

## RHYTHM :

It is a musical quality of speech that intends to create a soothing impression on the mind of the listener. In order to realize this effect in a language, certain methods are evolved. The English language is marked with this rhythmic quality which is realized when we take into account the certain technicalities involved in it. We know that content words are stressed and function words are unstressed in connected speech. Content words are stressed to make the meaning of a sentence very clear. For example -

'Players have 'gone to 'Delhi.

In this sentence all the content words are stressed, marked with vertical bars and structure words are not stressed. These stressed and unstressed syllables together constitute rhythm units. The concept of rhythm is associated with time factor. Each of these feet is called rhythm unit or stress group. A rhythm unit is, thus, made up of one stressed syllable and all unstressed syllables that go with it. On this basis, it can be said that rhythm is that phonological feature of English language which is realized in connected speech when sentences are articulated with proper stress on required syllables along with the consideration of equal time span in

## STRESS, RHYTHM

A syllable is a group of phonemes. The words of English are made up of one or more than one syllable depending on the length of a word. Each syllable is a product of one chest pulse or breath force, it is considered to be stressed. Thus, stress is that characteristic of sound which is realized when a particular syllable is articulated with a strong breath force. Usually the content words are stressed, whereas the function/structure words which are required to perform grammatical function in a sentence are not stressed. Content words are generally nouns, adjectives and main verbs, whereas function words are articles, pronouns, prepositions, auxiliaries, conjunctions etc.

In English language these stressed syllables occur at regular intervals in words and connected speeches. Because of this feature English is considered as a stress-timed language unlike Hindi a syllable-timed language where each syllable is articulated with equal force and in equal span of time. A stressed syllable is marked with a small vertical bar above it. Few examples are:

Past - monosyllabic /'pɑ:st/

City - Disyllabic /'sɪti/