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Sociophonetic Analysis of /əʊ/ Diphthong in Pakistani English: Pronunciation Patterns and Phonological Implications

Saba Tufail[1]
Arwa Zia[2]
Dr. Ali Hussain Bin Sadiq[3]

Corresponding Author: ssabamalik25@gmail.com

Abstract

This study explores the distinct phonological features of Pakistani English. It is an experimental study andthe main purpose of this research is to highlight the phonological development of PakE and its separate position as an indigenous variety of English formed by regional linguistic contexts. It is a mixed method approach and Sociophonetics (Foulkes & Docherty, 2006) is used as a theoretical framework along with Uriel Weinreich's language contact theory (1950s). Researchers use the convenience sampling method to select the participants. A total of 30 participants (20 females and 10 males) are selected from a private college of Sialkot, Pakistan. All participants are enrolled in BS program and are between the age of 20 to 25. The word list for the research purposes contains 30 different words.Each word contains /əʊ/ sound. The words are selected randomly from everyday life. The data is recorded in speechanalyzer software PRAAT (Boersma & Weenink, n.d.) in a peaceful environment and then analyzed carefully. The recorded responses compared to standard British Englishand resultsrevealedPakEas an indigenized non-native variety with distinctive pronunciation patterns and phonological implications.The influence of regional languages, educational variations and geographical differences become a cause of these differences.Future studies should involve a wider range of participants from various age groups and educational backgrounds in order to broaden the area of phonological analysis in Pakistani English, analyzing other diphthongs as well. With this approach, a thorough grasp of the phonological evolution and variations in Pakistani English will be possible.

Keywords: Pakistani English, sociophoneticanalysis, languagecontact theory, diphthong /əʊ/, PRAAT, Received Pronunciation, indigenized variety

1. Introduction

The present research is an experimental study focusing on sociophonetic analysis of diphthong /əʊ/ in Pakistani English. The studyinvestigates the use of diphthong /əʊ/ in PakE, how PakE can be classified as an indigenized variety of non-native English based on its pronunciation of diphthong /əʊ/and what phonological changes do happen when participants are unable to pronounce itwhile speaking. Urdu affects the L2 acquisition which leads toward acoustic differences and this is the hypothesis of present research.Therefore, this study is based on the identification of acoustic distinctions of the RP diphthong /əʊ/ that are evident in Pakistani English.

[1]MPhil Scholar, DLC,UMT Sialkot, Pakistan.
[2]MPhil Scholar, DLC,UMT Sialkot, Pakistan.
[3]Assistant Professor, DLC, UMT Sialkot, Pakistan.

English has become the language of the world, facilitating individuals to interact across the globe, particularly in South Asia. While there are many native languages communicated all over South Asia, such as Chinese, Hindi, and Urdu, English has expanded throughout the continent, giving rise to the idea of "South Asian Englishes." These South Asian English varieties, which are frequently heard in Pakistan, India, Malaysia, and Japan, are suitable in the more general category of "World Englishes" due to geographicaland educational variations from the native English. The term "World Englishes" can be comprehended in a number of ways and captures the diverse fabric of English usage around the world. Bolton (2006) differentiates three implications:

1) as a broad term that refers to all English variations

2) as an allusion to recently developed English varieties in South Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean

3) as a recognition of a pluricentric way of conducting English study.

English varieties are classified by Kachru (1985) based on linguistic and political perspectives. He classified English into Three Circles which are explained below:

1. The Inner Circle connects to the traditional linguistic and cultural basis of English.

2. In regions with a long tradition of colonization, the established non-native varieties (ESL) are portrayed by the Outer Circle.

3. The locations where English is mainly spoken as a foreign language are represented in the Expanding Circle (Kirkpatrick, 2007, p. 28).

It is quite evident that every language has it's own distinct way of dealing with phonemic inventory which differs from different accents or dialects of different languages. Although languages differ on multiple levels from each other but there are some similarities as well. Almost all the languages follow the same developmental stages (Hulya, 2009). Apart from the acoustic variations there are a number of other socio-academic problems which are not highlighted and solved by educational authorities. Pakistan is a multilingual country and Urdu is the national language which has a significant place in the world (Rehman D. T., 2006).Similarly Zia (2011) claimed that Urdu has the status of mother tongue in Pakistan and has it's own prestige in our society which also affects the phonological features of L2.

