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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

This normative (practical) course in English phonetics is meant chiefly for students of foreign language departments of teachers training colleges.

The theoretical and practical subject-matter of the course helps the student both to learn and teach English pronunciation.

The course is divided into three parts: (1) *Essentials of English Phonetics*, (2) *Phonetic Exercises* and (3) *Phonetic Reader*. It also has a vocabulary of phonetic terms together with their Russian equivalents.

Since the publication of the first edition (1962), English pronunciation, naturally, has undergone changes, fresh phonetic facts have become known, and the theory of phonetics has advanced. This is why the authors of the course have revised the subject-matter, taking into account the progress made in this field by Soviet, British and American phoneticians.

The present edition is based on the whole on the same subject-matter as that of the first edition, which, the authors believe, has withstood the test of time.

However, the authors would like to stress that the general theoretical principles they adhere to stem from the research work carried out by Soviet phoneticians, and that their theoretical approach to some phenomena differs from that of British and American linguists.

Thus, the latter do not consider that the very essence of the phoneme is its ability to distinguish one meaningful unit of language (e.g. a morpheme, a word) from another. By contrast, all Soviet linguists regard this semantically-distinctive function of the phoneme as its *primary* function, and the treatment of the English speech-sounds in the present text-book is based on this concept of the phoneme.

The classification of the English vowels and consonants in this text-book is more detailed, and therefore more exact than in the works by British and American phoneticians. For example, the latter single out only seven classes of vowels in English, whereas we distinguish eleven. British and American phoneticians classify most consonants according to the *passive* organs of speech, but some of them, illogically, according to the *active* ones (they consider, unjustifiably, passive speech organs to be more important than active ones). In our text-book, consonants are classified according to both the active and passive speech organs, while the former are regarded as more important.

But the most numerous and significant differences between works by British and American phoneticians and the present text-book are found in the treatment of *intonation*. In this text-book, intonation is not reduced to just speech melody, which in reality is only one of the components of intonation. In addition, the following features of intonation are described and stressed: its inseparable connection with the grammatical structure and lexical composition of the utterance and its role in expressing each of the syntactically-, communicatively- and attitudinally-different types of sentences.

The experience gained from teaching English pronunciation to students of the Maurice Thorez Moscow State Pedagogical Institute of Foreign Languages on the basis of this course has shown that part of the subject-matter is superfluous. This is why the authors have abridged or deleted some materials of the first edition (take, for example, the deletion of Chapter XIX "Rules for Reading English Letters").

Other changes in the 2nd Edition consisted in the following.

All the chapters on intonation were rewritten in accordance with what was said above about the treatment of intonation in this text-book.

Small, though numerous, additions and alterations were made in all the other chapters. These additions and alterations were necessary to reflect the latest achievements both in the Soviet Union and in the leading English-speaking countries in the investigation of each of the components of the phonetic system of English (its sounds, syllable formation and syllable division, word-stress and intonation in the broadest sense of the term). In accordance with the purpose of the additions and alterations, they include more exact data contained in the experimental phonetics investigations by Soviet researchers of the above components of the phonetic structure of present-day English.

Most of the 1st Edition examples, exercises and some of the texts in the Reader were replaced with fresh ones. Phonetic transcription and intonation staves were removed where it was possible since they distract the student from what is being read. Sentence stresses, scales and terminal tones are now marked right in the conventionally spelt sentences and texts (a slightly modified system of R. Kingdon's tonetic stress-marks was used for the purpose). Following J. D. O'Connor and G. F. Arnold, the authors of the present text-book supplied many sentences-examples with a verbal context showing their appropriate use in English speech. Some exercises were supplied with 'keys', which introduce an element of programming into the text-book and thus facilitate its independent study.

The second edition, like the first one, has borrowed sentences for drilling and practice texts from British and American literature, from English linguaphone courses and phonetic text-books by British phoneticians.

The authors

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