Biljana Čubrović, *Profiling English Phonetics*. Beograd: Philologia, 2014, pp. 89.

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The third revised edition of the book *Profiling English Phonetics* is preceded by the first edition published in 2009, and the second edition in 2011. It was written to meet the demands of a new course, which deals with the phonemic inventory of the English language from the aspect of articulatory phonetics. Given that the book is intended primarily for university students, its main aim is to provide a straightforward explanation of the most important topics which are the subject of study of this discipline. The title of the book also suggests what a reader may expect, and that is a thorough and systematic overview of the most important issues of English phonetics.

The book consists of eleven chapters, starting with the introduction of basic linguistic notions to more advanced and complex issues such as connected speech in the final chapter. There is also a list of references, the appendix containing the International Phonetic Alphabet, and a blank page, left for students who may wish to make their own notes as they progress through the book. At the beginning of each chapter, there is a list of topics which will be discussed, and which at the same time may be used as guidelines as to what the students ought to know after they have finished studying it.

The first chapter places the study of phonetics, and especially articulatory phonetics, within the language science. It elaborates on the main differences between speech and writing and differentiates between the study of acoustic, auditory and articulatory phonetics. It also provides a brief explanation of the key terms such as Received Pronunciation (RP), Standard

Southern British [SSB] and General American (GA). It proceeds with the analysis of a minimal pair and a minimal set, which is used to illustrate phonemes as contrastive units.

The second chapter deals with speech organs and the production of speech sounds. The author describes a step-by-step production of speech, for the purpose of which the organs of speech are divided into: *the respiratory system*, *the phonatory system*, and *the articulatory system*. This section is followed by the division of articulators, i.e. speech organs into movable and stationary.

The third chapter, entitled *How we describe sounds*, introduces voice, place of articulation and manner of articulation (VPM) labels, which are used to describe English consonant sounds and distinguish them from one another.

The fourth chapter analyzes the difference between a phoneme and an allophone, and introduces the topics such as allophonic variation and complementary distribution. The first section emphasizes the importance of the International Phonetic Alphabet

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(IPA) as a uniform manner of the representation of sounds in written form. The following sections describe the difference between phonemic description and phonetic description, and provide a comprehensive list of consonants and vowels with the appropriate examples and IPA symbols.

The fifth chapter studies the properties of the English plosives. At the beginning of the chapter, the author discusses some of the terms used to describe and classify consonants according to the degree of obstruction to the airflow such as obstruents, sonorants and stops. The chapter proceeds with the stages of plosive articulation: approach, hold and release stage (no audible release, nasal release, lateral release), and describes aspiration as a distinguishing feature between voiced and voiceless plosive sounds. The following section describes the plosive sounds using a set of features: voice, place and manner of articulation. The significance of VPM labels is that each consonant has a unique set, which differentiates it from another phoneme. For example, *voiceless*, *bilabial*, *plosive* are the features which correspond to the English phoneme /p/. Each phoneme is presented in a table, where VPM labels are presented first, and then the main allophones of a given phoneme.

The topic of the sixth chapter are the English affricates and their additional variants. The chapter starts with the description of affricate articulation, and proceeds with the description of their distinctive features and main allophones. The following section describes the additional variants for the pronunciation of affricates, for example: *statue* /ˈstætjuː/ and /ˈstætʃuː/, *lounge* /laʊndʒ/ and /laʊnʒ/.

The seventh chapter describes the articulation of the English fricatives, and the positions in which voiced fricatives are fully voiced and partially devoiced. In the following section, each fricative is presented in a table in which their distinctive features and main allophones are described. Furthermore, additional variants for some of the phonemes are presented: the circumstances in which word-final /v/ changes to /f/, the pronunciation of /θ/ and /ð/ as interdental, TH-fronting/stopping (e.g. *third* /θɜːd/ → /fɜːd/), three variations in the pronunciation of the grammatical inflections *-(e)s*, *'s* (e.g. *rises* /ˈraɪzɪz/, *plays* /pleɪz/, *coughs* /kɒfs/), etc.

