

Degree 3, (English Honours)

Paper – Eight

Section - 2

Subject- **Linguistics**

## **Phonetics and Its Branches**

### **Branches of Phonetics**

The study of phonetics can be divided into three main branches: **Acoustic**, **Auditory** and **Articulatory**.

#### **Acoustic Phonetics**

Acoustic phonetics is the study of the physical properties of speech sounds such as frequency and amplitude in their transmission. Acoustics phoneticians analyse the speech waves with the help of instruments; they attempt to describe the physical properties of the stream of sound that issues forth from the mouth of the speaker.

It is in the field of acoustic phonetics that the most striking developments have taken place since The Second World War complex sound waves produced speech can be analysed into their component, frequencies and related amplitudes acoustic phonetics has achieved a good deal of success in

the matter of the study of the sounds of the vowels, but regarding consonants it has not reached final conclusion.

### **Auditory Phonetics**

Auditory phonetics is the study of hearing and the perception of speech sounds. It studies different auditory impressions of quality, pitch and loudness of sounds. The auditory classification of speech sounds has not yet been carried to a decisive phase. At the present time, phonetics can be regarded as being made up of two main branches: articulatory and acoustic phonetics.

The results of acoustic and auditory phonetics need very minute observations and great scientific and technical expertise, and are often puzzling. These branches use instruments which cannot be used easily outside a laboratory, and cannot be transported successfully from one place to another. Hence the easiest approach to observation about speech is the traditional and most common approach of articulatory phonetics, and we shall be dealing with it in great details.

### **Articulatory Phonetics**

Articulatory Phonetics recognises that speech is produced by some kind of sound making apparatus inside the human body, and that specific sounds may be related to specific movement of the apparatus. Hence, it is the study

of the movement of the speech organs in the articulation of speech. Speech is produced by movements of the organs of speech, lungs, larynx, soft palate, tongue, teeth and lips. The knowledge of the organs of the speech, their relation to each other, and the way in which they are used while speaking, provides a sound basis for the classification of sounds of human languages.

**By, Arshad Khan**

**Dept. of English**

**J N College Madhubani**