**Chapter One**

**Problem in Pronunciation**

**1. Letters and Sounds**

Letters and sounds must not be mixed. Letters are written whereas sounds are spoken. The only thing letters do is reminding use of corresponding sounds can do is reminding us of corresponding sounds, no more no less. In ordinary English spelling, it is not always easy to know what sounds the letters stand for; for example, in the words *city, busy, women, pretty, village,* the letters *i, y, u, o, e* and *a* all stand for the same sound, the one which occurs in *sit.* And, in *banana, bather, man, many* the letter *a* stands for five different vowels. Likewise, in the words *leg, large* and *rouge* the letter *g* stands for three different consonants which are /g/, /ʤ/ and /ʒ/ respectively.

**1.2. Received Pronunciation (RP)**

It isthe accent which is most often recommended for foreign learners studying British English and has been used as the basis for textbooks and pronunciation dictionaries. It was called Received Pronunciation. It is used by most announcers and newsreaders on BBC and British independent television broadcasting channels.

**KEY TO ENGLISH PHONEMIC SYMBOLS**

**CONSONANTS**

/p/ as in pen

/b/ as in bag

/t/ as in ten

/d/ as in desk

/k/ as in cap

/g/ as in get

/m/ as in map

/n/ as in nose

/ŋ/ as in sing

/l/ as in leg

/f/ as in face

/v/ as in very

/θ/ as in thin

/ð/ as in these

/s/ as in six

/z/ as in zero

/∫/ as in shoe

/ʒ/ as in pleasure

/r / as in right

/h/ as in hat

/ʧ/ as in church

/ʤ/ as in jump

/w/ as in we

/j/ as in yes

**Pure vowels are divided into:**

**1-Long Vowels**

/uː/ as in moon

/ɔː/ as in ball

/ɜː/ as in word

/iː/ as in green

/ɑː/ as in glass

2-**Short Vowels**

/ **I** / as in sit

/e/ as in desk

/æ/ as in man

/ɒ/ as in hot

/ʊ/ as in book

/**^**/ as in son

/ə/ as in after

/i/ as in pretty

**DIPHTHONGS**

/e**I**/ as in day

/əʊ/ as in nose

/a**I/** as in five

**/**aʊ/ as in how

/ɔ**I**/ as in boy

/**I**ə/ as in here

/eə/ as in chair

/ʊə/ as in sure