The eighth chapter describes the articulation and distribution of the English nasals, as well as their important allophonic features such as devoicing (/m/ is devoiced in *smart [sm̥ɑːt]*), and place of articulation variation (/m/ may be realized as a labiodental in *comfort* [ˈkʌɱfət]).

The ninth chapter discusses the English approximants, starting with the production of approximants and their distributional characteristics. The first section analyzes the English lateral approximant /l/, and distinguishes between different phonetic environments in which *clear l* and *dark l* are produced. The section proceeds with the table summarizing VPM labels, and the main allophones determined by the position of the tongue, voicing and place of articulation, illustrated by the appropriate examples: e.g. palatalized, *leap* [liːp], velarized, *belt* [beɫt], etc. The following section analyzes the articulation, distribution and the main allophones of the English post-alveolar approximant /r/. The third section deals with the English palatal and labial-velar approximants (semi-vowels). Main allophones such as vocalic and consonantal allophone are presented in the tables, including the note on variation in the manner of articulation.

The tenth chapter discusses the vowels of English and the main topics include Cardinal Vowel System, vowel limit, vowel space and RP vowels. Since it is rather difficult to describe the articulation of vowels in terms of place of articulation, the concept of vowel space is used. It is presented in the form of a vowel diagram, with the horizontal lines indicating four different degrees of opening (close, close-mid, open-mid, open), and the vertical lines showing the part of the tongue (front, central, back) used in the articulation. The chapter proceeds with the list of key points essential for the description of vowel sounds. The first section presents the summary of English monophthongs: e.g. /e/ *the short open-mid front monophthong*. The following section describes the English diphthongs. The author emphasizes that English diphthongs are not mere combinations of monophthongs and gives their positions in the vowel diagram. The English diphthongs are divided into fronting, backing and centring diphthongs. There is a list summarizing the positions in which the tongue starts and moves towards for the articulation of each diphthong: e.g. fronting diphthong /aɪ/ *the open central to close-mid front diphthong*. The chapter further discusses vowel qualities of triphthongs as well as the variations in the pronunciation of these sequences: e.g. *shower* is pronounced like /ˈʃɑː/. The chapter ends in the description of the distribution of the vowels referred to as the 'happY vowel' and the 'thank yOU vowel', the use of which is recognized and well-established in English speech.

The eleventh chapter provides an analysis of the features of connected speech. The difference between allophonic variations and phonemic variation has been described, and this part largely relies on the description of English segments discussed in the previous chapters. The following sections describe the process of assimilation and elaborate on three principal kinds of assimilation in connected speech: *place assimilation* (*bad guy* /ˈbæd ˈɡaɪ/ → /ˈbæɡ ˈɡaɪ/), *voice assimilation* (*of course* /əv ˈkɔːs/ → /əf ˈkɔːs/) and *manner assimilation* (*wonderful* /ˈwʌndəfl/ → /ˈwʌnnəfl/). The second section of this chapter describes the assimilation process of coalescence: e.g. *would you* /ˈwʊd ju/ → /ˈwʊdʒu/. The third section discusses the use of *linking r* (*far away* /ˈfɑːr əˈweɪ/) and *intrusive r* (*we saw a film* /wi ˈsɔː ə ˈfɪlm/ → /wi ˈsɔːr ə ˈfɪlm/). The following section deals with elision, the process of omission of one or more sounds: e.g. *honourable* /ˈɒnərəbl/, *geometry* /dʒiˈɒmətri/ → /ˈdʒɒmətri/, etc. The final section describes strong and weak forms, aiming at helping non-native speakers of English master the rules of use of these forms, and thus improving their fluency. This section is followed by a list of words which have both strong and weak forms as well as a few rules regarding their use. For example, *just*: strong form /dʒʌst/, weak form /dʒəst/; *were*: strong form /wɜː/, weak form /wə/, etc.

To conclude, this book presents a valuable textbook of English phonetics, equally for those involved in studying and teaching it. It will be invaluable to students who are just beginning to study English phonetics, as the book provides clear and practical explanations of how English works at the phonetic level.