

DESCRIPTION OF TARGET LEARNERS

Abdullayeva Firuza

Week 3 – Formative Assessment

Phonetics, Phonology, Morphology

MA TESOL Program(7K) Webster University in Tashkent

TESL 5740: Linguistics for language learning and teaching

Instructor: Sanjar Djalalov

Abstract: In the article it is discussed about the types of target learners' description. The article consists of abstract, basic concepts, introductory part, main body, conclusion and used literature.

Basic concepts: morphology, silent letters, assimilation, clitics, past tenses, diphthongs

Acquisition of second and foreign languages play crucial role in the education program. For this reason students are studying foreign languages eagerly. I teach a multiple level of students who are beginners, pre-intermediates and intermediate level of students among them. However, I am going to clarify about pre-intermediate level of students are 7th and 8th grade students who are being strived to get IELTS certificate. They are 10, 6 of them are fourteen year olds and 4 of them are thirteen year olds who studied at secondary school. They easily get along with others by communicating, training to speak, revising and analysing each others' essays as well as developing their self-study skills through after class activities. The topics of the class are A2 listening, A2 reading, A2 writing and Speaking skills. Our primary aim is to work on confusions and gaps in language learning. In order to achieve gradually success in acquiring languages I'm going to clarify 5 vital themes on Phonetics, Phonology and Morphology.

1.Silent letters.

Majority of my students confuse to using silent letters in speaking and writing tasks due to their graphemes and spelling. For instance, **through** has 7 graphemes and 3 sounds, **handsome** has 8 graphemes and 6 sounds. There are many such words in English. According to Yavas, M. (2016). These discrepancies due to silent letters or sound which being represented by combination of letters. First of all, I should explain what are silent letters. Silent letters are considered letter or combination of letters which are not pronounced frequently and is observed a constant modification between spelling and letters. In order to aware of basic rules of phonetics, isn't being focus on spelling but also more concentrate on sounds in utterances.

2. Assimilation.

There are some disciplines can see some trends which arise naturally and cannot focus on Phonology. A number of sounds assimilate to next sound and can't pronounce. For example, **knowledge** in this position letter **k** assimilate to **n** and isn't spell. **Which, who, when** also can be example. Students frequently confuse in writing and remove second or first letter which isn't produced. Especially two adjacent or close sounds participate in assimilation process. McMahon (2020) noted that assimilation occurs with nasal sounds. When we explain about phonology, we have to focus on these tendencies absolutely.

3. Past Tense (Irregular verbs)

The target learners can identify verb morphemes as **-ed** for regular verbs and changing stem for irregular verbs. Nevertheless, they confuse to use occasionally. **According to Payne** scholars divided into past tense forms 2 parts, which by adding **-ed** is considered **weak** verbs as well as modification arise in stem is called **strong** verbs for many years. But these notions have changed. Provided that one letter changes in stem like **come/came** or **lose/lost** is called **weak suppletion**. If stem completely change it is named **strong suppletion**. Students have to grasp the difference between them.

4. Clitics.

Clitics are separate words which they attach to beginning of the noun or noun phrase. Including that **a** and **the** cliticize to the word that comes after. **Payne** mentioned that clitics are function word that fix phonologically to another word and this one which a clitic attaches is considered its host.

5. Vowels and diphthongs.

There are a lot of confusions in spelling system of English. Phonetics informs about describing and analyzing various human sounds which is used in languages. Vowels play essential role in children's pronunciation initially when they begin to speak. Target learners can identify the vowels easily. However, spelling of some vowels can confuse them. Therefore, there is need to learn distinguishing features of letters. McMahon noted that it is essential to explain clearly the learners arrange of features of vowel sounds.

References:

1. Yavas, M (2016). Applied English Phonology, 3rd Edition. John Wiley & Sons.
2. McMahon, A. (2020). An introduction to English phonology. Edinburg University Press.
3. Payne, T. E.(2011). Understanding English Grammar: A Linguistic Introduction. Cambridge University Press.