

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF NON-PHONEMATIC COMPONENTS OF THE SOUND CHAIN
FOR THE SUPRASEGMENTAL LEVEL OF THE LANGUAGE SYSTEM (BASED ON
RUSSIAN LANGUAGE MATERIAL)

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In the Russian language, as in many others, there are some elements which are not significant for the phonological system. The elements of the speech chain which are dealt with are: inserted vowels, glottal stops and so on. Though these elements have no significance in themselves, they are significant for the other language levels, for example, for the suprasegmental level.

Thus, the inserted vowels participate in the formation of syllables in speech, contributing in this way to the creation of the specific features of the syllable structure of a language. This is expressed in the tendency to realize the consonant groups with the help of inserted vowels which may be observed in the Russian literary language and in a number of Russian dialects. This is connected with the domination in these language systems of open syllables. Another type of realization of consonant groups (without inserted vowels) demonstrates the frequency in speech of closed syllables and this tendency may be observed in the Ukrainian and in some North Russian dialects.

A non-phonematic glottal stop ([ʔ]) in the Russian language and in a number of its dialects marks the initial stressed vowel. In this way, it underlines the beginning of a word.

In order to assess the significance of such speech elements, it is necessary to accept the point of view that our perception follows the different levels of the sound chain.