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Subject: Phonetics

1st Year

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CONSONANTS OF ENGLISH

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The consonants of English:

there are good to two reasons for binding with consonants rather than vowels.

Because consonants are making English understood than vowels do and make English easier to describe and understand .

Consonants: one of set sounds in which air from the lungs is seriously obstructed in the mouth And which occur in similar positions in words

Consonants sound are classified according to three

Dimensions or **Criteria** or **yardstick**

Describing consonants .

Criteria&yardsticks .

1. Voicing

2. Place of articulation

3. Manner of articulation 1:Voicing: each consonants sounds should be voiced or voiceless and this depends on the **vibration of Vocal cords** Sounds Which make vibration called (**voiced**) and the sounds doesn't make vibration called (**voiceless**)

*Voiced also be weak and short like/**Z/** sound

*Voiceless also be strong and long like/**S/** sound

2:Place of articulation: it's refer at point where organic of speech produce sounds .And this occurs in many positions in mouth and it's divided into **eight** parts.

1: bilabial: sounds produce by the interaction between lips

Together /p,b,m,w/

2: dental: sounds produce by the interaction between tip of tongue and upper teeth /θ,ð/

3: labiodental: sounds produce by interaction between the lower lip and upper front teeth/ f,v/

4: alveolar: sounds produce by interaction between tip of tongue and alveolar ridge//s,z,t,d,r,L,n/

5:post alveolar: sounds produce by interaction between blade of tongue and back of alveolar ridge/ʃ,tʃ,ʒ,dʒ/

6: palatal: sounds produce by interaction between front of tongue and hard palate/j/

7: velar: sounds produce by interaction between back of tongue and velum (soft palate) /k,g,ŋ/

8: glottal: produce in glottis /h/

3:Manner of articulation: refers to the type of closure made by the different organs of speech and it's the way in which the air passes through the vocal tract, while the sound is produced

*according to Manner of articulation English consonants are grouped as follow

)Friction, stop, nasal, lateral and gliding consonants)

1:Friction consonants: sounds made by narrowing the air passage until the air is interfered with and causes friction.

And when the air escapes through this narrowing it makes a hissing sound (**friction**). Friction consonants are continuants , which means that you can continue making them without interruption as long as you have enough air in your lungs.

- English has **nine** friction consonants. They are called so because in their production there is **friction** which is the most important feature of these consonants.

- They are [f/, /v/, /θ/ /ð/ , /s/, /z/, /ʃ/ ,/ʒ/, /h/].

/f/ and /v/ sounds

- For both these consonants, the soft palate is raised so that no air can go through the nose and it is all forced to go through the mouth.

- The lower lip is very close to the edge of the upper front teeth.

- There is a narrowing between them – this is the place where friction is produced. When the air passes through this narrowing, it causes a slight friction .
- The tongue is not directly responsible in making these sounds, it takes up the position necessary for the following sound,
- So in /fi:/ it will be in the /i:/ position whilst /f/ is being pronounced, and in /fri:/ it will be in the /r/ position and so on.
- The difference between /f/ and /v/ is mainly one of strength : /f/ is a strong consonant, /v/ is a weak one. Also /f/ is never voiced, but /v/ is voiced and /f/ is longer than /v./

Then, the features of these sounds are: • /f/ :- fricative , voiceless

, strong, long consonant • /v/:- fricative , voiced, weak, short consonant.

distribution on the words.

Rule : When /f/ and /v/ occur at the end of words, after a vowel, they have an effect on the length of the vowel. The strong consonant /f/ makes the vowel shorter; the weak consonant /v/ makes the vowel longer

In the words safe /seɪ/ and save /seɪv/ the /f/ and /v/ have the same features as before: /f/ is stronger and longer but in safe /seɪf/ the vowel is quite short and in save /seɪv / it is really long.

Note: This is an important general rule which applies to the all other pairs of consonants as well: strong consonants at the end of words shorten the preceding vowel. Weak consonant at the end of words lengthen the preceding vowel.

/θ/ and /ð/ sounds

For both these consonants, the soft palate is raised so that all the breath is forced to go through the mouth.

The tip of the tongue is close to the upper front teeth. This is the narrowing where the friction is made.

The features of these sounds are: • /θ/:-fricative, voiceless, strong, long consonant. E.g.: think /θɪŋk/, healthy /helθɪ/, wealth /welθ/

/ð/:- fricative, voiced, weak, short consonant. E.g.: that /ðæt/, brother /brʌðə/, bathe /beɪð/

/s/ and /z/ sounds

For both these consonants, the soft plate is raised so that all the breath is forced to go through the mouth.

The tip and blade of the tongue are very close to the alveolar ridge. • The teeth are very close together.

The features of these sounds are: • /s/:- fricative, voiceless, strong, long consonant. E.g.: sea /si:/ , messy /mesɪ/ , bus /bʌs/.

/z/:- fricative, voiced, weak, short consonant. E.g.: zoo /zu:/ ,
buzzer /bʌzə/ , breeze /bri:z/.