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THE ROLE OF PHONEMES IN THE GRAMMAR OF TURKISH LANGUAGES

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It is formed and pronounced as a result of a change in the articulation movement due to the influence of neighboring sounds; In this respect, they are concrete units. In Saussure's words, "a phoneme is not a sound, it can only be represented by a sound."

Phonemes appear in two parts: "segmental phonemes" and "segmental phonemes/combined phonemes". Segmented phonemes include vowel and consonant phonemes in the language. These phonemes are so named because they are in separate parts. When it comes to segmented phonemes in Turkish and many world languages; vowels, consonants and floating vowels (semivowels/semivowels) that show both vowel and consonant characteristics come to mind. Suprasegmental phonemes are pronunciation features that encompass more than one phoneme. The ones used in Turkish are: "speed", "wind pressure", "harmony", "tone change" and "melody". Here we will focus more on the distinguishing features of "segmental phonemes".

Segmental phonemes are distinguished by their different properties. For example, we find the phonemes "p" and "b" in the words "pak" and "bak-". In fact, these two consonants are not only "bilabial consonants" but also "explosive" consonants due to their point of articulation. The contrast between these two phonemes, which have very similar properties, presents them as two separate phonemes. In other words, this is a "differential property". The contrasting or distinguishing feature of the phoneme "p" and the phoneme "b" is whether the vocal cords vibrate or not during the formation of these phonemes. In this respect, the phoneme "b" differs from the phoneme "p" that does not vibrate the vocal cords by vibrating the vocal cords. In this respect, we can list the distinguishing features of segmental phonemes as follows:

This distinctive feature exists only for consonant phonemes. Because all vowels come into contact with the vocal cords when they are formed and vibrate them. However, some of the consonants come into contact with the vocal cords when they are formed (toned/voiced/soft/voiced consonants: b, c, d, g, ğ...), while others vibrate the vocal cords. When they are formed from them (unvoiced/voiceless/hard/voiceless: p, ç, t, k, s, ş...), they do not come into contact with the vocal cords and do not cause vibration in the vocal cords. Here, the contrast of vibrativity and non-vibration such as p:b, ç:c, t:d... is one of the features that distinguish phonemes (kam-gam, pulbul-, tik-dik-, at-ad, is-iz). This distinctive feature belongs to the "mutual consonants" that have a tonal counterpart. Since the articulation points of the reciprocal consonants are the same, they have such a different meaning. Non-reciprocal consonant phonemes (the consonants m, n, l, r, and y that have no unstressed equivalent and the consonant h that has no stressed equivalent) do not perform a meaning-differentiating function since they do not have similar contrasts in terms of points of articulation.

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