

Sabina Elkhan POLADOVA
PhD, Associate professor
Azerbaijan University of Languages

MODERN EXPLOSIVE CONSONANTS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AT THE ARTICULATORY LEVEL

Abstract

The article deals with the modern explosive consonants at the articulatory level. Interestingly, the peculiarities of pronouncing voiced explosives have practically not been discussed by phoneticians. In our opinion, this state of affairs is because of the sufficient stability of reproduction, as well as the voiced explosive place occupied by the phonological system of the English language throughout its historical development. It is therefore quite understandable why classical textbooks, up to the mid-80s, recommended pronouncing voiced plosives in all phonetic contexts loudly. The purpose of the article is to analyze the explosive consonants at the articulatory level.

Keywords: variability, the degree of sonority consonants, explosive consonants, phonological system, articulatory level

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Intradaction

In recent decades, when science has turned its face to a person, his psyche, the processes occurring in the human brain when generating a speech utterance, phoneticians are increasingly turning to the linguistics of communication: they are developing such a concept as “phonology of speech activity”, they are increasingly trying to interpret the facts of the language through the study of phonetic information obtained experimentally [1, p.122]. It is from this point of view that interesting facts about the explosive consonants emerge at the articulatory level. Interesting feature of modern explosive consonants at the articulatory level is the incomplete realization of the explosion stage. As a result of this phenomenon, one of the main keys to identifying an explosive consonant as explosive is lost: audibly perceived noise clap. However, native speakers unmistakably identify explosive sounds in a position of absolute outcome, which is most often characterized by an incomplete realization of the explosion stage. As A. Gimson notes, this is due to the following factor: some of the information about the subsequent explosive consonant is contained in the vowel preceding it, or following it, which

allows the sound to be identified correctly [4, p.64].

This exact identification can also be explained by referring to acoustic cues. At the acoustic level, this phenomenon is reflected in the higher beginning or end of the frequency diagram of the main tone of the vowel. A. Cruttenden, emphasizes that the shift of the formants in this case is not so noticeable; the formants of the vowel do not completely shift to the place of the explosive explosion stage, but only point in the direction of the latter [3, p. 152].

The difference between voiced and voiceless explosives is provided, first of all, by the presence of a low-frequency sound component of voiced occlusive. If the vocal component is practically absent, then in the initial position the difference lies in the degree of explosion intensity, and in the final position – in the influence on the longitudinal characteristics of the preceding vowel.

Let us now move on to the next, no less exciting and interesting, topic: how, given a certain transitional state of voiced explosives at the present stage of language development, to present voiced explosives to learners of the English language. It is generally accepted that

the production of English voiced plosives does not cause any particular difficulties for Russian speakers, provided that the specifics of their articulation are taken into account. Nevertheless, quite often it is the presence of Russian correlates that prevents a clear transfer of the quality of English explosives.

According to L.V. Bondarko, this state of affairs is due to the fact that both auditory and pronunciation skills of a bilingual are formed in accordance with the system and norm of the primary language and, the influence of these skills leads to distorted perception and production of speech in the secondary language [2, p. 44].

The idea expressed by E. D. Polivanov and N. S. Trubetskoy that the perception of foreign language speech occurs through the prism of the sound system and the norm of the native language is at present also considered experimentally confirmed. Ultimately, this means that a speaker of any language interprets any unfamiliar sound as familiar, that is, turns any sound sequence in a secondary language into a sequence of phonemes in the native language.

There are other points of view on the perceptual properties of a person. So, L. V. Shcherba believes that a person distinguishes as many phonemes as there are phonemes in his language, and all other differences between phonemes "are not in the bright field of linguistic consciousness" [7, p. 121]. The opinion of another linguist, I. P. Susov, is based on psychophysiological studies of human perceptual capabilities. Susov claims that the ability to distinguish between certain classes of sounds is universal, that is, perception does not depend on a specific phonological system, and, therefore, we can say that all people distinguish the same classes of sounds and at the same time use the same signs [8].

I.P. Susov also draws attention to the fact that the articulatory-acoustic space is the same for speakers of all languages, it is only segmented differently in different languages. We share this point of view, since it is known, for example,

that in one language the vocal space can be distributed between five or six qualitatively different vowels (Russian, Eskimo, Georgian), and in another – between fifteen to twenty vowels (English, German, French, etc.).

