**MAKALAH PHONOLOGY**

Meeting 12



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**PREFACE**

Praise be to God Almighty who has given His grace and guidance so that we can complete this paper entitled Syllable Structures on time. The purpose of writing this paper is to fulfill the Phonology course assignment.

In addition, this paper also aims to add insight into syllables for readers and also for writers. We would like to thank Mr. Kholil Azis as a phonology lecturer who has given this assignment so that it can increase knowledge and insight in accordance with our field of study.

We would also like to thank all those who have shared some of their knowledge so that we can complete this paper. We realize that this paper is far from perfect. Therefore, we will look forward to constructive criticism and suggestions for the perfection of this paper.

Tangerang Selatan,

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**Chapter I**

**Intoduction**

1. **Background**

It is believed that syllable is a very important unit, it is found in all languages and in all words. Most of us think that even by not knowing what a syllable is, we can identify or count how many syllables are in a certain word. It could perhaps be helpful, but we will find difficulties on dividing the syllables accurately. So, we will need knowledge of it. However, in this group assignment, we will focus on the syllable, starting with some definitions for better understanding.

One of the important things to do in this work is look at the nature of the syllable that should really help us on identifying the syllables. Furthermore, we will be concentrated on the structure of English syllable which is a very important aspect on dividing the syllables looking at their phonemes. On the same aspect, we will look at the weak and strong syllables, that is, where sure is most used and where it is not. Finally, we consider the syllabic consonant, than can form a vowel, or which can also be used instead of vowel to form a syllable. These all issues are going to be discussed along the work. At the end of this group work is found the sources used to the elaboration of this work.

**Chapter II**

**Description**

1. **Definition**

The first and smallest of these superordinate units, the syllable, will be the main focus of this chapter. Recognising and understanding syllables helps us state some phonological processes (for example involving English /l/ and the aspiration of voiceless plosives) more accurately and succinctly. ln analysing and determining the position of stress within each word. Finally, in whole utterances consisting of a sentence or more, phonological processes may apply between words, and rhythm and intonation produce the overall melody of longer stretches of speech.

Crystal (1985:164) believes that syllable is an element of speech that acts as a unit of rhythm, which is noticeable in English pronunciation and consisting of a vowel, a syllable consonant or a vowel plus consonant combination. On the other hand, Hancock (2003:50) beliefs that a syllable is often described as a group of one or more sounds with a peak or nucleus. Forel and Puskás (2005:35) affirm that in English a syllable consists of a phoneme or sequence of phonemes. If the syllable receives word stress it can be associated with meaning and form what is usually called a word. For us, syllable is the unit which sounds loud in a spoken word, formed normally by a nucleus, which stands as the centre of the syllable.

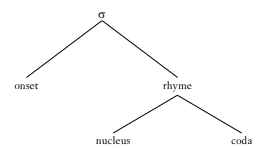
1. **The Nature of the Syllable**

Literature generally concerns with the relationship between society and individuals, individuals and events which take place within the individual circle (Wellek and Werren, 1997: 94). That is clear that literary work especially novel is made by an author for communicating his or her feeling to readers just like other work. The writer communicates to his or her readers and expresses the identities of their characters, such as feeling, idea, and experience. Literature is a form of art because we can enjoy the beauty through language.

Syllable structure refers to the organization and arrangement of sounds within a syllable. It typically includes a nucleus, which is usually a vowel sound, and may also have an onset (initial consonant sound) and a coda (final consonant sound). Different languages have varying syllable structures, influencing how sounds are combined to form syllables.

1. **Structures of The Syllable**

The universal syllable template accepted by most phonologists is given in. Note that small sigma (σ) is shorthand for ‘syllable’; capital sigma (Σ), as we shall see later, is used to symbolise the foot.



The only compulsory part of the syllable, and hence its head, or most important, defining unit, is the nucleus. This will generally contain a vowel (and recall that vowels are [+syllabic]): indeed, the syllable I, or the first syllable of about, consist only of a nucleus. If no vowel is available, certain consonants can become nuclear, and play the part of a vowel. In English, this is true of /l/, /m/, /n/, and /r/ in rhotic accents: that is, the sonorant consonants, in natural class terms. Each of the words bottle, bottom, button, butter has two syllables, and in each case, the second syllable consists only of nuclear, or syllabic [l], [m], [n] and [ɹ].

