

3.1.2. CLASSIFICATION OF CONSONANTS

ACCORDING TO THE MANNER OF THE PRODUCTION OF NOISE

According to the manner of production of noise consonants are divided into 4 large groups: occlusive or stop consonants, constrictive consonants, affricates and rolled consonants.

Occlusive Consonants. In making occlusive consonants the active organs of speech form a complete obstruction. Occlusive consonants are subdivided into plosives and occlusive (or nasal) sonants.

1. **Plosives.** In pronouncing plosives the articulating organs form a complete obstruction which is suddenly broken by the pressure of the air exhaled from the lungs and a kind of “explosion”, called plosion, is heard.

Examples:

The English [p], [b], [t], [d], [k], [g].

The Ukrainian [П], [Б], [Т], [Д], [К], [Г].

2. **Occlusive sonants.** In making occlusive sonants the active organs of speech form a complete obstruction: the air passage through the mouth is blocked, the soft palate is lowered and the air passes through the nasal cavity.

Examples:

The English [m], [n], [ŋ].

The Ukrainian [М], [Н], [М'], [Н'].

Constrictive Consonants. In making constrictive consonants the active organs of speech do not block the air-passage completely, but form a narrowing of the air-passage.

Constrictive consonants are divided into fricative consonants and sonants.

1. **Fricative consonants.** In making fricative consonants the active organs of speech form a narrowing through which the air passes with audible friction. Fricative consonants may be **unicentral** (sounds which are articulated with one centre of obstruction) and **bicentral** (sounds which have two centres or places of obstruction or narrowing).

Unicentral fricative consonants may be produced:

a. with a flat narrowing of the air-passage:

Examples:

The English [f], [v], [t], [d], [h].
The Ukrainian [x], [ɣ].

b. with a rounded narrowing of the air-passage.

Examples:

The English [s], [z].
The Ukrainian [c], [ʒ].

Bicentral fricative consonants may be produced with a secondary focus:

a. in the front of the mouth, i.e. a secondary obstruction is formed by the front of the tongue raised towards the hard palate.

Examples:

The English [ʃ], [ʒ].
The Ukrainian [ç], [ʒʲ].

b. in the back of the mouth, i.e., a secondary obstruction is formed by the back of the tongue raised towards the soft palate.

Examples:

The Ukrainian [ɕ], [ʒʲ].

2. **Constrictive sonants**. In pronouncing constrictive sonants the active organs of speech form an obstruction or a narrowing of the air-passage wide enough for the air to pass through without producing audible friction. Constrictive sonants may be:

a. **Central**. In articulating central sonants the flow of the air passes through the mouth along the central line of the tongue.

Examples:

The English [j], [r], [w].
The Ukrainian [j̥].

b. **Lateral**. In articulating lateral sonants the tongue forms a complete obstruction against the alveoli and the air escapes along the sides of the tongue.

Examples:

The English [l].
The Ukrainian [lʲ], [lʲʲ].

Affricates. In pronouncing affricates the articulating organs form a complete obstruction at first and then they are slowly released, forming a narrow air-passage.

The air, blocked at first by the complete obstruction, then escapes with a hissing sound.

Examples:

The English [tʃ], [dʒ].

The Ukrainian [ʧ], [ʤ], [ʦ], [ʣ], [ʤʲ], [ʤʲ].

Rolled Consonants. Rolled consonants are formed by the vibration of the tip of the tongue against the alveoli.

In the Ukrainian language there is a rolled sonant [P] articulated by the tip of the tongue vibrating against the alveoli. The English [r] is a constrictive sonant.