The above hypothesis, however, has not yet been sufficiently developed in the linguistic literature it seems that there is a rational kernel in it. However, we cannot agree with another point of view of I. P. Susov [8]; the scientist admits that in each separately taken language there may not be a specific articulatory base (articulatory structure).¹ It is possible that a unique articulatory base inherent in only one particular language does not exist, however, in our opinion, related languages may have a similar articulatory structure.

We find confirmation of this hypothesis in J. Laver, who describes the specific features of the articulatory structure of some languages: South American English – a lowered soft palate (velum), which leads to a common nasal pronunciation (in terms of J. Laver, "nasal twang") [6, p.30]; elevated soft palate of Liverpool residents resulting in "adenoid" speech; the general tension of the French mouth resonator. The concept of "articulatory base" is an important factor in setting the pronunciation of the target language in order to achieve accent-free sound. This opinion is shared by a number of researchers [9, p. 79]: So, the Russian articulatory mode is somewhat different from the English one: the entire articulatory apparatus is less tense when pronouncing the sounds of the Russian language, the lips are relaxed, the tip of the tongue is pressed to the teeth, the front back of the tongue is at a short distance from the hard palate. As for the English articulatory order, its most detailed description can be found in G. Suit's book "Primer of Phonetics":

1. the lips are slightly stretched and tightly pressed against the teeth;
2. the tip of the tongue is pulled away from the teeth, slightly raised and is opposite the alveoli (but does not touch them);

¹ The articulatory mode is understood as a certain position of the articulatory organs before and during phonation.

V. V. Kuleshov, A. B. Mishin, Z. B. Vereninova adhere to the same opinion and supplement the picture of the articulatory structure with the following observations:

- the entire mass of the tongue lies flat, touching the edges of the tongue of the lower teeth, and the back of the tongue is lowered;
- the soft palate is raised (as if yawning).

At present, the articulatory base is considered as a system of "pronunciation instructions" and addresses stored in memory, according to which "pronunciation orders" (nerve impulses) are sent to the organs of speech, leading to pronunciation movements [5, p. 112]. It is believed that existing articulatory habits are critical to the actions of the pronunciation organs in the production of speech in the language of the secondary linguistic system.

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Səbinə Elxan qızı POLADOVA

Xülasə

İNGİLİS DİLİNDƏ MÜASİR PARTLAYIŞLI SAMİTLƏR ARTİKULYASIYA SƏVIYYƏSİNDƏ

Məqalədə artikulyar səviyyədə cingiltili partlayışlı samitlərdən bəhs edilir. Qeyd edilir ki, cingiltili partlayışlı samitlərin tələffüz xüsusiyyətləri fonetistlər tərəfindən praktiki olaraq müzakirə edilməmişdir. Fikrimizcə, bu vəziyyət səslərin kifayət qədər sabitliyindən, eləcə də ingilis dilinin bütün tarixi inkişafı boyu cingiltili samitlərin dilin fonoloji sistemində tutduğu yerdən irəli gəlir. Buna görə də, 80-ci illərin ortalarına qədər klassik dərsliklərin bütün fonetik kontekstlərdə cingiltili partlayışlı samitlərin yüksək səslə tələffüz edilməsini tövsiyə etməsi tamamilə başa düşüləndir. Məqalənin məqsədi artikulyasiya səviyyəsində cingiltili partlayışlı samitləri təhlil etməkdir.

Açar sözlər: variativlik, sonor samitlərin dərəcəsi, partlayışlı samitlər, fonoloji sistem, artikulyasiya səviyyəsi

Сабина Эльхан кызы ПОЛАДОВА
СОВРЕМЕННЫЕ ВЗРЫВНЫЕ СОГЛАСНЫЕ В АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ НА
УРОВНЕ АРТИКУЛЯЦИИ

Резюме

В статье рассматриваются современные взрывные согласные на артикуляционном уровне. Интересно, что особенности произношения звонких взрывных практически не обсуждались фонетистами. На наш взгляд, такое положение вещей обусловлено достаточной стабильностью воспроизведения, а также звонким взрывным местом, занимаемым фонологической системой английского языка на протяжении всего его исторического развития. Поэтому вполне понятно, почему классические учебники вплоть до середины 80-х годов рекомендовали громко произносить звонкие взрывные звуки во всех фонетических контекстах. Цель статьи – проанализировать взрывные согласные на артикуляционном уровне.

Ключевые слова: вариативность, степень звучности согласных, взрывные согласные, фонологическая система, артикуляционный уровень.