

A Phonetic-Acoustic Study of Sindhi-Accented English for Better English Pronunciation

By

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Abstract

The paper investigates the spoken English of Sindhi ESL learners through an acoustic and articulatory phonetics. The research examines the English consonants by articulatory techniques coupled with the spectrograms acoustically on Praatⁱ speech processing computer-developed software. The key purpose of the study is to analyze the consonantal sounds which are relatively problem-posing with particular reference to production by SESLⁱⁱ and to achieve easy way out for ESL learners and ELTⁱⁱⁱ teachers for learn-ability and teach-ability respectively. The study tends to depend on articulatory-phonetic results as cited in data analysis; however, overall data include acoustic analysis, which have not been added to the body of the paper i.e. acoustic realizations. The current study illustrates eleven problem-posing English consonants based on the hypothesis as to why SESL articulate English sounds inaccurately. The study investigates that the phonetic variations occur because of the different sound systems of both languages and mother tongue influence with particular reference to phonetic and phonological differences. The research is carried out under the framework of Contrastive Analysis theory presented by Lado (1967). On account of the large number of students' enrollment from upper Sindh, the convenience/accidental sampling of the population was taken randomly from Cadet College Larkana Sindh, Pakistan.

Keywords: *Sindhi, Phonetics, Phonology, Interference, Mother tongue, ESL, ELT.*

ⁱ Praat (Praat is a Dutch word which means 'talk') is a scientific speech processing computer developed software program, which analyses sounds with the help of spectrographs.

ⁱⁱ SESL Sindhi (English) second language learners

ⁱⁱⁱ ELT English language teachers