

PHONETIC CHARACTERISTICS OF DIFFERENT SPEECH STYLES
IN ENGLISH COMMUNICATION

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Annotation: In English, speakers may use different phonetic features such as stress, intonation, rhythm, and sound reduction when they speak in formal or informal environments. Understanding these phonetic changes helps explain how speech styles function in real communication. The aim of this article is to examine the phonetic characteristics of different speech styles in English communication. The study focuses on how pronunciation patterns vary between formal and conversational speech. In order to achieve this goal, the research analyzes linguistic literature related to English phonetics and observes common pronunciation patterns in different speech situations. The results show that speech style significantly influences phonetic realization.

Keywords: phonetics, speech styles, pronunciation, intonation, stress, rhythm, formal speech, conversational speech, English communication

Introduction: Language is one of the most important tools of human communication. People use language not only to exchange information but also to express emotions, attitudes, and social relationships. In spoken communication, pronunciation plays a key role in conveying meaning. The way a person pronounces words often depends on the communicative situation, the level of formality, and the purpose of speech. For this reason, speech is not always produced in the same way. Instead, speakers adjust their pronunciation according to different speech styles.

Speech style refers to the variation in language use depending on context and social interaction. In English communication, different speech styles can be observed in formal presentations, academic discussions, everyday conversations, and casual interactions. Each of these styles has its own phonetic characteristics. For example, formal speech is usually slower, clearer, and more carefully articulated, while conversational speech often includes sound reductions, contractions, and connected

speech processes. These features help speakers communicate more naturally in everyday interaction. The study concludes that phonetic variation is a natural and necessary part of spoken English. Knowledge of these phonetic characteristics can help learners better understand authentic speech and improve their pronunciation skills in different communication contexts.

Phonetic features such as stress, rhythm, and intonation also change depending on the speech style. These elements influence how speech sounds and how it is understood by listeners. In many cases, the same words may be pronounced differently in formal and informal communication. Therefore, the study of phonetic variation across speech styles is important for understanding the natural patterns of spoken English. Many researchers in the field of phonetics and linguistics have examined how pronunciation changes in different communicative situations. Their studies show that speech style is closely connected with phonetic processes such as assimilation, elision, and reduction. These processes help speakers produce speech more quickly and efficiently in everyday communication. The purpose of this article is to analyze the phonetic characteristics of different speech styles in English communication.

Literature review

According to A. Abduazizov, phonetics studies the sound system of language and explains how speech sounds function in communication. The author notes that pronunciation is closely connected with the communicative purpose of the speaker. Speech sounds can change depending on the situation in which communication takes place. Abduazizov explains that elements such as stress, rhythm, and intonation help organize speech and make meaning clearer. These phonetic features allow speakers to express attitudes and emotions in communication. The researcher also points out that speech style affects the clarity and structure of pronunciation. Therefore, phonetic variation can be observed in different types of spoken communication [1, 15-17].

According to P. Carr, phonological structure helps explain how sounds are organized in spoken language. The researcher states that speech styles are influenced by both linguistic and social factors. In formal contexts, speakers try to follow standard pronunciation norms. In contrast, informal speech often includes phonetic simplifications and a faster tempo. Carr also notes that vowel reduction and contractions are typical features of everyday conversation. These phonetic changes help speakers communicate more efficiently. As a result, phonetic variation becomes an important characteristic of English speech styles [2, 112-114].

Methodology

According to D. Crystal, phonetic research should include careful observation of pronunciation patterns in real communication. The author explains that phonetic analysis helps identify how speech sounds function in different contexts. Crystal suggests examining elements such as stress, rhythm, and intonation. These phonetic

features provide important information about the organization of spoken language. The researcher also notes that pronunciation often changes depending on the communicative situation. Therefore, the study of speech styles requires both theoretical and descriptive analysis of spoken data [3, 78–80].

