sentences and incomplete sentences are pronounced. We say different parts of the sentence with more or less stress, slower and louder, or quicker and more softly. This is called sentence stress. One word in the sentence has main stress. This is the word which the speaker thinks is most important to the meaning of the sentence. Other words in the sentence are unstressed. Sentence stress is a characteristic of connected speech, spoken language in which all the words join to make a connected stream of sounds. Some other characteristics of connected speech are contractions and vowel shortening in unstressed words and syllables. These characteristics help to keep the rhythm (pattern or stress) os speech regular. Intonation is another important part of pronunciation. It is the movement of the level of the voice, the tune of a sentence or a group of words. We use intonation to express emotions and attitudes, to emphasise or make less important particular things we are saying, and to signal to others the function of what we are saying, to show we are starting or stopping speaking or whether we are asking a question or making a statement.

4.2 Teaching procedure

Learners of English in a Post-Complusory Education Scheme of Work need to be able to understand a wide variety of accents in English, as English becomes more and more a global language. As pronunciation communicates so much of our meaning, producing sounds in a way that can be widely understood is extremely important in language learning. Learner’s pronunciation needs to be clear to speakers from many countries. Moreover, a regular focus in lessons on different aspects of pronunciation helps to make learners aware of its importance.

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