The samepoint is raised by Farooq (2015)that there are almost 60 other regional languages inthe country but it's Urdu which has achieved the status of national language which has an affect on the phonological features of other languages. . Therefore, it is understood that Urdu will definitely exert some influence on the L2. However, English language also has the status of national language (Rehman, T. 2002). Therefore, English has different roles to perform as an international language , ineconomy's progress, national identity and accessing modern technologies (Kavaliauskiene, 2009)

English is considered a powerful tool of instruction in Pakistan. Under the light of Pakistan's educationalpolicy, English is a mandatory part of learning for students in all the private and public sectors (Lewis, Paul, Simons, and Fen, 2006). English is considered a language that has been swiftly adopted by the people of Pakistan, who employ it in their daily lives for a major

part. This has made Pakistan the third-most English-speaking country in South Asia (Bolton, 2006).

The researcherschoose the topic to highlight phonological shift in Pakistani English. This study examines the diphthongsin Pakistani English, focusing on the /əʊ/ sound in English and the way it leads towards variations in pronunciation and phonological differences. In order to give Pakistani English a unique variety, the reorganization of /əʊ/ under the umbrella of Urduized and local impact is crucial. This study will be beneficial for the English language teachers and learners for understanding the distinct phonological features of PakE.

2. Research Questions

i. How do Pakistani speakers pronounce words containing /əʊ/?
ii. How can PakE be classified as an indigenized variety of non-native English based on its pronunciation of /əʊ/?
iii. What phonological changes do happen when participants are unable to pronounce /əʊ/?

3. Literature Review

The global spread of English has led to the emergence of many different forms of the language. This dispersion turns out to be the origin of different English dialects. Pakistani English went through an extended developmental process. In the opinion of Kachru and Nelson (2006), there is an appropriate interest in the local usages and elements that make up Pakistani English. It is acceptable since it has made a name for itself among the World Englishes. Based on Kachru (1986), Pakistani English is recognized as an established second language,it is considered systematized.

Moreover, Pakistani English, as defined by Baumgardner (1995), is an institutionalized and nativized version of English. Other South Asian languages may comprehend it just as well as other dialects. Pakistani English is a distinctive variety resulting from the combination of English with several national and regional languages. Several realizations have emerged from Pakistani English's prolonged evolution.

Dialectal variations in Pakistan are clearly related to linguistic differences (Schneider, 2010). In fact, a country's native English dialects are defined by their first language. Since 60 different languages are spoken all over Pakistan's different parts, it is a multilingual nation (Farooq, 2016). As speakers of English in such a nation are more influenced by their native tongues, borrowing issues would result in dialectal variations in the language. In spite of this, people who reside in the same country use at least two distinct indigenous languages. Thus, based on Mahboob and Szenes (2010), phonological variations can result from an array of factors, including complex language contact, social interaction, gender differences, educational variations, and geographic shifting. PakE has been identified from different viewpoints, such as phonological, morphological, syntactic, and semantic.

Based on Ali (2019), language attitudes, media practicesand sociophonetic differencesarebecoming the causeof spread of linguistic innovations in Pakistani English. Henriksen (2014) explained in his study that trill articulation is greatly affected by factors like the speaker language, gender, and prior vowel phoneme. Geographically-oriented investigations

on trill consonants are supported by the social and linguistic variables, such as non-canonical variants, which provide significant data on diachrony.

PakEis phonologically distinctive due to its different vowel and consonantal features (Khan, 2012). Vowel modifications and alternations have also affected Pakistani English through Urdu and Punjabi (Hussain, Mahmood, and Mahmood, 2011). Sadiq and Ayyaz (2022) in their study about Schwa sound in PakE concludes that use of schwa is different in Pakistani English. It's speakers pronounce words differently in comparison to RP with reference to schwa. There are a number of phonemes which replacethe schwa sound. In most of the cases, schwa is restructured and replaced with /ɑ:/, /æ/, /oʊ/, /e/, /e:/, /ɪ/, /ɒ/, and /ʊ/.

