

ҚАЗАҚСТАН РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫ БІЛІМ ЖӘНЕ ҒЫЛЫМ МИНИСТРЛІГІ  
Л.Н. ГУМИЛЕВ АТЫНДАҒЫ ЕУАЗИЯ ҰЛТТЫҚ УНИВЕРСИТЕТІ



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XI Халықаралық ғылыми конференциясының  
БАЯНДАМАЛАР ЖИНАҒЫ

СБОРНИК МАТЕРИАЛОВ  
XI Международной научной конференции  
студентов и молодых ученых  
**«НАУКА И ОБРАЗОВАНИЕ - 2016»**

PROCEEDINGS  
of the XI International Scientific Conference  
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2016 жыл 14 сәуір  
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В сборник вошли доклады студентов, магистрантов, докторантов и молодых ученых по актуальным вопросам естественно-технических и гуманитарных наук.

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## CHALLENGES OF THE ENGLISH SYLLABLE

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**Abstract:** It is important to increase our phonetically knowledge of the English language and our understanding of how phonological information is studied. The aim of the article is to increase knowledge about the English syllable. We have analyzed the English syllable. Methods of the article: descriptive and analytical.

**Key words:** phoneme, syllable, sound, structure, vowel, consonant, theory.

The English phonetics structure is systemic in character. It is made of the following components:

the system of English phonemes:

the syllabic structure of English words;

the accentual structure of words;

the intonational structure of English sentences.

We agree that phonemes are seldom pronounced in isolation, they usually occur in sequences. Sound sequences are acoustically broken up into smaller units known as syllables, which are the minimal units of sounding speech.

We found out that a syllable may consist of one or a number of phonemes, i.e. it may be formed by any vowel or by a word-final sonorant (l, m, n, ŋ) preceded by a consonant, as in i, are, we, garden etc.

A speech sound which is capable of forming a syllable is called syllabic. Speech sounds which are not capable of forming a syllable are called non-syllabic. They are the less sonorous sounds of the syllable and make up the valleys of prominence. The Russian phonetician Vassilyev defines the syllable as “one or more speech sounds forming a single uninterrupted unit of utterance, which may be a whole word, e.g. man or a commonly recognized and separable subdivision of a word e.g. En-GLISH, la-ter» [1, 10].

The syllabic structure of words may be graphically represented by the letter V standing for a vowel sound, and the letter C standing for a consonant sound. The syllabic sonorant is represented by Ş.

Every syllable has a definite structure. Further on point out vowel as V and consonant as C. It belongs to one of the following 4 main types of syllables: V, VC, CV, and CVC. They are classified as covered, uncovered, open and closed. A syllable which begins in a vowel is called uncovered; a syllable which begins in a consonant is called covered. A syllable which ends in a vowel is called open; a syllable which ends in a consonant is called closed.

The main types of syllables may be defined in the following way:

V – uncovered, open: e.g. /o:/ (or)

VC – uncovered, closed: e.g. /it/ (it)

CV – covered, open: e.g. /si/ (see)

CVC – covered, closed: e.g. (catch).

There are great numbers of variants in the syllabic structure which are formed by increasing the number of consonants in the initial and final position, as in:

VCC e.g. and, act, oak etc.

VCCC e.g. ends, acts

CCV e.g. blue, clay etc.

The similar syllabic structures exist in Russian too.

Though the same structures are used in both languages their frequency of occurrence is different. Some of them are extremely rare in Russian, while in English they are in common use.

The most common syllables that sonorants form are of \$, C\$ and C\$C type. For instance,

\$ type: /æp-l/ (apple);

C\$ type: /tei-bl/ (table);

C\$C type: /nei-fnz/ (nations).

In Russian sonorants are non-syllabic.

There are several theories which try to explain the mechanism of syllable formation and syllable division.

The oldest of them is the so-called expiratory theory (also breath-puff, pressure. or. chest-pulse theory). According to this theory each syllable corresponds to one expiration. A word consists of as many syllables as there are such expirations made when the word is uttered. Each syllable begins with a fresh expiration. For instance, the word "forty" has two syllables. According to the expiratory theory there must be two expirations. The point where a new expiration starts indicates the syllabic boundary of the word.

The expiratory theory is strongly criticized here and abroad. According to the last experimental data more than ten syllables can easily be pronounced during one expiration.

Next appeared the so-called sonority theory of the syllable. It was propounded by Danish linguist Otto Jespersen. This theory is nowadays widespread among foreign linguists. The term "sonority" is taken by O.Jespersen as "the degree of perceptibility".

