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English (Hindi)
III / Paper VIII

(1)

Topic: The consonants of English (Part II) (continued)
(STOP Consonants)

In the case of stop consonants, unlike the fricatives, the breath is completely stopped at some point in the mouth by the help of some part of the tongue and then released in a slight burst. In some cases the tongue may not be involved as is the case with the bilabial stops.

Bilabial stop consonants: /p/ and /b/.

The consonant phonemes /p/ and /b/ are bilabial stop phonemes which is uttered when the stream of the air, expelled by the lungs is, for a fraction of the second, fully stopped with the help of our two lips and then released to produce the sound. The process can be detailed as the following:-

1. The lips are closed firmly and

(2)

the soft palate is raised so that the breath cannot get out of either the nose or the mouth but is trapped for a short time.

2. when the lips are opened suddenly the breath rushes out with a slight burst.

3. The /p/ phoneme is strong and unvoiced where as the /b/ phoneme is weak and voiced one.



Fig : Speech organs position for /p/ and /b/.

Examples of the bilabial stops /p/ and /b/ are the following:—

/p/ as in /pi:k/ (peak); /p/ as in /po:t/ (port)

/b/ as in /beibi/ (baby); /b/ as in /leibs/ (labour)

Alveolar stop: /t/ and /d/.

/t/ and /d/ phonemes are such stop consonants which are uttered with the help of the tongue and the alveolar ridge. The detailed description of the phonemes may be given as below:-

- (i) The consonant /t/ is strong and unvoiced whereas its companion /d/ is weak and voiced.
- (ii) The tip of the tongue is firmly against the middle of the alveolar ridge, not too near the teeth and not near the hard palate.
- (iii) The sides of the tongue are firmly against the sides of the palate, so that the breath cannot pass over the sides of the tongue.
- (iv) The soft palate is raised in a manner that the breath cannot escape through either the nasal cavity or

the mouth cavity (oral cavity)

⑤ When the tongue tip is lowered suddenly from the dental ridge the breath rushes out with a slight burst or popping noise. The speech organs' position is shown in the following figure (for the pronunciation of the consonants /t/ and /d/):-



Fig: Speech organs' position for /t/ and /d/.

Examples:-

/t/ as in /teɪbəl/ (table) ; /t/ as in /taɪm/ (time)
 /t/ as in /tɜ:n/ (turn) ; /t/ as in /tu:/ (two)
 /d/ as in /deɪ/ (day) ; /d/ as in /diə/ (dear)
 (d) as in /dɒg/ (dog) ; /d/ as in /wʊd/ (would).
 —X—X— (To be continued in the next lecture)