The syllable represents a level of structure intuitively recognized by speakers of the language; it figures importantly in the rhythm and prosody of the language. A syllable consists obligatorily of a vowel (or syllabic consonant); this is the acoustic peak or nucleus (N), of the syllable and potentially carries stress. A syllable may optionally begin with one to three consonants - the onset (O) of the syllable - and may close with one to four consonants - the coda (C) of the syllable:

(C) (C) (C) Vo (C) (C) (C) (C)

The nucleus and coda together form the rhyme (R). The syllable structure can be represented in the form of trees, as in the diagrams below for spring and texts.





Figure 1. The syllable structure of the word „spring‟ and texts

The tree syllable structure above explains that onset is a consonant sound that has one or more consonants at the beginning of the word, nucleus is a vowel sound in the middle of the word of a syllable and coda is one or more consonants located at the end of the word. if you want to dissect a word using tree syllable structures, the best step to dissect a word is to first find the phonetic spelling of a word that you want to use, it will make it easier to dissect a word using tree syllable structures.

for example in syllables onset which can be one or more consonant words at the beginning of a word:

e.g. 'b-' in 'buy' ex- for one consonant

e.g. 'pl-' in 'plan' ex- for two consonants

e.g. 'str-' in 'strong' ex- for three consonants

every syllables has an onset but some syllables do not have an onset which is named as empty or zero onset. for example like:

eat /i:t/, all / :l/, up /^p/, egg /eg/

in the nucleus, we know that these syllables are between the onset and the coda. but we must understand that every syllable has a nucleus. the nucleus is also the only one that consists of a vowel sound that can become a monophthong, diphthong or triphthong. for example, the vowel nucleus can become a monophthong, diphthong or triphthong:

e.g. speak /spi:k/ ex- for monopthong

e.g. cake /keik/ ex- for diphthong

e.g. hour /a/ ex- for triphthong

and there are some syllables that only consist of a nucleus, such as:

e.g. 'eye' / / or 'air' /e /

sometimes a nucleus can also be a syllabic consonant like:

e.g. 'button' /b t. n/

e.g. 'rhythm' /r . m/

e.g. 'bottle' /b t. l/

while coda, which is a word consonant that can become one or more consonants in a word ending, has examples such as:

e.g. '-p' in 'stop' /st p/ ex- for one consonant

e.g. '-st' in 'fast' /f :st/ ex- for two consonants

e.g. '-nts' in 'comments' /k m.ents/ ex- for three consonants

on a syllable with a coda can be called a closed syllable or checked syllable, such as:

e.g. 'work' /w :k/

however, if a syllable has no coda, we can call or name it as an open syllable, or a free syllable, such as:

e.g. 'try' /tr /

e.g. 'free' /fri;/

Another example syllables onset, nucleus, coda:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Word | Transcript | Structure | Syllable type | Extra |
| ear | / / | nucleus | open | zero onset, empty |
| fear | /f / | onset + nucleus | open |  |
| ears | / z/ | nucleus + coda | closed | zero onset, empty |
| fears | /f z/ | onset+nucleus+coda | closed |  |
| are | / :/ | nucleus | open | zero onset, empty |
| car | /k :/ | onset + nucleus | open |  |
| arm | / :m/ | nucleus + coda | closed | zero onset, empty |
| calm | /k :m/ | onset+nucleus+coda | closed |  |

**CHAPTER III**

**CLOSING**

1. Conclusion

During the group work, we have learned that in English a syllable consists of a phoneme or a sequence of phonemes. While dividing the syllables we do not look at the letters that a given word has or contains, but the phonemes. No word in English can consist of anything less than a syllable and no syllable can consist of anything less than a vowel. Each vowel has the possibility of constituting a syllable by itself whereas this is never possible for a consonant. This is the great phonological distinction between vowels and consonants. But not all English vowels form a word by themselves. /ʊǝ/ for istance, is not an existing English word. However, what matters is that it could be a word. We have learned that most English syllables consist of more than one vowel. We must examine what they can consist of, because it is not sufficient to add any consonant or group of consonants to a vowel to get an English syllable.

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