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The phonemic valve of dual phoneme

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Abstract

This research which has been titled as “The Phonemic Valve of Dual Phonemes”, has a special discussion on those phonemes which were derived from other languages. It clarifies that voice and intonation, separation and unity are dual phonemes, and they do not have the ability to change their meaning. This research regarding to the principles started with a preface. Besides the preface, all those stuffs required for a preface are mentioned too. Along with main context, the summary, suggestions and reference list are also provided here.

Keywords: Pashto, language, being dual, phoneme and its valve

Introductions

A language is basically started from phonemes. As result, these phonemes caused to form words, phrases, clauses, sentences and even long speeches and texts. Every single language has its own characteristics. Some languages have plenty of phonemes while some do not have that much big number of phonemes. The classification of phonemes also differs in languages. In Pashto language, phonemes are divided into two groups_ Segmental and Supra-segmental phonemes.

Valve of the topic

As language is initiated from phonemes, then it is required to know about phonemes, their classification and their features. The reason why this topic is important to be discussed is most of the writers cannot find information specifically about the mentioned topic_ The Phonemic Valve of dual Phonemes. Here, I see it is important to be discussed.

Research Methodology: The methodology of this work is descriptive. And on the other side, the revision and comparison of the material that we have in hands is also carried out. It is mentionable that the methodology of this research is library method.

The Phonemic Valve of dual Phonemes in Pashto Language

When we are talking about the classification of phonemes in Pashto language, most of the time writers do not have the same idea. Some divide phonemes into two groups while some divide them into three groups. Those who divide them into three groups, they only accept basic phonemes as phonemes. They do not count dual phonemes as main phonemes. We should understand that phoneme is the smallest unit of language which cannot stand alone but can change the meaning of a meaningful unit. Phonemes are classified according to the specific features. The ones which have graphemes, are segmental phonemes. But on the contrary, those phonemes which do not have graphemes, are Supra-segmental phonemes.

In Pashto language, Supra-segmental phonemes can cause plenty of changes in a context. They can occur with phrases, basic phonemes and even with sentences and can shift the meaning at all. There could be a great number of phonemes in international languages. It is also possible to find a language in which there would be no phoneme. Pashto language has three types of Supra-segmental phonemes which can occur in vowels, diphthongs and phrases. Here, we study every single of them in details.

1. Tone

Tone has a typical valve in Pashto language as it has it in different other languages. Tone is called “Ahang” in Persian, “Tonos” in Greek language and finally “Tone” in English. From morphological aspect, tone is that Supra-segmental phoneme which causes intonation during speech. Specifically, when the amplitude of intonation occurs in a sentence, then it is a tone.

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(100:2). In Pashto language, tone has got a special grammatical valve. It changes the meaning of a context accompanying with some Supra-segmental units. Tone has a special worth in the articulation of speech of a language as well. Tone play different roles in the articulation of speech. For example, it distributes a speech on syntactical units. It distinguishes and regulates syntactical structures, phrases and sentences between each other as well. (100:3). Tone plays active role in describing people feelings, thoughts and intentions. While listening to a speech from someone, only tone helps us understand if the sentence was interrogative, imperative, exclamatory, full of sadness or happiness or etc (100:3).

Changing the tone in a sentence can change the meaning without occurring changes in parts of speech. Tone is a phonemic syntactical phenomenon. Regarding to the features and functions mentioned above about phoneme, we can determine that tone has close relations with syntics. Hence, the units of syntics should be discussed in a special way. Tone is not an independent symbol of a language by itself, but it is a feature of a syntactical unit. (125:5). Tone is the collection of those instruments which regulates the speech of someone. Tone is vital during speech. Without tone, speech is hardly possible. Those instruments which take part as units of tone in a speech are consist of:

Melody: melody is the motion (raising and falling pattern) of speech.

Pause: it is actually like a break between words and sentences during speech.

Intonation: When some parts of the speech are stressed.

Temp: when some parts of the sentence are read quickly rather than others is called temp.

Temper: The musical balance of sentence. (101:3)

In short, we can say that tone plays major role in changing the meaning of a sentence in Pashto language. Especially, in statements, affirmative, exclamatory sentences in which no change is occurred in its parts of speech. And besides that, if someone want to change a statement to exclamatory, interrogative or other forms, tone can help you do that.

2. Stress (stress in speech sound)

Stress is one of the key topics of speech analysis. If we stress a part of a sentence, it alters the meaning. In other words: Stress is used to change the meaning of homographs _words with same spelling but different meanings (142:1). Here, Stress gives different meanings to the same spelled word. Therefore, Stress has a kind of phonemic valve in Pashto language which causes to shift the meaning of a meaningful sentences. As result, we can say that Stress is the act of exerting stress on words or part of a word which brings both syntactical and semantic changes. (83:4)

According to the environment, Stress is divided into four types:

1. Syllabus Stress: When a vowel is stressed in a syllable, is called syllabus Stress.
2. Phonemic Stress: When a syllable and one vowel in a word is pronounced with more stress comparing to others, is called Phonemic Stress.

3. Phrase Stress: If a phrase is pronounced with stress, is called Phrase Stress.
4. Phrasal Stress: When a phrase is pronounced with stress within a sentence, is called Phrasal Stress. (103:3)

3. Separation and Unity

Separation and Unity in sentences is a phenomenon which causes a big change in meaning. For example, "Standup, do not sit!" This sentence can be written in two different ways, and makes two different meanings as well. First, "Standup, do not sit!" which mean keep stand and do not sit. But on the other hand, "Do not standup, sit!" which mean keep sitting and do not standup." (141:1)

Therefore, Separation and Unity have a kind of phonemic valve, and if we bring changes in them, it causes to bring changes in meaning as well.

Supra-segmental phonemes appear in three forms in Pashto language. They are consist of Separation and Unity, Tone and Stress. Every single one of all these three can change meaning in meaningful units of language. Tone has a unique importance while lack of statement, exclamatory and interrogative. If we did not have tone, then this portion of Pashto language would be very limited. Stress also has a special valve in changing meaning of words and sentences. Especially those phonemes which has got one form, Stress helps them own different meaning for themselves. Separation and Unity also play major role in semantic of phrases and sentences. In short, we can say that Supra-segmental phonemes are very practical and have a specific valve in Pashto language.

Suggestions

1. The linguists of Pashto language should collect all those researches conducted related to the Supra-segmental phonemes, and make a better summary of them in order to use them as standard grammar in all Pashto educational academies.
2. Linguists should also find those punctuations in grammar which change the meaning, because they alter the meaning of a text either just as phonemes do.

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