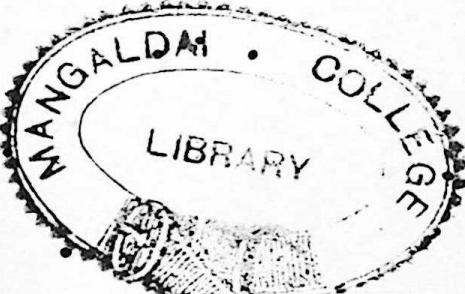


AN INTRODUCTION TO  
THE  
PRONUNCIATION OF ENGLISH

by

A. C. GIMSON

*Reader in Phonetics,  
University College, London*



G18A

MANGALDAI COLLEGE CENTRAL LIBRARY



LONDON

EDWARD ARNOLD (PUBLISHERS) LTD.

© A. C. Gimson, 1962

*First published 1962*

*Reprinted 1964*

*Reprinted (with minor amendments) 1965*

*Reprinted 1966*

Printed in England by  
Stephen Austin and Sons, Ltd., Caxton Hill, Hertford.

## LIST OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
FOREWORD . . . . .	v
LIST OF PHONETIC SYMBOLS AND SIGNS . . . . .	vii
<i>PART I—SPEECH AND LANGUAGE</i>	
<b>CHAPTER 1 COMMUNICATION . . . . .</b>	<b>1</b>
Speech . . . . .	1
Writing . . . . .	2
Language . . . . .	2
Redundancy . . . . .	3
Phonetics and Linguistics , . . . . .	4
<b>CHAPTER 2 THE PRODUCTION OF SPEECH . . . . .</b>	<b>6</b>
The Speech Chain . . . . .	6
The Speech Mechanism . . . . .	7
Sources of Energy—the Lungs . . . . .	7
The Larynx and Vocal Cords . . . . .	8
The Resonating Cavities , . . . . .	11
The Mouth . . . . .	12
The Lips . . . . .	13
The Tongue . . . . .	14
Articulatory Description . . . . .	16
<b>CHAPTER 3 THE SOUNDS OF SPEECH . . . . .</b>	<b>18</b>
Quality, Pitch, Loudness, Length . . . . .	18
The Speech Wave . . . . .	19
The Acoustic Spectrum—Vowels, Consonants . . . . .	20
Pitch—The Fundamental Frequency . . . . .	22
Loudness—Intensity . . . . .	23
Duration-Length . . . . .	24
Hearing . . . . .	25
<b>CHAPTER 4 THE DESCRIPTION AND CLASSIFICATION OF SPEECH SOUNDS . . . . .</b>	<b>27</b>
Phonetic Description . . . . .	27
Vowel and Consonant . . . . .	27
The Consonantal Type . . . . .	29
Egressive Pulmonic Sounds . . . . .	29
Place of Articulation . . . . .	29
Manner of Articulation . . . . .	30
Semi-vowels and Frictionless Continuants . . . . .	31

	PAGE
Fortis-Lenis . . . . .	32
Classification of Consonants . . . . .	32
Egressive Glottalized Consonants . . . . .	32
Ingressive Articulations . . . . .	34
The Vowel Type . . . . .	35
Difficulties of Description . . . . .	35
The Cardinal Vowel Scale . . . . .	36
Nasality . . . . .	39
Pure and Gliding Vowels . . . . .	39
Classification of Vowels . . . . .	40
<b>CHAPTER 5 SOUNDS IN LANGUAGE</b> . . . . .	<b>42</b>
Speech Sounds and Linguistic Units . . . . .	42
The Linguistic Hierarchy . . . . .	43
The Phoneme . . . . .	44
Diversity of Phonemic Solutions . . . . .	45
Relevant Features of Phonemes . . . . .	46
Allophonic Variants . . . . .	46
Neutralization of Phonemes . . . . .	48
Conditions of Phonemic Analysis . . . . .	49
The Word as a Basis for Phonemic Analysis . . . . .	50
The Syllable . . . . .	50
The Phonetic Approach . . . . .	51
The Linguistic Approach . . . . .	52
Vowel and Consonant . . . . .	52
Notation . . . . .	54
Prosodic Features . . . . .	55
 <b>PART II—THE SOUNDS OF ENGLISH</b>	
<b>CHAPTER 6 THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND</b> . . . . .	<b>57</b>
Phonetic Studies in England . . . . .	57
Palsgrave, Salesbury . . . . .	57
Spelling Reformers—Smith, Hart, Gil . . . . .	58
Phoneticians—Wallis, Wilkins, Cooper . . . . .	59
Eighteenth Century—Johnson, Sheridan, Walker, Steele . . . . .	62
Nineteenth Century—Pitman, Ellis, Bell, Sweet . . . . .	63
Sound Change . . . . .	65
Types of Change . . . . .	66
Rate and Route of Change . . . . .	68
Sound Change and the Linguistic System . . . . .	69
Evidence for Reconstruction . . . . .	71
OE Sound System . . . . .	77

