

**THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE FORMATION OF THE LANGUAGE SOUND SYSTEM AS A SUBJECT**

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**Abstract.** This article explores the theoretical foundation and methodology behind the formation of the language sound system, focusing on the intersection of phonetics, phonology, and the broader linguistic structure. It highlights the critical role of phonetics in understanding the smallest units of oral speech and their organization within written language. The article discusses how phonetics is intertwined with other primary linguistic levels, such as lexis and grammar, and their secondary levels, like stylistics and morphophonology. The emergence and evolution of phoneme theory are examined through various phonological schools, with particular emphasis on their differing approaches to phoneme interpretation. The article also addresses the common confusion between speech sounds and phonemes, proposing a comprehensive method involving acoustic, articulatory, perceptive, and phonological aspects to distinguish them. Furthermore, it emphasizes the integral role of phonetics in both oral and written forms of speech, asserting that no language level can exist independently of phonetics in spoken communication. The study traces the historical development of phonetics, underscoring its roots in ancient linguistic research and its formal establishment as a distinct field in the 19th century. Ultimately, the article underscores the enduring significance of the sound system in language and its foundational role in communication.

**Keywords:** *phonetics, oral speech, speech sound, syllable, phonostylistics, morphology, morpheme*

**INTRODUCTION.** The theoretical foundation of the formation of the language sound system is crucial because it provides the necessary framework to understand how languages develop and organize their phonetic structures. This subject allows linguists to investigate the underlying principles that govern the way sounds are produced, perceived, and classified across different languages. By examining phonological rules, sound patterns, and their historical evolution, researchers can identify universal aspects of language and the unique features that distinguish individual languages. Understanding the theoretical aspects of sound system formation not only enriches our knowledge of language acquisition and processing but also aids in practical applications such as language teaching, speech therapy, and computational linguistics, thereby contributing to both theoretical and applied linguistics fields.

The sound structure of language is studied in the context of phonetics, which is one of the most important fields of linguistics. Phonetics is the scientific study of the smallest units that serve as material in the occurrence of oral speech, as well as their means. Studying the units which have the constitutive function in the formation of oral speech requires phonetics to be in direct contact with written speech. Because the rules of graphics and orthography, which reflect oral speech in writing, are formed on the basis of phonetic principles. It is known that the science of linguistics is based on three primary levels such as phonetics, lexis and grammar. Later, secondary levels of language for instance, stylistics, phonostylistics and morphophonology were formed within the framework of phonetics, lexicology and grammar. One of the main difference between the primary and secondary

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levels of language is the fact of having their own units. The primary levels of language are explored within the framework of their own units. And the secondary levels of the language, on the other hand, do not have their own units because of which they rely on the units of the primary levels in the research process.

**METHODOLOGY.** Studying the theoretical foundation of the formation of the language sound system involves a multidisciplinary approach that combines phonetics, phonology, historical linguistics, and typology. Researchers begin by analyzing the articulatory and acoustic properties of sounds, using tools like spectrographs and articulatory analysis to observe how sounds are produced and transmitted. Phonological theories are then applied to understand the systematic organization of these sounds in different languages, examining patterns of sound alternations, rules of syllable structure, and processes like assimilation and vowel harmony. Historical linguistics plays a key role in tracing the evolution of sound systems over time, while cross-linguistic typology helps identify universal principles and language-specific variations. Computational methods, such as corpus analysis and machine learning, are increasingly used to model phonological systems and predict sound changes. This comprehensive methodology enables linguists to uncover the cognitive, social, and historical factors that shape the sound systems of languages, providing insights into both their structure and development.

When it comes to discuss on the sound aspect of the language, the notion of the phoneme is often mentioned along with the sounds of speech. The emergence of the notion of phoneme is linked with the name of Boduen de Kurtene. On the basis of his ideas, relating to the phoneme, a few phonological theories emerged. Among these theories the most famous ones are suggested by S.- Petersburg, Moscow, Prague, London and American (USA: the dichotomy phonological and distributive phonological theories) phonological schools. A phoneme is recognized as a language unit in each of these theories though they put forward a different approach to the phoneme interpretation. For instance, the interpretation of a phoneme is based: on a word and word formation in S.- Petersburg phonological theory; on morphemes in Moscow phonological theory; on phonological oppositions in Prague phonological theory; on an acoustic aspect of sounds in the theory of London phonological school; on a relationship between phonological units in the theory of American distributive phonological school; on the method of universal classification based on binary (two) differences of phonemes in the theory of American dichotomy phonological school.