People have come to understand the significance of acquiring English as an international language. The importance of English spreading is of interest to specific individuals and institutions for their own political and economic advantage. As an example, the British Council works to promote connections among citizens of the UK and other countries (Sharifian, 2004). The local English ultimately becomes established as an individual style because of this reciprocal connection. Local Englishes, according to Kachru (2005), reflect regional cultures and traditions. The English language would draw attention to non-Anglo ways of thinking. In place of a "monomodel," he offers a "polymodel" for categorizing and standardizing English dialects (Kirkpatrick, 2004).

According to Farooq and Mahmood (2017), in their study 'Acoustic Behavior of RP Diphthongs in Pakistani English (PakE)', Urdu or Punjabi language phonetically influences English speech of Pakistani L2 speakers. This has an effecton the syllabification of words, formant frequencies and vowel duration of the RP diphthongs.

Therefore, we can say that Pakistani English would become an independent variety through the addition of some distinct vocalic segments. As an international language, English has cooperated with many different languages. It seems that non-native countries are responsible for about 80% of English communication (Sharifian, 2004).

Accordingto some linguists almost all the languages are influenced by each other. English is also one of them. It has receiveda lot of phonological changes due to its interaction with other non-native languages over time. It is believed that Bilingualism and multilingualism is an important characteristic feature of modern society. Anwar (2009) has demonstrated that when English come in contact with a non-native language like Urdu it results in various variations in English syntax. Consequently, the English language receives some traces of the non-native language which give birth to an indigenized variety of language.

Researchers like Baumgardener (1993)investigated lexical borrowing from Urdu along with other local languages in Pakistani English. In his research Bilal et al. (2021) explained that diphthongs /ei/ and /əʊ/ were monophthongised because no glide was evident on the Praat spectrogram, and they took relatively less amount of time for articulation in comparison to other vowels. Hence, it is proved that PakistaniEnglish has some unique features that make it distinct from othervarieties of non-native Englishes. Furthermore, phonological distinctions within PakE have also been identified by Mahboob and Ahmar (2004).

A number of studies have investigated various elements of PakE. The present body of literature has shed light on multiple characteristics that distinguish PakE, including its syllable-timed

features and the persistence of a rhythmic excellence (Hickey, 2005; Mahboob and Ahmar, 2004). PakE has gone through resyllabification for several words, which led to the insertion of extra vowels and diphthongs due to phonotactic constraints originating from Urdu (Mahboob and Ahmar, 2004).

Although earlier studies delved into a variety of PakE linguistic matters, sociophonetic analysis of diphthong /əʊ/ in PakE is the specific focus of this research.

4. Theoretical Framework

Sociophonetics (Foulkes and Docherty, 2006) is used as a theoretical framework along with Uriel Weinreich's language contact theory which was proposedin 1950s. In investigating the sociophonetic analysis of the /əʊ/ diphthong in PakE, both language contact theory and sociophonetics provide beneficial lenses through which the examination of pronunciation patterns and their phonological implications is possible.

Firstly, based on Foulkes and Docherty (2006), sociophonetics investigates how social variables affect phonetic differences within a speech community. By examining the pronunciation of /əʊ/ within Pakistani social groups, this method will reveal trends associated with age, gender, education level, and geographic location. In order to answer the research questions, a thorough sociophonetic study would first record and analyze the variation in the pronunciation of /əʊ/ diphthong. This would provide insight into the factors that influence variations and how phonetic realizations vary. Second, acknowledging PakE as an indigenous variety calls for understanding how its /əʊ/ pronunciation represents a distinct modification of English phonology shaped by regional sociocultural dynamics and linguistic contexts. Last but not the least, investigating phonological shifts when participants have difficulties with /əʊ/ may reveal alteration in phonetic trends or substitutions that happen in reaction to obstacles in learning this diphthong, possibly pointing to continuous phonetic formation within PakE.

