

**THE PHENOMENON OF LINKING AND INTRUSIVE ‘R’:
SIMILARITY AND DIFFERENCE**

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Pronunciation is one of important and key attributes of learning languages. In accordance with the explanatory dictionary, it's our way of saying words and sounds. Most people speak Standard English with an accent of the place they live in. Those who study English are probably used to hearing received pronunciation. It is often used by course instructors, those who study on their own are also often confronted with it [1].

People from various regions speak the same language differently. Even people from the same place can have diverse accents. When a Briton speaks English, his speech doesn't sound like a Scotsman or an American's.

This diversity in pronunciation may be due to the historical development of the language. Over the years it has developed differently in a number of regions. Apart from minor differences in vocabulary, American English differs from British English mostly in pronunciation. L.J. Bower, a British linguist and emeritus professor of linguistics at Victoria University in Wellington, points out that the first difference that can be heard immediately is the very specific pronunciation of the written 'r' sound. There are many varieties of non-rhotic English other than British English.

The pronunciation of the sound will vary depending on the place in the sentence and the speaker. The difference in pronunciation of the following two examples 'Her eyes' [hə aɪz] and 'Her rise' [hə raɪz] can be explained by the lexical influence of the pronunciation of intrusive 'r' and linking 'r' [2].

Secondly, in rhotic English, the letter 'r' is always pronounced soft. For example, the pronunciation of the word 'international': a British person will omit the middle sound, while a Saudi Arabian will pronounce this sound. So, this person will reproduce the writing.

Another example can be found among American tribesmen who have become accustomed to putting 'r' where (we think) 'r' is unneeded. For example, 'an idea[r] of it', 'pasta[r] and sauce' and 'saw[r] and conquered'. This phenomenon is known as intrusive 'r' (or intransitive 'r'), a feature that is noticeable in many non-rhotic (without 'r') accents.

'R' insertion obeys simple logical rules. For a resident of London the 'r' in 'bitter end' is identical to the 'r' pronounced in 'pasta and sauce'. In both cases when a schwa is at the end of a word, and the next word begins with a vowel, 'r' emerges. This also applies to words with [ɑ:] (the 'Shahr of Iran') and [ɔ:] sound ('Drawn open' is treated no differently than 'Drawer open') [3].

Thus, the main reason for this 'r' phenomenon is the simplification of the speaking process, the convenience and the ability to continue speaking without interrupting or stopping.

Some good examples of what the intrusive 'r' sounds like are: 'Law and order' → 'Law[r]and order'; 'Media attention' → 'Media[r]attention'; 'I saw a film' → 'I saw[r]a film'; 'Supernova in the sky' → 'Supernova[r]in the sky' [1].

The linking 'r' sound in English is an extra sound that we use between two words when we are connecting these two words together. If we pronounce the two words separately, we don't use an 'r' sound between them but if we pronounce them together, we say an 'r' sound between the words because it makes the words easier to pronounce quickly. For example: 'four apples' (separately) – 'fou[r] apples' (together). Linking 'r' concerns words having as final phoneme in isolate pronunciation either [ɑ:] or [ɔ:] or one of the five phonemes involving a (final) central vowel [ə, ɜ:, ɪə, eə, uə]. When any of these is followed closely by a word beginning with one of the English vowel sounds a 'r' may be heard. For example, the 'car is mine'; 'his hair is dark'; 'here and now'[1,2].

Nevertheless, sometimes the linking 'r' sound can confuse English learners. Some pairs of words that sound the same could be: 'her eyes' – 'her rise'; 'their age' – 'their rage'; 'her ace' – 'her race'. So it is very important to be aware of the linking 'r' sound because otherwise you can hear the wrong words [3].

The difference between intrusive 'r' and linking 'r' is very clear. Both have their names originating from their roles. In intrusive 'r', the sound 'r' is introduced between two words that never had 'r' in their written structure, as long as the vowel sound follows each other in the two sentences.

Thus, this 'r' intrudes into a place it never existed before. On the other hand, linking 'r' appears when a word ending with 'r' is followed by a word that begins with a vowel sound. The sound 'r' would therefore be acting as a linking word. They have a different origin but they are phonetically similar. The difference between an intrusive 'r' and a linking 'r' is evident in the sentence structure. From the analysis, it can be observed that the two vowels differ significantly [2].

Based on the rules we discussed above, we can note that phonetics plays an important role in the English language as it affects spelling, pronunciation, meaning of words and speech perception. The correct pronunciation of English words and sounds makes it easier for the person you are talking to to understand you and avoid misunderstandings.

Список использованных источников

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