

Degree 3, (English Honours)

Paper – Eight

Section - 3

Subject- **Linguistics**

Phonology- Phone, phoneme, allophones, Morpho-phonetics

Phonology

According to Bloomfield, **phonology** is the organisation of sounds into patterns. In order to fulfil communicative functions, language organise their material, the vocal noises into recurrent bits and pieces arranged in sound patterns. It is the study of this formal organisation of languages which is known as phonology.

Phone

Any objective speech sound, considered as physical event, and without regard as to how it fits into the structure of any given language, is a phone. Hence a phone in phonology is the smallest possible segment of sound abstracted from the continuum of speech.

Allophones

Some sounds the negative speaker thinks are the same, while others are different. The linguist has to figure out what sounds are grouped together as

the same, what is that they all have in common among themselves and how dissimilar are they to other group of sounds in the informant's speech and what criteria the native speaker uses to tell sounds apart. We said earlier that by substituting other segments, the linguist can arrive at a list of these significant, contrastive classes of sounds called phonemes. But we do not always find minimal pairs to help us to figure out the list of phonemes. There must be other criteria too, which we will have to incorporate into the definition of a phoneme. The **k**- sound in **keel**, **calm** and **cool** differs. In **keel** it is at the front in the mouth, in **calm** it is little in the centre and in **cool** further back in the mouth. The absence of the above-mentioned features does not distort the message for the native speaker. He does not differentiate these sounds in every day speech in the sense that he is not aware of the physical differences. He thinks these sounds are members of the k-class or are all k. in other words for the phoneme / **k** / **central-k**, **fronted-k** are all allophones.

Hence an **allophone** is a speech sound which is one of a number of variants of a phoneme.

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