ON FUNCTION OF PHONEM AND SYLLABLEM IN THE PROCESS OF
TRANSFERENCE OF INFORMATIONS IN THE ISOLATING LANGUAGES
OF THE FAR EAST AND THE SOUTH EAST ASIA

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Human language, as it is known, is very important
means of accumulation, preservence and transference of
informations. If we consider informations as that, pas-
sing on from one source (man) to another, and as well
as the process of transference or receipt of these infor-
mations, then it is obvious that the main interest for
the study of linguistics is not in the informations as
such, but in the technique of its transference and in
learning mechanism of the process itself.

Phonology plays an important role in studying of
this question, as it is connected with the non-semantical
units of a language which serve to form signs of the lan-
guage and participate in distinguishing them. The type of
a language defines the specification of use of its phono-
logical units. Each language posseses its own peculiarities in phonological syntagmatique, consequently in the
mechanism of transference of informations. From this point
of view the main typological differences of languages are
connected with phonetical syntagmatique. Many languages,
which are different typologically, such as Russian, En-
lish, Arabic, Bantu, Hindi, Chinese, Vietnamese and others
are different from each other by syntagmatique at the the phonological level. Phonological syntagmatique, by this reason, becomes the main dominant to determine the type of language.

In the process of transference of informations in the Indo-European languages an important role belongs to the isolated sounds, i.e. phonems which are characterized in these languages by relative freedom at the syntagmatical axis. Isolated sounds in these languages can pass on informations independently. Compare, for instance, in English: SPEND - SPENT; SPEAK - SPEAKS; SING - SANG etc.

In the isolating languages of the Far East and the South-East Asia to which belong languages like Chinese and Vietnamese (tone languages) a little role is taken by isolated sounds in the process of transference of informations. The peculiarity of these languages is that isolated sounds (phonems) in these languages can not carry informations independently. The tonal syllable is the smallest unit, able to carry out this function in these languages. The term "syllabem" is used to mean syllable in this function in phonology of the Isolating languages of the Far East and the South East Asia, which was proposed by prof. E.D. Polivanov of St. Petersburg University (Russia) in his works.

Toned syllable in those languages as Chinese and Vietnamese, as a rule, is correlated to morphem or word, having one syllable. So, we may say that the informations
and the process of its transference in these languages are based on syllabems and their chains. That same process in the Indo-European languages is based on the sounds and their chains, not necessarily correlating to the syllables. In this case, informations can be passed by the sound chains, consisting of several sounds, combination of a few or a lot than syllable.

Though there are syllables in all the languages however their purposes can be different. Syllable as the natural unit of pronunciation in speech is necessary for presentation (manifestation) of the units of language and their signs in speech. However in the Isolating languages of the Far-East and South-East Asia syllable is the paradigmatical unit as well. Thus, syllabem becomes a structural unit of the language system along with phonem, morphen and lexem.

Another distinctive peculiarity of transference of informations in the languages like Chinese and Vietnamese is that the intermediate units are distinguished in these languages due to strict limitations imposed the combination of sounds in syllable and their distribution between phonem and syllabem. They are so called Initials and Finals, which traditionally are distinguished by the National Linguistic schools. These intermediate units take part actively in the process of transference of informations, as at the syntagmatical axis they possess more freedom and agility than phonems in these languages. Similar intermediate units in
other not Isolating languages are not distinguished as there are no grounds for that.

So that the syllable in the isolating languages we can show below as the scheme.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tone ( tonem )</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhyme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>initial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>medial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>central</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>semivowel : consonant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>terminal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phonemes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The syllable in isolating languages can not have more than four phonemes. But in non-isolating languages—in Russian, for instance, the syllable can include nine or even eleven sounds; VSPLESK, VZDROG-, VSEKRAP, ZDRAVSTV—and so on. Due to strict limitations imposed the combinations of sounds in syllables and their distribution, there is limited number of syllables in the isolating languages. There are about 420 syllables in Chinese (if we ignore the tonel characteristics of syllable) and more than one thousand in Vietnamese (ignore tonel characteristics).

But there is no such restriction in the Indo-European languages. Therefore theoretically the number of syllables