The specific characteristics of the articulatory nature of the sound /f/ are more difficult to define than those of X-ray cinematography. Nevertheless, the comparison of the two types of X-ray cinematography, in word /jam/ traditionally represented as /j/, with the stressed /f/ and the unstressed /f/ shows that the lips are the most widely open in the case of /f/, and the least widely open in the case of /f/, with /f/ occupying the intermediate position. The back of the tongue occupies the highest position in the case of /f/, which is less high in the case of /f/ and still less in the case of /f/. Evidently this is the result of greater or smaller length of the speech organs in the phonation focus of these sounds. Unfortunately in this case the character of the constriction cannot be defined by means of X-ray cinematography. Still there is little doubt that the articulatory function of /f/ is similar to that of unstressed /f/, and /f/ possessing more consonant quality is the same.

The difference can be observed if we compare the articulation of /f/ in the word-final position after a vowel with the articulation of /f/ and with the articulation of /f/. The position of the back of the tongue in the case of /f/ is similar to that of unstressed /f/, and /f/ possessing more consonant quality is the same.

Spectrograms give a more complete notion of the sounds in which the phoneme /f/ is realized, displaying a wide range of the frequency spectrum of the sound.

Thus, in the beginning of a word before a vowel and in the initial position the following variants are realized: /f/ the sound has a complex type only, /f/ the sound has a complex type only. In the initial position in the second instance these sounds are characterized mainly by the presence or absence of the formant structure. The second type being the sound with a more virous type, however, doesn't develop into vocality, as both sounds have only a small amount of less distinct noise components in the highest frequencies. The vowel /f/ is characterized by the presence of noise components. On the other hand, /f/ the sound is realized as the sound, followed by the vowel and /f/ the sound has a complex type only. There is no instance when the /f/ sound has a complex type only.
the remaining realizations are sporadic, depending mainly upon the style of pronunciation.

Distinct variation may be observed also in the end of a syllable after a vowel. The most frequent realization here is the sound which consists of the fundamental tone only. Sometimes traces of the formant structure of the previous sound may be observed. Finally, in very rare instances, spectrograms show the picture, slightly reminding of unstressed /i/. When the sound in the word-final position is characterized by a changeable structure, another variant may occur, which begins with a voiced and ends with a voiceless noise consonant (/di, /st'/). The picture will be complete if we dwell on the problem of the phonological status of non-syllabic /w/ and /j/.

Functional approach made it possible to prove the consonant character of /w/, /j/, /p.P.Kostruba/. This conclusion was confirmed by applying the principle of complementary distribution /V.S.Perebytnyi/. /w/, /j/ can't be allophones of the phonemes /w/, /j/, but they undoubtedly are allophones of the consonants /w/, /j/, with which they are in the relations of complementary distribution.

Summing up the results of our analysis we come to the following conclusions.

The range of realization of the sonants /w/, /j/ is wide enough, from the voiced sonant /traditionally of the type /w/, /j/) to the voiceless noise consonant and even - in careless pronunciation - the reduced sound of an indefinite quality. Of the voiced noise consonants /b/, /d/ may be fully voiced half-voiced (with different degrees of the loss of the quality), they may alternate with voiceless consonants, may be reduced to the loss of their distinctive features.

The sonants /w/, /j/, that occupy the intermediate position between vowels and noise consonants in one part of their allophones approach vowels in the other allophones they are close to consonants.

The so-called non-syllabic vowels /w/, /j/ are by their articulatory and acoustic nature not vowels, but resonant consonants, occurring not only in the beginning of a word before a consonant or in the end of a word or syllable after a vowel, but also before a vowel, as well as in the intervocalic position - i.e. practically in any position.

Namely the question arises what allophones of the sonants /w/, /j/ are to be considered typical. The investigation shows that it is the allophones /w/, /j/ that are the typical repres-