Secondly, Pakistani English is viewed as a variety influenced by the linguistic connections among English and indigenous languages such as Urdu and regional languages spoken all over Pakistan through the prism of language contact theory. In response to this theory, certain phonological features in PakE, like how the /əʊ/ diphthong is pronounced, might be modifiedor effected from these native languages. For instance, PakistaniEnglish speakers might fail to clearly differentiate between the English /o/ and /əʊ/ sounds, that may cause them pronounce /əʊ/ differently or simply.

This study attempts to provide an in-depth knowledge of the /əʊ/ diphthong's pronunciation in Pakistani English, its underlying influences, and its greater significance for the phonological surroundings of Pakistani English as an indigenized form of non-native English through the use of language contact theory and sociophonetics.

5. Methodology

The present research is an experimental study dealing with the sociophoneticanalysis of diphthong/əʊ/ in Pakistani English. The study examines the unique characteristic of Pakistani English in respect to the pronunciation of diphthong /əʊ/. The research is conducted using the mixed-method approach. The convenience sampling strategy has been used to select the participants. The study's participants are the students enrolled in a BS program at a private

college in Sialkot, Pakistan between the age of 20 to 25 years. A total of 30 participants have been selected and divided into two groups, 20 females and 10 males, based on their gender. According to the research requirements, all participants are students and not professional vocalists. The reason behind selecting these 30 participants is their understanding of English language. Another reason is that they all are the students and fully aware about the English language just like their mother tongue.

The participants are given a list of 30 words containing diphthong/əʊ/ which were randomly selected from everyday life and then recorded in speech analyzer software PRAAT (Boersma & Weenink, n.d.) for acoustic analysis. The words are given below:

Table 1. Word List (randomly selected from everyday life)

Word List	PAKE	British English
Go	/go/	/gəʊ/
No	/no/	/nəʊ/
Show	/ʃo/	/ʃəʊ/
Slow	/slo/	/sləʊ/
Grow	/gru:/, /gro/	/grəʊ/
Flow	/flo/	/fləʊ/
Thorough	/θa:ro/	/θʌrəʊ/
Blow	/blo:/, /blo/	/bləʊ/
Know	/no/	/nəʊ/
Joe	/dʒoi:/, /dʒo/	/dʒəʊ/
Snow	/sno/	/snəʊ/
Soap	/sop/	/səʊp/
Coat	/ko:t/	/kəʊt/
Boat	/bo:t/	/bəʊt/
Road	/ro:d/	/rəʊd/
Toad	/to:d/	/təʊd/
Load	/lo:d/	/ləʊd/
Phone	/fu:n/	/fəʊn/
Alone	/alon/	/ələʊn/
Stone	/ston/	/stəʊn/
Home	/hom/	/həʊm/
Hope	/hop/	/həʊp/
Rope	/rop/	/rəʊp/
Scope	/sko:p/	/skəʊp/
Woke	/wok/	/wəʊk/
Joke	/dʒok/	/dʒəʊk/
Soak	/sok/	/səʊk/
Yoke	/jok/	/jəʊk/
Globe	/glob/	/gləʊb/
Stove	/stov/	/stəʊv/

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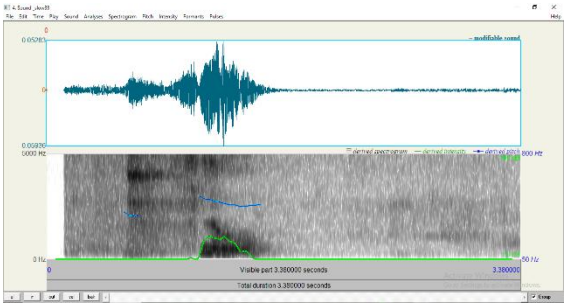
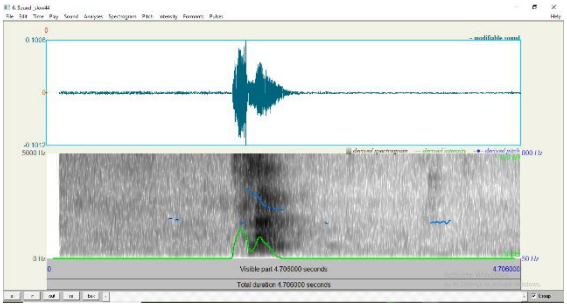
Then, their speeches has acoustically been carefully recordedand analyzed in PRAAT. To illustrate, two pictures of spectrograms are given below. It is a spectrogram of the word ‘slow’.