All speech sounds have different inherent sonority. The most sonorous are open back vowels, the least sonorous are the voiceless stops. O.Jespersen classified all speech sounds according to 7 levels of sonority:

1) vowels;
2) semi-vowels / j, w/;
3) sonorants /l, m, n, ŋ. r/;
4) voiced fricatives /v, ð, z, /;
5) voiced stops /b, d. g/;
6) voiceless fricatives /f, θ, s/;
7) voiceless stops /p, t, k /.

Each syllable contains one peak of sonority. For instance let us analyze the words "popular" and "articulation".

vowels
semi-vowels
Sonorants
voiced fricatives
voiced stops
voiceless fricatives
voiceless stops

The word "popular" consists of three peaks that is why it has three syllables.

The sonority theory is also criticized because it cannot explain the mechanism of syllable formation and syllable division. Besides this theory is helpless in determining the number of syllables in such words as "going", "highest". "speak", "ski", etc.

All consonants may be of three types:

1) initially strong (and finally weak), as in: it, on, us;

2) finally strong (and Initially weak). as in: may, tea;

3) double consonants which are strong at both ends and have a weakening in the middle as in: good day.

The most energetic part of a consonant is attached to a vowel. For instance in the word "ten" there are two consonants: /t/ and /n/. The consonant /t/ is finally strong (and initially weak), because the vowel is attached to the end of the consonant. The consonant /n/ is initially strong (and finally weak) because the vowel is attached to the beginning of /n/. It may be represented graphically in the following way.

At the beginning the /t/ is weak, at the end it gets stronger. The muscular tension increases still until it reaches its climax produced by the vowel /e/. Then the muscular tension begins to diminish. The /n/ is still strong at the beginning but gets quite weak at the end.

The syllabic boundary lies at a point where the consonant is the weakest. Initially weak consonants constitute the beginning of a syllable. Finally weak consonants constitute the end of a syllable. There are many scientists who investigated according to that.

The Russian linguist N.I.Zhinkin has proved that the "arc of loudness" is due to the complex work of the speech mechanism as a whole (including the work of the power, vibrator, resonator and obstructor mechanisms).

That is why V.A.Vassilyev suggests that it would be more precise to call a syllable an "arc of articulatory effort" but not an "arc of loudness".

A syllable begins at a point where a new articulatory effort starts and ends at a point where the articulatory effort ends.

Each language has its own peculiarities in its syllabic structure. One of the peculiarities of syllable division is in Russian. For instance, is that the sequence of CVCV makes for two open syllables: са-ды.мо-ре. They are strong-end consonants in Russian.

There are numbers of factors determining the rules for syllable division in English, as well. Syllable division in English is closely connected with the checked or free character of the vowel in a stressed position. The sequence of CVCV may have different types of syllable depending on the character of the vowel sound. In this case the syllable division is governed by the following rules:

1) the sequence of /'CVCV/ may include two open syllables if the stressed vowel is a long monophthongs or a diphthong, for example,

/si:-liŋ/ (ceiling),

/tai-tl/ (title), etc.

The syllable division of Russian fully coincides with this pattern in English.

2) The sequence of /'CVCV/ has a closed syllable and an open one /'CVC-V/ if the stressed vowel is a short monophthongs,

'pit-i/ (pity), /'mer-i/ (merry) etc.

3) Short and long monophthongs' and diphthongs make for an open type syllable if they are unstressed and are separated from the adjacent vowels by only one consonant, e.g.

/ri:'ækt/ (react),

/bi'gin/ (begin)

Phonetic and orthographic syllables should not be confused. They sometimes coincide and sometimes do not. For instance, phonetically disyllabic words like "apple», «higher", "eaten», «flower", "battle", "fire", "drizzle", etc. are treated in writing as monosyllabic words. Whereas orthographically disyllabic words like "type", "come", "wrote", "theme", "change" have only one phonetic syllable.

Here are some examples:

/a:-tis-tik/ art-ist-ic – the syllabic boundary does not coincide.

/ə:-li/ ear-ly – the syllabic boundary coincides.

The phonetic syllable division is governed by the three rules which have been stated above. The orthographic syllable division is governed by the morphemic principle, as in: star-less, writ-er etc.

The syllabic structure of English performs three main functions: constitutive, distinctive and recognitive.

The syllabic structure fulfills constitutive function because syllables constitute the material forms of all the words, phrases and sentences. The latter cannot exist without syllables.

The distinctive function of the syllabic structure includes differences in both syllable formation and syllable division. Presence or absence of a syllable in one and the same position, as well as different syllabic boundaries may differentiate one word (or phrase, or sentence) from another word (or phrase, or sentence).

