

Phonology and Pronunciation for Practising Teachers

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This paper reports on a course in phonology given during the *XI Semana de Estudos Germânicos*. The course was aimed at English language teachers who were already in service or had some experience of English language teaching (ELT).

- 1. The first stage of the course dealt with the importance of phonological skills in both first and second language acquisition (FLA/SLA). The problems for non-native speakers (NNSs) of English in this area were discussed in terms of acquiring, maintaining and teaching phonological skills and awareness. This introduced the notion of performance or attainment criteria: the question of what standard the average learner can achieve whilst studying English in a non-English speaking environment.**
- 2. The course then dealt with a brief outline of the phonological characteristics of Brazilian Portuguese, including a comparison with Standard British English (BrE) and General American English (GAm). The possibilities of first language interference on the acquisition and control of target language phonemes was discussed.**

3. The practical areas covered by the course were as follows:

- segmental phonology
- suprasegmental phonology, including:
 - word stress
 - rhythm and stress over phrases
 - intonation
 - spelling (grapheme-phoneme correspondences (GPCs)).

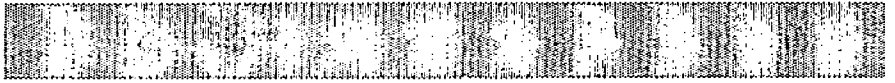
Suggestions for classroom work in these areas were tested and discussed. Furthermore, extensive practice in using the phonemic chart (in the form designed by Adrian Underhill, International House, Hastings, England) in English was given.

Conclusion

An (E)FL teacher who is not competent in the areas of phonology and the teaching of pronunciation to a reasonable standard is not fully qualified as a teacher. The course demonstrated that it is far from impossible to achieve and maintain a high standard of phonological skills and therefore to pass those skills on to learners.

Bibliography

- CLARK, John and Colin Yallop. *An Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1990.
- ROACH, Peter. *English Phonetics and Phonology: a practical course*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990.
- UNDERHILL, Adrian. *Sound Foundations*. London: Heinemann, 1994.



Literaturas em Expressão Inglesa

