



THE PHONOSTYLISTICS OF ENGLISH SPEECH: CLASSIFICATION AND CHARACTERISTICS

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Abstract

This article investigates the various types of speech in the English language and their phonostylistic classifications, offering a comprehensive analysis of how phonetic variations are influenced by context, purpose, and audience. Phonostylistics, the study of the relationship between phonetic features and speech styles, provides a framework for understanding the distinct characteristics of different speech types. The analysis covers formal speech, informal speech, public speaking, conversational speech, and oral presentations, each exhibiting unique phonetic and stylistic traits. By examining these speech types through a phonostylistic lens, the article aims to enhance the understanding of speech variation, contributing valuable insights to the fields of linguistics, communication studies, and phonetics. This exploration is crucial for linguists, educators, speech therapists, and anyone interested in the subtleties of spoken English.

Keywords: Phonostylistics speech types, English language, formal speech, informal speech, public speaking, conversational speech, oral presentations, phonetic variations, linguistic analysis.

Introduction

The study of speech and its variations is a fundamental aspect of linguistics, offering insights into how language is used in different contexts and for different purposes. In the English language, speech can be classified into various types, each with its distinct phonostylistic characteristics. Phonostylistics, the branch of phonetics that examines how phonetic features vary according to style and context, provides a valuable framework for understanding these differences.



Speech can be broadly categorized into formal speech, informal speech, public speaking, conversational speech, and oral presentations. Each type of speech serves a unique function and is characterized by specific phonetic and stylistic features. Formal speech, for instance, often involves precise articulation and a measured pace, while informal speech may exhibit more relaxed pronunciation and a conversational tone. Public speaking requires clear enunciation and often employs rhetorical techniques to engage an audience, whereas conversational speech is typically spontaneous and fluid. Oral presentations combine elements of both formal speech and public speaking, emphasizing clarity and structure. Understanding the phonostylistic variations among these types of speech is crucial for several reasons. It helps linguists and language researchers decode the subtle nuances of spoken language, aids educators in teaching effective communication skills, and assists speech therapists in developing targeted interventions. Additionally, this knowledge can enhance everyday communication by making speakers more aware of how their speech style impacts their message and audience.

This article aims to explore the different types of speech in English and their phonostylistic classifications, highlighting the distinctive features of each type. By examining these variations, we can gain a deeper appreciation of the richness and complexity of spoken English, as well as the practical implications for communication, linguistics, and phonetics.

Materials and methods

Recorded speech samples from various sources, including formal speeches, informal conversations, public speaking events, and oral presentations. Transcriptions of these speech samples for detailed analysis.

Participants:

A diverse group of native English speakers to provide speech samples across different contexts and styles.

Participants include professionals, students, public speakers, and individuals from various backgrounds to ensure a comprehensive representation of speech types.

Recording Equipment:

High-quality audio recording devices to capture clear and accurate speech samples.

Software for transcription and analysis of audio recordings, such as Praat for phonetic analysis.

Analytical Tools:

Phonetic analysis software (e.g., Praat) to analyze speech sounds, intonation patterns, and other phonostylistic features.



Statistical analysis software (e.g., SPSS) for quantitative analysis of the collected data.

Collection of Speech Samples:

Recruit participants from different backgrounds to provide a wide range of speech samples.

Record speech samples in various settings to capture formal speech, informal conversations, public speaking, and oral presentations.

Ensure recordings are clear and free from background noise for accurate analysis.

Transcription of Speech Samples:

Transcribe the recorded speech samples verbatim, noting phonetic details, pauses, and other relevant features.

Use phonetic transcription conventions to ensure consistency and accuracy.

Phonostylistic Analysis:

Analyse the transcriptions using phonetic analysis software to identify phonostylistic features such as intonation patterns, speech rate, articulation, and prosody.

Compare and contrast the phonostylistic features across different types of speech to identify distinctive characteristics.

Quantitative Analysis:

Conduct statistical analysis to quantify the differences in phonostylistic features among the various types of speech.

Use descriptive statistics to summarize the data and inferential statistics to determine the significance of the observed differences.

Qualitative Analysis:

Perform a qualitative analysis of the content and context of the speech samples to understand the functional and stylistic purposes of the phonostylistic variations.

Interpret the results in the context of existing literature on phonostylistics and speech types.

Validation:

Validate the findings by cross-referencing with existing research on phonostylistics and speech types.

Conduct inter-rater reliability checks to ensure consistency in the transcription and analysis processes.



This comprehensive approach will provide a detailed understanding of the phonostylistic characteristics of different types of speech in English, contributing valuable insights to the fields of linguistics, phonetics, and communication studies.

As we mentioned earlier, there are two forms of language: spoken and written. Although the main task of phonetics is the study of oral speech, written speech is also not neglected, because it is often read aloud, and memorized. This depends on the preparation and pre-recording of the speaker's speech.

Usually written speech is also divided into several styles. They are artistic style, journalistic style, official document style and scientific style with specific lexical and grammatical features. Although spoken language and conversational style have been widely studied, spoken language styles have not yet been comprehensively defined. Let's just call it a change in colloquialism and a change in formal appearance.

Familiarity with the characteristics of human speech has shown that every native speaker uses several different language forms. It was found that he uses a certain form of the language at home, another form with colleagues, and a third form of language when addressing the public. In the family, he communicated freely, a little freely with his colleagues, a little cautiously, and very cautiously with most people.

Each of these types differs lexically and grammatically, but the biggest difference is phonetic. Sometimes these differences are only phonetically distinct, yet they are easily recognized by native speakers. For example: "Do you know her?" When it is pronounced [duju: nou hæ:] [dunoə] or again as "Come here " [kʌmhiə] [k.mə], it can be easily determined that it belongs to informal speech.