Here are some phonological oppositions of presence vs. absence of a syllable in the same position in a minimal pair:

/bet/ - /betə/ bet - better

/beit - /ə'bate/ bate – abate

There are a number of combinations of words distinguished from each other by different syllabic boundaries:

A name – an aim

I scream – ice-cream etc.

The recognitive function of the syllabic structure manifests itself in the fact that the right syllabic boundary makes it easier to recognize words, phrase, and sentence.

The violation of the recognitive function of the syllabic structure results in the following:

wrong syllable division produces a strong foreign accent;

it produces a comic impression upon an Englishman;

it hampers the process of communication.

The syllable is widely recognized to be the smallest prosodic unit. It has no meaning of its own, but it is significant for constituting higher prosodic units.

Syllables – minimal pronounceable units into which sounds show a tendency to group themselves. The syllable or syllables of the word are said to be stressed or accented. The correlation of varying prominences of syllables in a word is understood as the accentual structure of the word or its stress pattern [4, 34].

If we slow down the tempo of utterance and articulate all the sounds distinctly, we shall see that the smallest units, into which the speech continuum is divided, are syllables. Boundaries between syllables are marked by the alteration of increases and decreases in articulatory tension. So, the smallest pronunciation unit is the syllable [5, 15].

The syllable is also the smallest perceptible unit. It means that the listener can recognize the preceding sound only after he has analyzed the whole syllable [2, 162].

The syllable can be considered as both phonetic and phonological unit. As a phonetic unit it is defined in articulatory, auditory and acoustic terms with universal application for all languages. As a phonological unit it can be defined and described only with reference to the structure of one particular language. It's very name, the term "syllable" denotes particular ways in which phonemes are combined into a language, because in Greek the word syllable means "something taken together" [6, 67].

Each language has its own rules of combining its phonemes into syllables. Some combinations are permissible in the language, others aren't. Lewis Carroll in "Alice in Wonderland" made non-existing words with correct English syllables, mimsy, wabe and toves. But words, e.g. like kpo, fsplecannot be English because such combinations of phonemes do not exist in English. Another example may be the difficulty, which English speaking people face when they try to pronounce the Russian words здравствуйте or Днепрin which the sounds form strange syllables for the English language [3, 34].

It is the specific grouping and distribution of phonemes in different languages that make speakers of different languages interpret one and the same word as monosyllabic or dissyllabic, or as disyllabic or trisyllabic. Most Russian speakers who are not familiar with the idea of English diphthongs are sure that, for example, the word house is disyllabic.

Vowels and consonants fulfill different functions in speech. The function of a vowel is to occupy the central position in certain combinations, whereas consonants serve as the margins of the sound combinations. In other words, vowels are always syllabic, that is, they always form syllables,

while consonants in some languages are incapable of doing it. But in a number of languages, English included, some sonants are also syllabic because they have strong vocalic features.

Accordingly, a syllable is a complicated phenomenon, which can be studied on four levels:

1. acoustic;
2. auditory;
3. articulatory;
4. functional.

We have come up to the conclusion it should have been investigated more deeper.

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### **BENEFITS OF IMPLEMENTING DIGITAL STORYTELLING IN EFL CLASSROOMS**

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*“There is no society that does not highly value fictional storytelling. Ever.”*

*Orson Scott Card*

Stories are considered as an essential tool for the passing and imparting knowledge and values across generations from the first pictures on the wall. It is natural and effective way of communication and exchanging knowledge and experience. Stories were told to model values and behaviors, to explain the purpose of mankind, to celebrate rituals and ceremonies, and for elders to share their knowledge with the community (Koki,1998). The Gere defines storytelling as “the act of using language and gesture in colorful ways to create scenes in a sequence”(Gere, 2002). By word of mouth: A storytelling guide for the classroom. Honolulu, HI: Pacific Resources for Education and Learning). Since storytelling represents a crucial form of delivering knowledge, its integrating into leaning process is inevitable.

In 21<sup>st</sup> century rapid evolving of modern technology and CMC gave stories and storytelling a fresh start and became a digital storytelling movement. The Digital Storytelling Association defines digital storytelling as “the modern expression of the ancient storytelling using digital media-rich stories to tell, to share, and to preserve. Digital stories derive their power through weaving together images, music, narrative and voice, thereby giving deep dimension and vivid color to characters, situations and insights. (Digital Storytelling Association, 2002)

The subject of a digital story may be as diverse as the used multimedia devices. Robin points that The Educational Uses of Digital Storytelling Web site at the University of Houston sorts example digital stories into three major categories: personal narratives, stories that inform or