

SUMMARY

Thus, the syllable is a universal primary minimal undivided basic phonetic unit of speech.

This definition of the syllable is universal for all the syllabic languages.

Units of primary perception on sensory level are not speech sounds but syllables. The syllable in perception is a minimal undivided unit over time.

The syllable is an integrated and an integrating speech unit. On the one hand it consists of speech sounds, on the other hand it is the base for all the other units of speech. It is creating the segmental speech unit – phonetic word and all the supra-segmental speech units – sense-groups, phrases, subphrasal unities and the speech unit of the highest level – the text.

The first attempts to examine syllables were made before our era by Ancient Greeks in connection with their interest in the problems of rhetoric and versification.

Experimental investigations of the problems of the nature of the syllable, its structure, the division of words into syllables appeared at the beginning of the 20th century due to the first laboratories of experimental phonetics opened in Paris, St. Petersburg and other countries and cities of the world.

Various theories of syllable formation and syllable division exist. One of the first was the so-called **expiratory** theory, according to which each syllable is accompanied by an uninterrupted act of exhalation (Silvers E.). The experimental data showed that several syllables might be pronounced within one act of exhalation and the expiratory theory considered to be wrong because it was experimentally proved that in many cases two or more syllables were pronounced within one act of exhalation.

Rather spread was sonority theory, according to which the main feature of the syllable is sonority, the stressed syllable forms a peak of sonority (Esperson A.). The variations of the sonority of the vowels in different in the word made it difficult to define the boundaries between the syllables.

The theory of muscular tension was elaborated by P. Roudet, M. Grammont and others and completed by L.V. Shcherba, according to whom sounds in connected speech are pronounced with alternative intensification of intensification and slackening of muscular tension. Each peak of intensification forms a syllable. L.V. Shcherba's concept about the three forms of the syllables helped to solve the problem of the syllable division.

One of the latest theories of syllabic formation is the energetic theory. According to this theory a syllable was defined as a single portion of energy (Finkin N.I.), as a minimal portion of energy (Stepanov U.S.).

The energetic theory does not deny the theory of muscular tension. There exists a direct connection between the muscle tension of the organs of speech impulses of energy as any nerve and muscular process causes energetic process.

The energetic theory is rather widespread and acknowledged by numerous linguists, but still the nature of the syllable impulse was not quite clear and required further investigations.

In the second half of the 20th century phonetic experimental investigations applying electronic devices made it possible to affirm that syllables are created by a complex impulse of acoustic energy, a coordinated action of two components – intensity and duration (Бровченко Т.А.). Any of the components can change the volume of the total energy.

Experimental data proved that the main acoustic characteristic feature of the syllable was total energy – intensity over time.

The share of the two components of total energy – intensity and duration is different in English and Ukrainian as it depends upon the phonematic system of the language.

According to energetic theory the boundaries between the syllables in a word and between the words are at the point of the minimal decrease of total energy.

There is no principle difference between the mechanism of syllable division according to the concept of muscular tension and the energetic theory – the boundary

in both cases is at the energetically weaker point of the syllable chain as it is the result of the smallest muscular tension.

The main principles of syllable formation and division are universal, i. e. similar in all the syllabic languages but the rules of syllable formation and the division of words into syllables may be different in different languages.

At present experimental investigations of the nature and structure of the syllable continued with the help of modern acoustic devices and special computer programmes.

It was proved experimentally that syllables in Germanic languages were realized in different spheres – phonological, physiological, auditory syllables in perception have been examined.

Dynamic models of syllabic structure were elaborated for a number of Germanic languages.

Syllables as well as other phonetic phenomena are sensitive to weight, many marginal consonants are perceived as “heavier” than others in many languages.

Weight is linked to the particular phonetic phenomenon in different languages, remains stable and is not changed from language to language.

Contrastive analysis of English and Ukrainian syllables makes it possible to observe that the nature of the main principles of formation and division are the same in the two languages. There exist a difference in the rules of correlation of two components of the total energy – intensity and duration, which depend upon the phonematic structure of the English and Ukrainian languages. There exist some specific features in the structure of syllables, in the rules of syllable division in the peculiarities of the position of the active articulating organs in pronouncing sounds, which constitute the syllables in English and Ukrainian.

A thorough contrastive study of English syllables in comparison with those of the native language will enable the learner to avoid mistakes will help to acquire perfect pronunciation without any foreign accent.

L.V. Shcherba's teaching of the three forms of the consonants – strong-end, strong-beginning and strong-end/strong-beginning consonants made it possible to divide the words into syllables in speech.

The energetic syllabic theory defines a syllable as an impulse of energy. Experimental data proved that the main acoustic characteristic feature of the syllable was total energy – intensity over time.

The share of the two components of total energy – intensity and duration is different in English and Ukrainian as it depends upon the phonematic system of the language.

According to energetic theory the boundaries between the syllables in a word and between the words are at the point of the minimal decrease of total energy.

There is no principle difference between the mechanism of syllable division according to the concept of muscular tension and the energetic theory – the boundary in both cases is at the energetically weaker point of the syllable chain as it is the result of the smallest muscular tension.

The main principles of syllable formation and division are universal, i. e. similar in all the syllabic languages but the rules of syllable formation and the division of words into syllables may be different in different languages.

At present experimental investigations of the nature and structure of the syllable continued with the help of modern acoustic devices and special computer programmes.

It was proved experimentally that syllables in Germanic languages were realized indifferent spheres – phonological, physiological, auditory syllables in perception have been examined.

Dynamic models of syllabic structure were elaborated for a number of Germanic languages.

Syllables as well as other phonetic phenomena are sensitive to weight many marginal consonants are perceived as “heavier” than others in many languages.

Weight is linked to the particular phonetic phenomenon in different languages, remains stable and is not changed from language to language.

Contrastive analysis of English and Ukrainian syllables makes it possible to observe that the nature of the main principles of formation and division are the same in the two languages. There exist a difference in the rules of correlation of two components of the total energy – intensity and duration, which depend upon the phonemic structure of the English and Ukrainian languages. There exist some specific features in the structure of syllables, in the rules of syllable division in the peculiarities of the position of the active articulating organs in pronouncing sounds, which constitute the syllables in English and Ukrainian.

A thorough contrastive study of English syllables in comparison with those of the native language will enable the learner to avoid mistakes will help to acquire perfect pronunciation without any foreign accent.