

3.2.2. ENGLISH FORELINGUAL CONSONANTS IN COMPARISON WITH UKRAINIAN FORELINGUAL CONSONANTS

The English Consonants [t] [d], [n]

In pronouncing the English [t], [d] the front and the central parts of the tongue are comparatively flat, the tip of the tongue is pressed against the alveoli, forming a complete obstruction. Then the tension is released and the air compressed in the mouth cavity breaks the obstruction with explosion. The soft palate is raised (fig. 3.16), the vocal chords are not made to vibrate. The English [t] is aspirated, especially before stressed vowels.

The English [t] is a forelingual alveolar apical plosive voiceless consonant phoneme.

The English [d] is formed like the English [t] except that the vocal chords are made to vibrate, it is not aspirated and less tense than the English [t]. The tongue occupies a somewhat lower position (fig. 3.16).

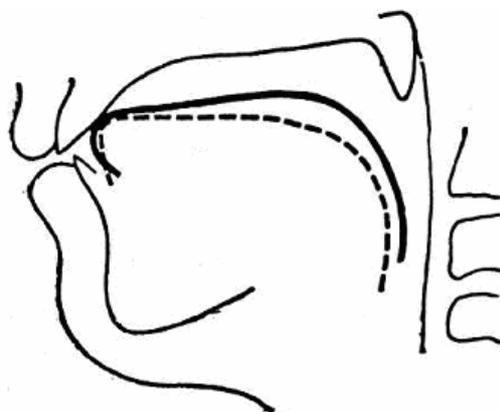
The English, [d] is a forelingual alveolar, apical plosive voiced consonant phoneme.

The English [t], [d] considerably differ from the Ukrainian [T], [Д].

1. The Ukrainian [T], [Д], like the English [t], [d], are forelingual consonants, but the shape of the tongue in their pronunciation is different.

The English [t], [d] are apical, the Ukrainian [T], [Д] are cacuminal.

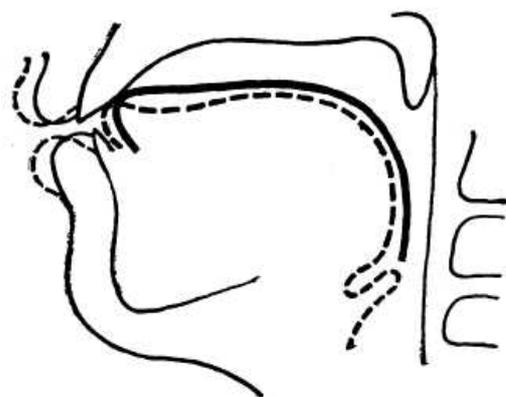
Fig. 3.16.
Tongue-position:
English [t] —————
English [d] - - - - -



2. In pronouncing the English [t], [d] the obstruction is formed at the alveoli, while in pronouncing the Ukrainian [T], [Д] it is formed at the rear surface of the

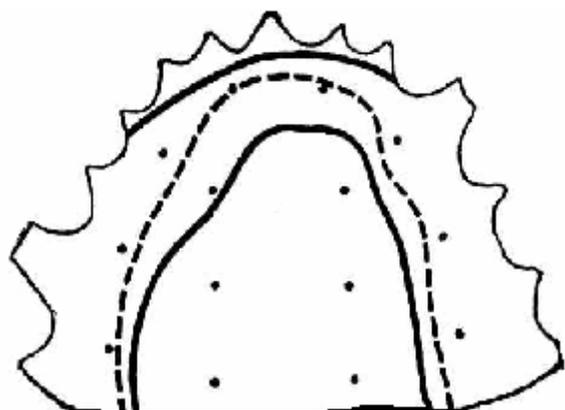
front upper teeth, i. e. according to the passive organ of speech the English [t], [d] are alveolar, the Ukrainian [T], [Д] are dental (fig. 3.17).

Fig. 3.17.
Tongue-position:
English [t] _____
Ukrainian [T] - - - - -



The difference in the articulation of the English [t], [d] and Ukrainian [T], [Д] can be seen from the palatograms (fig. 3.18).

Fig. 3.18.
Palatograms:
English [t] _____
Ukrainian [T] - - - - -



The Ukrainian [T] differs from the English [t] by the absence of aspiration.

To pronounce the English [t], [d] correctly one may start from the corresponding Ukrainian sounds. The tip of the tongue should be retracted and pressed to the alveoli. The English [t] should be pronounced with aspiration before stressed vowels. Special attention should be paid to keep the lips flat.

The tongue position for the English [n] resembles that for the English [d], but in forming the English [n] the soft palate is lowered, the air passes through the nasal cavity.

The English [n] is a forelingual alveolar apical occlusive (nasal) sonant.

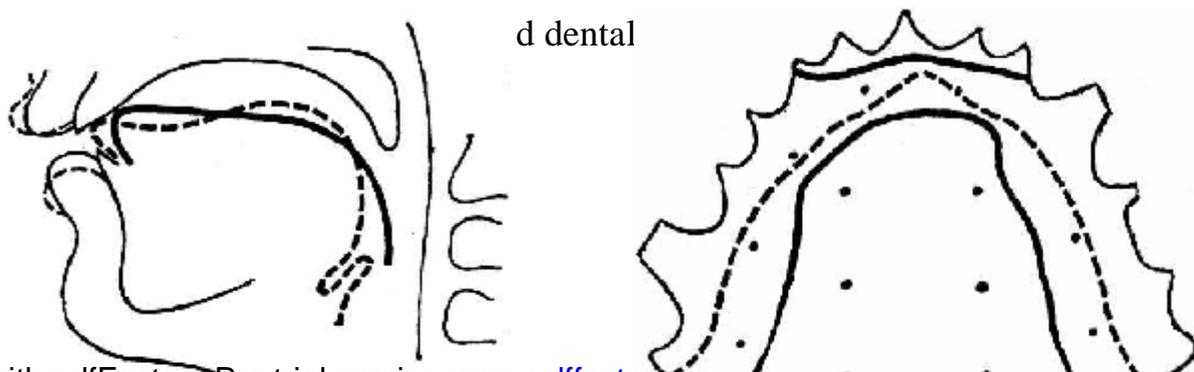


Fig. 3.19.
 Tongue-position:
 English [n] _____
 Ukrainian [H] - - - - -

Palatograms:
 English [n] _____
 Ukrainian [H] - - - - -

Fig. 3.20

Many students whose native language is Ukrainian have a tendency:

1. to pronounce [t], [d], [n] dental instead of alveolar;
2. to palatalize the English [t], [d], [n] before [j], [i], [e];
3. to pronounce a voiceless [t] instead of the voiced [d] when it is final;
4. to pronounce the English [t] without aspiration.