

تحليل تتابع الوحدات الصوتية للمصطلحات اللغوية الإنكليزية

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Abstract

A phoneme of a particular language does not combine or co-occur freely with just any other phoneme or phonemes. There are in fact constraints of different types on the combinability of a phoneme which stands on various relationships to other phonemes with which it occurs in a certain phonetic or phonological contexts. As far as English is concerned, the lexicon has a set of phonotactic constraints which function as a filter allowing entry only to phonotactically well-formed words which must have a combination of phonemes that are permissible with the systematic factors of a language.

The present study is an attempt to investigate the sequential arrangements of consonants initially and finally, i.e., the combinations of a consonant with another consonant(s) in (40) linguistic terms extracted from (40) linguistic texts. This phenomenon, however, differs from one language to another, a case which, in turn poses a crucial problem in pronouncing and acquiring native-like pronunciation among EFL learners at university level in Iraq, thus, it is worth studying.

This study postulates that the restrictions on phonemes occurrence in initial positions are more than in final ones, two-initial consonant clusters are used frequently in English and two-final consonant clusters are more frequent than the other types. Moreover, it tries to verify that the dominant phonotactic formulas that employed initially and finally in the data are:

Initial + post-initial (as in *pronoun*)

Pre-final + final (as in *field*)

In view of that, this study primarily aims at diagnosing some basic phonological, morphological, syntactic and semantic terms in various linguistic

contexts. A phonological analysis of initial and final consonant clusters in RP. English is made so as to identify the types and patterns of consonant clusters in the data.

The plan of this study is theoretically and practically oriented. Chapter one sheds light on the general theoretical framework of English phonotactics by dealing with basic topics such as phoneme, syllable, etc, in general and consonant clusters, in particular.

Chapter two, deals with terminology. It tackles the fundamental aspects of terminology, i.e., definitions, dimensions, theories, etc. It also presents an overview on linguistics, its characteristics and linguistic terminology.

Chapter three is practically-based. It is devoted to the phonotactic analysis, more specifically to initial and final consonant clusters analysis of the terms selected arbitrarily from various linguistic texts, i.e., (40) in number divided into: phonological, morphological, syntactic and semantic terms. They are equal in number, that is (10) terms for each level. This study is based on an eclectic model of consonant clusters analysis proposed by Gimson (1989), Roach (2000), Kreidler (2003). Besides, famous English professors participated in providing their points of view concerning the analytical framework. Furthermore, the analysis is limited to syllable-based initial and final consonant clusters and the phonemic transcription of linguistic terms is based on Received Pronunciation.

The Results can be summed up as follow: the total number of the consonant clusters in the data is (41). The number of initial- consonant clusters is (16) which constitutes the percentage (39.024%). The number of final-consonant clusters is (25) which forms the percentage (60.976%). By analysing the findings of initial-consonant clusters separately it is found that two-initial consonant cluster is the prevailing type in the data under analysis, i.e., it takes

number (15) out of (16) which composes the percentage (93.75%). In return, three- initial consonant cluster takes number (1) out of (16) which represents the percentage (6.25%). In addition to, the formula: (initial+post-initial) is the dominating one. It takes number (14) out of (15) whereas the phonotactic pattern (pre-initial+initial) has only one example. In conducting the same statistical means with final-consonant clusters, the investigation reveals that two-final consonant cluster is the prevailing one, the number is (24) which makes up the percentage (96%). At the other extreme, three-final consonant cluster takes number (1) which represents the percentage (4%). Concerning the formulas of two-final consonant clusters, the number of terms that follow the formula (pre-final+final) is (19) which constitutes the percentage (75%). As for the formula (final+post final) the number is (6) which makes up the percentage (25%).