From Pakistani English



From Standard British English

These pictures explain the difference between PakE and Standard British English. The Pakistani English data demonstrates F1 as 780 Hz and F2 as 1499 Hz. While the F1 in Standard British English is 640 Hz and F2 is 1731 Hz.

6. Data Analysis and Data Interpretation

In the study in hand, the researcher delimits the research to analyze diphthong /əʊ/ in PakE. The words for analysis are collected randomly from everyday life, and each word is analyzed in comparison to the standard British English transcription. The sole purpose of this paper is to highlight the distinct phonological features of PakE. The following analysis shows whether PakE has any incorporation of diphthong /əʊ/ or if it is replaced by other sounds.

6.1.1 Analysis of the word ‘Go’ /gəʊ/

The researchers observed the participants and concluded that they are not familiar with phonetic sounds similar to RP. Phenomenon of substitution can be seen in the responses of participants. They changed the diphthong /əʊ/ into monophthong /o/.As a result, the majority pronounced the word as /go/ rather than as /gəʊ/. PRAAT analysis explained that the value of F1 of PakE is 532 Hz and of F2 is 1228 Hz. On the other side,value of F1 of Standard British Englishis753 Hz and of F2 is 2153 Hz.

6.1.2 Analysis of the word ‘Slow’ /sləʊ/

Pakistani speakers pronounce the word ‘slow’ with huge variation in comparison with the received pronunciation. In Pakistan, people usually pronounce the words according to their spellings. They usually reduce the diphthongs and replace them with monophthongs. Same is the case with the word ‘slow’. Pakistani English data demonstrates F1 as 780 Hz and F2 as 1499 Hz. While the F1 in Standard British English is 640 Hz and F2 is 1731 Hz. It explains how PakE is phonologically different from Standard British English.

6.1.3 Analysis of the word ‘No’ /nəʊ/

A number of participants replaced the diphthong /əʊ/ with the /o/ sound. It leads towards a variation in the pronunciation.PRAAT analysis demonstratesthat F1 of PakE is 438 Hz and F2 is

1273 Hz. However, Standard British English has 1039 Hz for F1 and for F2 its 1550 Hz.The participants' pronunciation is largely affected by their Urdu and Punjabi speaking habits.

6.1.4 Analysis of the word 'Show' /ʃəʊ/

Again the diphthong /əʊ/ is reduced and replaced by /o/ monophthong. There are only a few participants who were aware of the word's phonetic-based pronunciation. PRAAT analysis explained that the F1 value of PakE is 530 Hz and F2 is 1264. On the other hand, Standard British English has F1 as 1746 Hz and F2 as 2660 Hz.

6.1.5 Analysis of the word 'Grow' /grəʊ/

The participants pronounced this word in two different ways. Some of them pronounced it as /gru:/ and some pronounced it as /gro/, but neither of them is based on RP. They replaced the diphthong /əʊ/ with two differentmonophthongs i.e. /u:/ and /o/. The valueof F1 of/gru:/is demonstrated as 478 Hz and F2 as 1175 Hz, and of /gro/ is F1 as 354 Hz and F2 as 1035 Hz . As for as Standard British English is concerned, F1 is 694 Hz and F2 is 1440 Hz. There is an evident influence of Punjabi and Urdu in the pronunciation of participants which makes PakE an indigenized variety of non-native English.

6.1.6 Analysis of the word 'Flow' /fləʊ/

Again, the students pronounced the word following the spelling-based pronunciation. While analyzing the sound, it became evident that the F1 value of PakE is 482 Hz and F2 is 1596 Hz. While of Standard British English, F1 is 907 Hz and F2 is 2035 Hz.

