

## Lecture No. 1

### Allophones

**Phonemes** and **allophones** are two basic concepts in phonology and phonetics.

A **phoneme** is the smallest sound that can make a difference in meaning. For example, the word car changes to far if you change the phoneme /k/ to /f/. There are forty-four phonemes in standard British English. Some of them may be realized differently or have a variety of allophones.

An **allophone** is any of the various phonetic realizations of a phoneme, which do not contribute to distinctions of meaning. For example, /p/ in /pin/ is aspirated [ p<sup>h</sup> ] and p in spin is unaspirated. The first one is an allophone of the phoneme /p/.

#### Phonemic Transcription

Phonemic is a transcription showing the pronunciation of words using a simple set of symbols representing phonemes. It is a transcription usually found in the dictionary and used between slashes / prə'pəʊzəl/

#### Phonetic Transcription

**Phonetic transcription** is a transcription with more details about the pronunciation of words, used between two square brackets. In this kind of transcription allophones are represented. For example, in the word [ prə'p<sup>h</sup>əʊzəl ], [ p<sup>h</sup> ] is **aspirated** and [ ! ] is **syllabic**.

**Definition of aspiration:** Aspiration is when the production of p, t, k is followed by an audible plosion (burst of noise) in the post release phase, producing a sound like h.

[ ! ] is syllabic because it forms a syllable without a vowel.

#### Examples of allophones

**1. Plosives: Fortis plosives** p, t, k are **aspirated** when **initial** in a **stressed syllable**.

party / ' p<sup>h</sup>ɑ:tɪ /      table / 't<sup>h</sup>eɪbl /      concert / k<sup>h</sup>ɔsət/      appear / ə 'p<sup>h</sup>ɪə/

2. The English lateral phoneme /l/, only one alveolar has three main allophones:

**a. Clear** [ l ], with a relatively front resonance before vowels and j