## LIST OF CONTENTS

xiii

	PAGE
ME Sound System . . . . .	78
eModE Sound System . . . . .	79
PresE Sound System . . . . .	79
Modifications in the English Sound System . . . . .	80
Standards of Pronunciation . . . . .	81
• Emergence of a Standard . . . . .	81
Present-day Situation . . . . .	83
<b>CHAPTER 7 THE ENGLISH VOWELS . . . . .</b>	<b>86</b>
The Distinctive Vowels . . . . .	86
Vowel Glides . . . . .	88
Vowel Length . . . . .	90
Phonemic Interpretation of the Vowels . . . . .	91
Description of Vowels . . . . .	93
Acoustic Features . . . . .	94
Pure Vowels . . . . .	94
/i:/ . . . . .	94
/I/ . . . . .	96
/e/ . . . . .	99
/æ/ . . . . .	100
/ʌ/ . . . . .	102
/a:/ . . . . .	104
/ɒ/ . . . . .	107
/ɔ:/ . . . . .	109
/u/ . . . . .	111
/u:/ . . . . .	113
/ɜ:/ . . . . .	116
/ə/ . . . . .	118
Diphthongal Glides . . . . .	121
/eɪ/ . . . . .	122
/ai/ . . . . .	124
/ɔɪ/ . . . . .	126
/əʊ/ . . . . .	128
/au/ . . . . .	130
Diphthongs + [ə] . . . . .	132
Centring Diphthongs . . . . .	136
/ɪə/ . . . . .	136
/ɛə/ . . . . .	138
/uə/ . . . . .	139
Weakly Accented Vowels . . . . .	140
Frequency of Occurrence of RP Vowels . . . . .	143
<b>CHAPTER 8 THE ENGLISH CONSONANTS . . . . .</b>	<b>144</b>
The Distinctive Consonants . . . . .	144
Class A—Consonants Involving Closure or Stricture . . . . .	145

	PAGE
Plosives . . . . .	145
• Phonetic and Phonemic Features . . . . .	146
Acoustic Features . . . . .	149
The Release Stage . . . . .	150
/p, b/ . . . . .	154
/t, d/ . . . . .	156
/k, g/ . . . . .	159
[?] . . . . .	162
Affricates . . . . .	166
Phonemic Status . . . . .	166
Acoustic Features . . . . .	168
/tʃ, dʒ/ . . . . .	169
• /tr, dr/ . . . . .	171
Fricatives . . . . .	173
Phonetic and Phonemic Features . . . . .	173
Acoustic Features . . . . .	175
/f, v/ . . . . .	175
/θ, ð/ . . . . .	178
/s, z/ . . . . .	180
/ʃ, ʒ/ . . . . .	183
/h/ . . . . .	185
Class B—Non-fricative or Glides . . . . .	188
Nasals . . . . .	188
/m/ . . . . .	189
/n/ . . . . .	191
/ŋ/ . . . . .	192
Laterals—/l/ . . . . .	195
Post-alveolar Frictionless Continuant—/r/ . . . . .	200
• Semi-vowels . . . . .	207
/j/ . . . . .	208
/w/ . . . . .	210
Frequency of Occurrence of RP Consonants . . . . .	213

***PART III—THE WORD AND CONNECTED SPEECH***

CHAPTER 9 THE WORD . . . . .	216
Accent . . . . .	216
Prominence . . . . .	217
Word Accentual Patterns . . . . .	222
Word Pattern Instability . . . . .	226
Distinctive Word Accentual Patterns . . . . .	227
Elision . . . . .	230
Advice to Foreign Learners . . . . .	232

• LIST OF CONTENTS •

xv

	PAGE
CHAPTER 10 CONNECTED SPEECH . . . . .	234
Accent . . . . .	234
Manifestation of Accent . . . . .	236
Stress and Rhythm . . . . .	237
Quantity and Quality . . . . .	239
Intonation . . . . .	243
Accentual Function . . . . .	244
Realization of Primary Accent . . . . .	244
Types of Nucleus . . . . .	245
Realization of Secondary Accent . . . . .	248
Realization of Unaccented Syllables . . . . .	251
Attitudinal Function . . . . .	253
Falling Nuclei . . . . .	254
Rising Nuclei . . . . .	256
Falling-Rising Nuclei . . . . .	258
Multi-nuclear patterns . . . . .	259
Other Signals of Attitude . . . . .	260
Advice to Foreign Learners . . . . .	261
CHAPTER 11 THE WORD IN CONNECTED SPEECH . . . . .	263
Neutralization of Weak Forms . . . . .	263
Variation of Word Accentual Patterns . . . . .	265
Phonetic Variations at Word or Morphemic Boundaries . . . . .	266
Allophonic Variations . . . . .	266
Phonemic Variations . . . . .	268
Fortis-Lenis Variations . . . . .	269
Variations of Place . . . . .	270
Nasality and Labialization . . . . .	272
Elision . . . . .	273
Liaison . . . . .	275
Juncture . . . . .	275
Advice to Foreign Learners . . . . .	277
Styles of Connected Speech . . . . .	278
BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . .	279
THE INTERNATIONAL PHONETIC ALPHABET . . . . .	284-5
SUBJECT INDEX . . . . .	287