6.1.7 Analysis of the word 'Thorough' /θʌrəʊ/

In the case of this word, thereis a reduction of two different sounds. The participants replaced theshortvowel /ʌ/ with longvowel /a:/ and the diphthong /əʊ/ with monophthong /o/. This was the case with almostall participants . As a result, this word is pronounced quite differently in PakE than in RP with F1 as 783 Hz and F2 as 1616 Hz in PakE and in Standard British English, F1 as 1399 Hz and F2 as 1756 Hz.

6.1.8 Analysis of the word 'Blow' /bləʊ/

During the analysis of the word 'blow', the researchersfind that againthings are going in the same direction. Participants pronounced the word in two different ways. They replaced the diphthong/əʊ/ with /o:/ and /o/ sounds. In PakE the F1 value of /blo:/ is 482 Hz and F2 1596 Hz. While for the second variation F1 is 356 Hz and F2 is 986 Hz. For the Standard British English F1 value is 907 Hz and F2 value is 2035 Hz.

6.1.9 Analysis of the word 'Know' /nəʊ/

The diphthong reduction is again present here as the diphthong /əʊ/ is replaced with /o/ sound. The analysis of both PakE and British pronunciation of the word 'know' highlights the variation in the values. The F1 value of PakE is 327 Hz and F2 is 860 Hz. Standard British English has the F1 value as 461 Hz and F2 as 1473 Hz.

6.1.10 Analysis of the word 'Joe' /dʒəʊ/

Here the /əʊ/ diphthong is replaced by /o/ and /oi:/ sound.The F1 value of PakE in respect to /dʒo/ is 435 Hz and F2 is 1206 Hz but for /dʒoi:/. F1 is 436 Hz and F2 is 746 Hz. On the other hand, F1 value of Standard British English is 753 Hz and F2 is 1650 Hz.

6.1.11 Analysis of the word 'Snow'/snəʊ/

Again, the researchers observed that the sound /əʊ/ is nonexistent in this word and the sound /o/ is used in its place. As for as the values are concerned, PakE has F1 as 570 Hz and F2 as 1739 Hz. The Standard British English has F1 as 807 Hz and F2 as 1628 Hz. It shows how PakE has distinct phonological features in comparison to RP.

6.1.12 Analysis of the word 'Soap' /səʊp/

Most of the participants replaced the diphthong/əʊ/in almost all the words with the /o/ sound. So as the case with the word 'soap.' The F1 value of PakEis 578 Hz and F2 is 2095 Hz. However, Standard British English hasF1 as 538 Hz and F2 as 1857 Hz. This highlights the PakE as having distinctive phonological features.

6.1.13 Analysis of the word 'Coat' /kəʊt/

There is a variation in the pronunciation of the participants in comparison to RP. The /kəʊt/ word is pronounced by theparticipants as /ko:t/, which shows a distinct characteristic of PakE. Thus value of F1 in PakE is 500 Hz and F2 is 1769 Hz and in Standard British English the F1 value is 642 Hz and F2 is 1948 Hz.

6.1.14 Analysis of the word 'Boat' /bəʊt/

All the participants pronounced this word with the sound /o:/. There is not even a single participant who pronounced the word with diphthong /əʊ/.As a result, the analysis explained that the F1 valueof PakE is 433 Hz and F2 is 995 Hz. While for the Standard British English, F1 is 897 Hz and F2 is 1987 Hz. There are a lot of words that are pronounced differently in Pakistani English than in RP.

6.1.15 Analysis of the word 'Road' /rəʊd/

The word 'road' illustrates a strong tendency among Pakistani participants to pronounce it differently than RP. The majority of participants pronounce /əʊ/ as /o:/. All participants correctly pronounced the word using the spelling-based pronunciation concept. Not a single participantpronounced the word the way RP instructs. When the word road is analyzed, it is evident that Pakistani English does not use diphthong /əʊ/. Consequently, the F1 value of PakE is 806 Hz and F2 is 2320 Hz and for the Standard British English F1 is 796 Hz and F2 is 1516 Hz.

6.1.16 Analysis of the word 'Toad' /təʊd/

The word 'toad' suggests that there is no /əʊ/sound in the data that was gathered. The vast majority of participants say the word in relation to the sound /o:/.Data analysis demonstrates that PakE has F1 value as 423 Hz and F2 as 1408 Hz. While Standard British English has F1 as 690 Hz and F2 as 1920 Hz. All the participantsdemonstrated an attribute of Pakistani English and overgeneralization.