In linguistics the distinguishing of speech sounds from phonemes began in the second half of the nineteenth century. Nevertheless, understanding the difference between speech sounds and phonemes and revealing their difference completely is not always easy. The language learners confuse their difference regularly. Sometimes this problem may also be noticed among the future professionals in the field of language who have already got sufficiently profound knowledge on speech sounds and phonemes. In order to solve this problem four aspects of speech sounds should be taken into consideration in learning process. They are *acoustic*, *articulatory*, *perceptive* and *phonological aspects* of speech sounds. Studying these four aspects thoroughly is the main factor to solve the problem of confusing the difference between speech sounds and phonemes.

**DISCUSSIONS AND RESULTS.** The significance of scientifically studying the concepts of speech sound, phoneme, and the variants and variations of a phoneme in different positions through the example of a particular language lies in the fact that such research provides a foundation for examining the still unexplored aspects of speech sounds in other languages. As a result, along with

revealing the phonetic and phonological features of the smallest units related to speech and language in languages of different systems, their language-specific and common characteristics from both phonetic and phonological perspectives also become clearer. From this point of view, research devoted to the sound system of a language is considered extremely important.

The sound system of a language can also be studied by the secondary levels of language along with the primary language layers. The scientific study of the secondary levels of language depending on the units of the primary levels, the secondary levels of language such as stylistics, phonostylistics and morphophonology seem as if they also have their own units. And there are special terms used in linguistics to express the units of the secondary levels of language, for instance, "*morphoneme* (morphological alternations of phonemes)" as a unit of morphonology, "*stylisteme* (emotionally-expressive variant of all units of language)" as a unit of stylistics "*phonostylisteme* (emotionally-expressive variant of phonetic units)" as a unit of phonostylistics. But these terms, according to A. Abduazizov's opinion, do not have a "Certificate" to be a linguistic unit. So, these concepts (*morphoneme*, *stylisteme*, *phonostylisteme*) cannot be a pure unit of language, since they are manifested on the basis of a unit of other levels of the language.

All the levels in a language interact within the framework of their own rules in order to carry out the communication between people, which is the main function of the language. For instance, speech sounds combine into syllables, syllables combine into words, words combine into sentences to form a speech that is a unit of communication. Speech, in its turn, consists of both oral and written forms. The function of language levels in the formation of both forms of speech is closely interrelated. They are inseparable in the performance of speech activities. But the importance of phonetics in this process is more worthy of attention, especially in oral speech. After all, since phonetics studies pronunciation, other levels of language become dependent on it in oral speech. It shows that not any level in a language can exist outside of phonetics in oral communication. Because both primary and secondary tiers are represented phonetically (through pronunciation) in oral speech. Hence, phonetics studies both the pronunciation of its own units and the pronunciation of other layer units. Despite the fact that phonetics plays such an important role in linguistics, if we look at the history of science, the formation of phonetics as a subject dates back to the XVIII and XIX centuries. V.K. Juravlev mentioned that historical phonetics originated in 1818 with Rasmus Rusk's treatise on sound changes in Germanic languages.

The formation of phonetics as a subject by the nineteenth century does not lead to the conclusion that the sound structure of language was not studied until the nineteenth century. In ancient times, the phonetic aspect of language was also studied in detail. Successful research on the sound field of language carried out in the works of ancient Indian and Greek scholars can prove it. As well as our great ancestor Abu Ali Ibn Sino, in his treatise on phonetics, gave the initial information about the phonological features of speech sounds, explaining their differences according to their formation. These data indicate that the scientific study of the sound structure of language has a very long history. Although the scientific study of speech sounds in the study of linguistic phenomena dates back to the long history, this field was not formed as a separate subject at that time. This is because at that time the phonetic field of language was studied as an integral part of the science of language in general, rather than as a separate subject. For the formation of any field of a particular science as a new subject, it must be scientifically substantiated that the field has its own object and subject of study, as well as its own unit. And this process is formed in science not suddenly, but over a period of time. The process

of formation of the sound field of language as an independent subject came to an end in the XIX century, after its long period of development.

**CONCLUSION.** From the above data it can be seen that phonetics, which has a special significance among the levels of language, was formed as a subject by the XIX century. However, this fact does not justify the conclusion that the sound field of language was not scientifically studied until the nineteenth century. Indeed, the importance of studying the sound structure of language in the formation of oral speech properly was known to scientists in ancient times, and they paid great attention to the scientific study of this field. Hence, the sound structure of language as science has its long history and has been the object of research since the ancient times. The fact that the study of the sound field of language dating back to long history shows that the sound field of language plays very important role among the other language levels.

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