According to P. Ladefoged, phonetic analysis focuses on how speech sounds are produced and how they interact with each other in connected speech. The author explains that speech production involves complex articulatory movements. In natural communication, these movements often lead to sound modifications. Ladefoged also emphasizes that speech rate and communicative purpose influence pronunciation patterns. In formal speech articulation is usually clearer and more controlled. In contrast, conversational speech includes reductions and faster rhythm. These phonetic differences help researchers identify the characteristics of different speech styles [8, 64–66].

Analysis and results

The analysis of phonetic features in different speech styles shows that pronunciation varies significantly depending on the communicative context, the speaker's intention, and the level of formality. In formal speech situations, speakers usually pay more attention to the accuracy of pronunciation. Words are articulated more clearly, and individual sounds are produced carefully. Speakers also tend to maintain standard pronunciation norms, especially in academic presentations, lectures, interviews, and professional communication. In such contexts, pauses are more organized, and speech rhythm is relatively slower and more controlled. Clear pronunciation helps listeners understand the message more easily and reduces the possibility of misunderstanding.

In contrast, informal speech demonstrates a number of phonetic simplifications. During everyday conversations, speakers often speak faster and with less careful articulation. As a result, certain sounds may be reduced, omitted, or merged with neighboring sounds. For example, vowel reduction frequently occurs in unstressed syllables, where vowels become shorter and less distinct. Contractions such as *I'm*, *don't*, and *can't* also appear more frequently in casual speech. These phonetic changes allow speakers to communicate more quickly and naturally in spontaneous conversation. According to P. Roach, such connected speech processes as assimilation, elision, and linking are typical characteristics of natural spoken English and appear frequently in everyday communication [9, 56-58].

Assimilation is one of the most common phonetic processes observed in informal speech. It occurs when a sound becomes more similar to a neighboring sound for easier pronunciation. For example, in rapid speech the phrase "*good boy*" may sound like "*gub boy*" because the /d/ sound changes under the influence of the following /b/. Another common phenomenon is elision, which refers to the omission of certain

sounds in connected speech. For instance, in the phrase “*next day*” the /t/ sound is often omitted, producing something closer to “*nex day*”. Linking is another important feature of natural speech, where speakers connect words smoothly without pauses, especially when one word ends in a consonant and the next begins with a vowel. Another important phonetic difference between formal and informal speech is related to intonation and rhythm. Formal speech often follows more structured and predictable intonation patterns. Speakers may intentionally control their pitch and tone to emphasize important information and maintain clarity. For example, in academic presentations or public speeches, speakers typically use clear rising and falling tones to organize their ideas and guide the listener’s attention. Informal speech, however, tends to be more flexible and expressive. Speakers frequently change their pitch to express emotions, attitudes, surprise, or emphasis. This makes everyday conversation more dynamic and interactive.

From my perspective, these phonetic differences are a natural result of how language functions in real communication. People adapt their pronunciation according to the situation, the audience, and the purpose of communication. When clarity and precision are required, such as in academic or professional contexts, speakers tend to pronounce words more carefully. However, when the goal is quick and natural interaction, as in everyday conversation, speech becomes more relaxed, and phonetic reductions appear more frequently.

Discussion

The analysis shows that phonetic features vary depending on the communicative situation and the level of formality. In formal speech, pronunciation is usually clearer and more carefully articulated. Speakers tend to follow standard pronunciation norms in order to ensure clarity and accuracy of communication. In informal communication, however, speech becomes faster and more relaxed. As a result, phonetic processes such as vowel reduction, contractions, and sound linking appear more frequently. In my opinion, these phonetic differences demonstrate how speakers naturally adapt their pronunciation to different social situations and communication purposes.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the study shows that phonetic variation plays an important role in distinguishing formal and informal speech styles. Formal speech is characterized by clearer articulation and more controlled pronunciation, while informal speech often includes reductions and a faster tempo. Intonation, rhythm, and other phonetic features also contribute to these differences. These variations allow speakers to adjust their speech according to the communicative context. Therefore, understanding phonetic differences is important for analyzing spoken language and improving pronunciation skills in English communication.

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