6.1.17 Analysis of the word 'Load' /ləʊd/

When the diphthong /əʊ/ comesin a word, Pakistani English speakers are more likely to replace it with the /o/ or /o:/ sound. The word 'load' conveys a similar situation. This variant phonological feature is prevalent in Pakistani English, where spelling-based pronunciation is used. All pupils correctly pronounce the word, substituting /o/ for the /əʊ/ sound. The analysis showed the F1 of PakE as 436 Hz and F2 as 1510 Hz and for the Standard British English the F1 value as 792 Hz and F2 as 1542 Hz.

6.1.18 Analysis of the word 'Phone' /fəʊn/

When uttering the given word, the majority of students replaced the sound/əʊ/ with /u:/. When compared to the given word's pronunciation inRP, a major distinction has been observed. The majority of participants used this sound in Pakistani English, which is a dialect of Urdu with regional differences.So,in PakE the F1 is 692 Hz and the F2 is 1236 Hz. On the other hand, the F1 in Standard British English is 946 Hz and F2 is equal to 1789 Hz.

6.1.19 Analysis of the word 'Alone' /ələʊn/

The word 'Alone' demonstrates the same distinctive phonological characteristic identified with Pakistani English. The word is pronounced more distinctly by the participants than in RP. Every participant pronounce the word with the /o/ sound rather than diphthong /əʊ/. The schwa sound at the start is also replaced by the /a/ sound. There is no record of diphthong /əʊ/ and schwa usage in the participants' responses. As far as the values are concerned, F1 of PakE is 352 Hz and F2 is 1800 Hz and for Standard British English F1 is 903 Hz and F2 is 1786 Hz. It is deemed to be the outcome of overgeneralization.

6.1.20 Analysis of the word 'Stone' /stəʊn/

The word under investigation provides comparable data that has been gathered about the words analyzed above. In contrast to RP, participants pronounce the suggested word replacingdiphthong /əʊ/ with /o/. So theF1 of PakE is 591 Hz and F2 is 1451 Hz and for Standard British English F1 is 643 Hz and F2 is 1968 Hz. It has been discovered that the PakistaniEnglish pronunciation differs from RP in many ways.

6.1.21 Analysis of the word 'Home' /həʊm/

The analysis of the word 'home' has the same description as that of 'stone.' The diphthong /əʊ/ is replaced by the /o/ sound. All the students pronounced the word according to it's spelling-based pronunciation rather than following the RP pattern. So the F1 value of PakE is 487 Hz and F2 is 1084 Hz. Standard British English has the F1 value as 763 Hz and F2 as 1756 Hz.

6.1.22 Analysis of the word 'Hope' /həʊp/

The analysis shows that all the participantspronounced the words with a deep-rooted inclination towards Urdu and Punjabi patterns. Just like 'stone 'and 'home' the word 'hope' is uttered by the participants with the /o/ sound replacing the diphthong /əʊ/. Furthermore, PakE has the F1 value as 427 Hz and F2 as 1838 Hz and Standard British English has F1 as 924 Hz and F2 as 1965 Hz.

6.1.23 Analysis of the word 'Rope' /rəʊp/

The analysis of 'rope' follows the same route. The mid sound /əʊ/ is again replaced by the /o/ sound. It indicates that the participants are not following the RP but rather focusing on their own

PakE pronunciation patterns, which are considered Urduized. As a result, F1 value of PakE is 445 Hz and F2 is 1055 Hz but for the Standard British English F1 is 1039 Hz and F2 is 1175 Hz.

6.1.24 Analysis of the word 'Scope' /skəʊp/

In the analysis of 'Scope', it is traced that the responses of participants were in accordance with Pakistani English pronunciation rather than RP. They replaced diphthong /əʊ/ with the /o:/ sound. This diphthong reduction leads toward a difference between the F1 and F2 values of both languages. Consequently, F1 value of PakE is 480 Hz and F2 is 1066 Hz and for Standard British English F1 is 879 Hz and F2 is 2348 Hz.

