

English Pronunciation Problems for Pahari Learners: An Acoustic Study

By

¹*Abdul Qadir Khan and* ²*Tayyeba Khanum Qadir*

¹PhD Scholar (Linguistics)

²M.Phil Scholar (Linguistics)

Abstract

The present study explores the pronunciation problems faced by Pahari speakers while learning English consonants. The study particularly focuses on the pronunciation of English consonants, which are not found in Pahari phonemic inventory. It further looks into the role of L1 in the pronunciation of the target English consonants. The study identifies four English consonants /θ, ð, w, ɱ/, which are problematic for Pahari speakers. It further shows that these consonants are pronounced with native Pahari consonants: English dental fricatives /θ, ð/ are replaced by dental stops /t, d/, while palatal voiced fricative /ɱ/ and bilabial approximant /w/ are replaced by voiced palatal approximant /j/ and labio-dental fricative /v/ respectively. It is suggested that English language learners with Pahari background should be properly trained in order to acquire correct pronunciation.