification of P. Lassa, we can conclude that / g / is the most voiced, followed by / d / and / b /. A similar conclusion can also be reached based on the analogy with the voiceless correlates of voiced explosives / p, t, k /, where / p / is considered the weakest component, / t / occupies an intermediate position, and / k / is the strongest representative of this series.

Our assumption is indirectly confirmed by the studies of S. Belasco, who arranged the consonants in ascending order of their influence on the vowel length in the direction of increasing: [p, t, k, l, f, J, m, s, n, r, g, d, b] [1, p. 15]. This sequence can be interpreted as follows: the weaker the consonant (and therefore the shorter its longitudinal characteristics), the greater the longitudinal characteristics of the preceding vowel. According to M. Chen, the dependence of the longitude of a vowel on the voicedness / voicelessness of the subsequent consonant is a linguistic universal [2, p. 129].

Combinatorial changes in voiced explosive consonants, due to the type of syllable and phonetic context, are not widely considered in linguistic literature. It should be noted that the positional and combinatorial conditionality of quantitative

variation is defined by scientists as a manifestation of the universal property of units of the phonological system. At the same time, it is believed that quantitative variation is primary in relation to qualitative variation, which, in general, corresponds to general philosophical views on the logic of development.

As you know, phonetic positions that determine the qualitative and quantitative modifications of their own independent quality and quantity of a phoneme are:

- beginning and end of a word;
- ordinal position in a word: initial, medial, final position;
- sound environment;
- position in the accent-rhythmic structure of the word (in stressed and unstressed position) [1, p.45].

As noted above, researchers mainly distinguish the initial and final positions as those where the devoicing occurs. We add that R. Traska's 1996 *Dictionary of Phonetics and Phonology* illustrates the phenomenon of initial devoicing using the example of English voiced plosives / b, d, g /, which “being essentially voiced, are devoiced at the first stage of pronunciation”, but the final the devoicing position is illustrated in the dictionary with the German voiced explosives [8, p. 221].

As you know, devoicing voiced explosives in the final position in a word is the standard for the pronunciation system of the Russian language. When native speakers of Russian learn English, the phenomenon of the so-called “negative transfer” (negative result of transposition) is often observed, when bilinguals automatically devoiced voiced explosives in the final position in the word. Note that at present some devoicing of voiced explosives in the final position in a word is perceived by researchers as an emerging trend, but is not considered to be part of the pronunciation norm.

It is also possible to note some discrepancy in the assessment of phonetic positions in which voiced explosives are most often and strongly devoiced: A. Gimson speaks of a greater degree of devoicing in the final position in the word in comparison with the initial one, and R. Trask has these positions (positions of the greatest devoicing) in reverse order.

The medial position between vowels, as well as the position before the sonorant / w /, / r /, / j / or other voiced consonants, can be called positions of

maximum discrimination for voiced plosives. This is how most authors evaluate voiced explosive in the intervocal position as full-voiced. The position of the noisy in front of the sonant is often equated to the position in front of the vowel.

As for the combination of voiced occlusive with nasal sonants / m /, / n /, / ŋ / traditionally described as “nasal indentation”, or as “nasal explosion”, researches speak not so much in terms of the degree of voiced consonants, but how they are terminologically defined. In other words, the opinions of linguists differ on the question of which combinations should be attributed to the concept of nasal indentation: consisting of homorganic explosive and nasal / b / + / m /, / d / + / n /, / g / + / ŋ / or any combination of explosive and nasal sonant [10, p. 55].

In our opinion, I. Ward expresses the optimal point of view. He believes that the concept of "nasal indentation" is applicable only for combinations of plosive and nasal consonants of the same

place of formation, while "nasal explosion" includes all other possible combinations of plosive and nasal [10, p.57]. In this case, the researcher distinguishes not three, but four phases of plosive articulation and considers indentation and explosion as separate stages in pronouncing explosive.

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Xülasə

Cingiltili partlayışlı samitlərin ingilis dilinin inkişafına təsiri

Məqalədə cingiltili partlayışlı samitlərin ingilis dilinin inkişafına təsirindən bəhs edilir. Qeyd edilir ki, bir çox dilçilər müxtəlif fonetik kontekstlərdə səslənən samitlərin dərəcəsinə dəyişkənliyi qeyd edirlər. Samitlər hadisəsinə baxışların müxtəlifliyi, bir tərəfdən, dilçilikdə bu hadisəyə hələ də aydın və davamlı münasibətin olmadığını göstərsə, digər tərəfdən, bu məsələyə maraqlıdır. Bu məqalənin məqsədi ingilis cingiltili partlayışlı samitlərin sonorluq dərəcəsinə müxtəlif fonetik kontekstlərdə öyrənmək, Britaniya ingiliscəsində cingiltili samitlərin fərqli dərəcədə səslənməsini təyin edən şərtlər toplusunu müəyyənləşdirməkdir.

Açar sözlər: cingiltili samitlər, kar samitlər partlayışlı samitlər, fonetik kontekst, dil inkişafı

Сабина Эльхан кызы Поладова

Резюме

Степень звонкости взрывных согласных на развитие английского языка

В статье рассматривается степень звонкости взрывных согласных на развитие английского языка. Отмечается, что некоторые лингвисты отмечают вариативность степени звонкости согласных в разных фонетических контекстах. Разнообразие точек зрения на явление согласных свидетельствует, с одной стороны, о том, что в лингвистике до сих пор нет четкого и последовательного отношения к этому явлению, а с другой стороны, говорит об интересе к этому вопросу. Цель данной статьи - изучить степень звонкости английских звонких взрывных согласных в различных фонетических контекстах, выявить комплекс условий, определяющих разную степень звонкости согласных в британском английском.

Ключевые слова: звонкие согласные, глухие согласные, взрывные согласные, фонетический контекст, развитие языка