6.1.25 Analysis of the word 'Woke' /wəʊk/

There are a small number of participants who are familiar with the /əʊ/ sound. Thesame is true when 'Woke' word is pronounced by the participants. They pronounced it according to PakE which is influenced by their L1. As a result, data analysis showed a difference between the F1 and F2 values of both languages. PakE has F1 as 302 Hz and F2 as 1035 Hz. While Standard British English has F1 as 1097 Hz and F2 as 1647 Hz.

6.1.26 Analysis of the word 'Joke' /dʒəʊk/

Analysis of 'Joke' demonstrates that majority of participants pronounced it following the pattern of previous word 'Woke.' The data analysis showed the F1 value of PakE as 440 Hz and F2 as 1126 Hz and for Standard British English the F1 as 656 Hz and F2 as 1774 Hz.

6.1.27 Analysis of the word 'Soak' /səʊk/

In the case of this word, all the participants pronounced it according to the spelling based pronunciation. Analysis of this word gives us a carbon copy of the word 'home.'Asa result of data analysis, the F1 value of PakE is 608 Hz and F2 is 1095 Hz and for Standard British English F1 is 731 Hz and F2 is 1982 Hz. All the students pronounced the word using /o/ sound which is not used in RP.

6.1.28 Analysis of the word 'Yoke' /jəʊk/

Analysis of 'Yoke' demonstrates that, just like the word 'Joke', students have an interesting variety of pronunciation.They replaced the diphthong /əʊ/ with /o/sound. Analysis of the data highlights the F1 value of PakE as 1040 Hz and F2 as 2671 Hz and for Standard British English F1 as 608 Hz and F2 as 2230 Hz.

6.1.29 Analysis of the word 'Globe' /gləʊb/

This word received a similar response as the many others discussed above. All the participants replaced diphthong/əʊ/ with /o/ sound. They are not concerned with RP; rather, they are much more focused on the spelling of a word. Consequently, data analysis showed the F1 value of PakE as 462 Hz and F2 as 1360 Hz and for the Standard British English F1 as 1104 Hz and F2 as 2194 Hz.

6.1.30 Analysis of the word 'Stove' /stəʊv/

Pakistani English follows a distinct set of rules and sounds than RP. The participants read the words in the same way they read Urdu or Punjabi. The same is true with this particular word. By following the spelling based pronunciation, the participants replaced the diphthong/əʊ/ with /o/ sound. So, the F1 value of PakE is 556 Hz and F2 is 2279 Hz and for Standard British English F1 is 1087 Hz and F2 is 2487 Hz.

7. Conclusion

The primary objective of this study is to highlightthe distinct phonological features of Pakistani English which make it an indigenized variety of non-native English based on its pronunciation of the diphthong /əʊ/ in PakE. The paper is focused on how Pakistani speakers pronounce words containing diphthong /əʊ/, whether PakE can be classified as a distinct variety of English based on its /əʊ/ pronunciation, and what happens when Pakistani speakers can't pronounce the sound /əʊ/. Pakistani speakers mostly replace diphthong /əʊ/ with /o/, which makes it a distinct variety of its own. This replacement leads the speaker towards phonological changes in the pronunciation of particular words. The findings revealed that PakE has a different articulation pattern,dueto the influence of other local languages present in the country, that differentiates it from different types of English. PakE's unique features in pronouncing the diphthong /əʊ/ demonstrate that it belongs to a distinct category of non-native South Asian Englishes. This is the result of difference in the educational system and level and geographical location where English is treated as a subject and not a language. The phonological variations found in the present study suggest that PakE has unique phonemesand distinct phonological patterns especially when it comes to the articulation of vowels and diphthongs. Therefore, it makes sense to conclude that, in comparison to Standard British English, PakE is a distinct variety of English that is distinguished by the diphthong /əʊ/, which is replaced by the /o/ and sometimes/o:/ sound, pronunciation patterns and phonological implications in PakE. This emphasizes the intricate variety and nuances found in English language variants across different societies and linguistic communities.

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