DURATION OF ENGLISH SINGLE CONSONANTS AND CLUSTERS

A.A. Isengeldina, Academy of Sciences of the Kazakh Republic,
Chair of Foreign Languages, Alma-Ata, USSR

1. Single consonants and clusters are shortest in inter-
vocalic position. Next in duration are initial consonants, and
longest are final consonants and clusters.

2. In initial two member clusters the first component is
longer than the second, except for /l/ and /r/, which tend to be
longer than the first consonant in the cluster.

In intervocalic two member clusters the duration of the com-
ponents is dependent on the word accent, a consonant in a stressed
syllable always being the longest one.

In final clusters the last consonant is the longest, in
clusters sonants followed by a voiced consonant are approximately
twice as long as sonants followed by voiceless consonants.

3. In initial three member clusters the duration of the con-
sonants decreases from the first to the third component according
to a ratio 3:2:1.

In intervocalic clusters the second component (an obstruent)
is the shortest; the duration of the first and third components
depends on the word accent, the consonant belonging to the stressed
syllable being the longest.

In final three member clusters the second consonant is the
shortest and the last one is the longest. If the final cluster
consists of voiced consonants, it is at least twice as long as the
corresponding cluster with voiceless consonants.