**Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research  University of Djilali Bounaama Department of Foreign Languages First Year Students of English**

**Phonetics and its Branches**

1. **The Definition of Phonetics :**

Phonetics is a discipline of linguistics which studies human speech sounds. It provides methods for their description, classification, and transcription. Unlike phonology which is concerned with the function and the meaning of sounds in a given language, phonetics is interested in the way sounds are produced, transmitted, and perceived.

1. **Branches of Phonetics:**

**A-Articulatory Phonetics:** is concerned with the way sounds are produced or articulated.

**B-Acoustic Phonetics:** looks at the waves of the speech sounds. That is, it studies the physical features of the sounds.

**C-Auditory Phonetics**: deals with the way sounds are perceived by the hearer.