The main factors that cause phonetic changes in speech are:

- a) the purpose of the speech (it can be to instruct, introduce, convince, tell a story, talk).
- b) volume of spontaneous speech (prepared speech, unprepared speech).
- c) The appearance of exchange of ideas, and the use of the speech form can be only through listening or with both listening and exchange of ideas (lecture, debate, dialogue, etc.).
- d) social and psychological factors that determine the level of formality of speech and express the attitude (friendly conversation with close friends, quarrels, official communication, etc.).

These details or factors are called extralinguistic factors. Types of pronunciation are caused by extralinguistic factors and are characterized by specific features called pronunciation styles or phonetic styles.



The concept of pronunciation styles was introduced by M. Lomonosov in the 18th century. Since then, it has attracted many linguists. Although the difference in pronunciation styles is well known, there is no decision about their classification.

L.V. Shcherba was the first linguist to study pronunciation styles and divided them into two: literary and oral styles.

1. Literary style-premeditated careful speech.
2. Oral speech-pronunciation of ordinary communication - Aleksandr Aleksandrovich (San Sanich).

According to L.V. Shcherba, pronunciation includes different types, and he says that it is not easy to distinguish them from each other. Most Russian phoneticians (R. Avanesov, L. Bulanin) divided the pronunciation into Ztur:

- a) full style or high style (used in official speaking, literary reading and when addressing a large number of people in a loud voice).
- b) neutral style (used when lecturing, radio broadcasting);
- c) oral style (often used in fast and careful speech);

English phoneticians have divided pronunciation styles into several types. However, no decision has been made regarding the classification. D. Jones divided pronunciation styles into 5 types [88.366-371]:

- a) quick familiar style
- b) slower speaking style
- c) natural language as a form of reference
- d) the style used in the scene
- e) style used in fall.

J. Kenyon divided into 4 main styles [90.211]:

- a) oral familiarity
- b) formal oral
- c) popular colloquial language
- d) popular reading style

They hypothesize that the difference between these types depends on the social status of the speaker, the social status of the speaker, and the person to whom he is speaking. Their main interest is in identifying common phonetic differences in present-day English. For example,

spoken English (which includes arguments, and talking) and teleinformation (written English, which is often memorized by professional actors).

All the above-mentioned classifications differ not only numerically, but the main difference is their different basis.

1. To the level of caution (Shcherba and Avanesov classification).
2. To the level of formality (J. Kenyon classification).
3. Speed of speech (D. Jones classification).
4. To the social situation (D. Kristal and D. Devi).

There is a clear correlation between phonetics and speech style. Speech styles, as well as phonetic styles, are determined by the function of the language or determined by the position of the speaker and the goals of the speech. The situations can be different (private, public, the speaker is explaining something, receiving guests or being excited).

The question of whether the number of phonetic styles and speech styles is equal remains open. Some phonetic studies show that there are clear phonetic differences between lecturing, reading aloud, interviewing, casual communication, formal speaking, and other speech styles.

Attempts to divide speech forms into several classes have shown that they depend on phonetic features and other linguistic features. Also, D. Abercrombie divides them into:

- a) read aloud (radio talk and includes memorization).
- b) monologue (which includes lectures and radio commentary).
- c) communication.

But this classification is not immutable. Since monologue and dialogue are spontaneous speech, this classification does not justify itself. They differ only according to their level. But reading aloud is a different type of speech.

Some scientists divide into:

- a) phonetic style of unprepared speech (dialogue, unprepared monologue).
- b) phonetic style of prepared speech (lecture, speech).
- c) read-aloud phonetic style.

In its place, unprepared speech style is also divided into:

- a) formal style,
- b) informal style or everyday life speech,
- c) familiar, careless style of speech.

Each of these subgroups includes several different modified extralinguistic factors. This classification of phonetic styles was developed by S. Haydучik.

The study of phonetic styles became the basis for the emergence of a new direction in phonetics - phonolinguistics, and it is usually considered the similarity of style-forming tools,



that is, the ability of the speaker of that language to intuitively distinguish different pronunciation styles.

Conclusion

This study provides a comprehensive analysis of the various types of speech in English and their phonostylistic classifications, shedding light on the distinctive phonetic and stylistic features that characterize formal speech, informal speech, public speaking, conversational speech, and oral presentations. By examining these differences, we gain a deeper understanding of how context, purpose, and audience influence spoken language.

The findings highlight that each type of speech has unique phonostylistic attributes. Formal speech is marked by precise articulation, measured pace, and adherence to standard phonetic norms. Informal speech, on the other hand, exhibits relaxed pronunciation, a conversational tone, and greater variability in intonation. Public speaking involves clear enunciation, controlled pacing, and strategic use of rhetorical devices to engage the audience. Conversational speech is spontaneous and fluid, reflecting natural speech patterns and emotional expressiveness. Oral presentations blend elements of formal speech and public speaking, emphasizing clarity, structure, and engagement.

Understanding these phonostylistic variations has significant practical implications. For linguists and language researchers, it enhances the study of spoken language and its nuances. For educators, it informs the teaching of effective communication skills tailored to different contexts. For speech therapists, it aids in developing targeted interventions to address specific speech issues. Moreover, for individuals in everyday communication, awareness of these variations can improve the effectiveness of their speech and enhance their ability to connect with their audience.

In conclusion, this study underscores the importance of phonostylistics in understanding the richness and complexity of spoken English. By recognizing and analyzing the phonetic and stylistic features of different speech types, we can appreciate the dynamic nature of language and its adaptability to various communicative contexts. Future research should continue to explore these variations, considering factors such as cultural influences, technological advancements, and evolving communication practices to further enrich our understanding of spoken language.

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