

NON-SYLLABIC PHONOLOGY

Herbert Pilch, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, Freiburg im Breisgau

Problem: Establish the phoneme paradigms of English beyond the initial consonants (including clusters), vowels (including polyphthongs) and final consonants of monosyllables. There are very obvious limitations, for instance no vocoid other than [ə] before enclitic ("unstressed") /ʒ ŋ pɪ/. The phonological structure involved can thus not be interpreted as a sequence of monosyllables with the same initial consonants, vowels and final consonants as the monosyllable.

Solution: Replace the syllable, as an analytical notion, by the phonemic Shape Type. The enclitic shape (such as knowledgeably, platypuses) has seven slots, each with its specific inventory. The analysis is based on English as spontaneously spoken, not as codified in Pronouncing Dictionaries.