

ENGLISH DIPHTHONGS [eɪ], [aɪ], [aʊ] PRONUNCIATION PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY SEVENTH SEMESTER STUDENTS OF ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM IN STIKUBANK UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC YEAR OF 2018

Fitri Wulandari¹, Katharina Rustipa²

English Literature Study Program, Law and Language Faculty

Stikubank University

[1fwulandari091@gmail.com](mailto:fwulandari091@gmail.com), [2katrin@edu.unisbank.ac.id](mailto:katrin@edu.unisbank.ac.id)

Abstract

This final project concerns about the problem of pronouncing English diphthongs conducted by students majoring in English Literature at Stikubank University, which aims to analyze English diphthongs and what are the causes of the problem. This research uses descriptive quantitative research method. The subjects of this study were taken as many as 7 students from the English Literature department at the Stikubank University Semarang academic year of 2018. The data collected through student pronunciation tests from WhatsApp, and also recorded via voice notes from WhatsApp, then the recorded data was transcribed. The results of this research show that the most difficult English diphthong to pronounce correctly is diphthong [aʊ] which has a presentation of 39.93%, then for diphthong [eɪ] as much as 34.48%, and the lowest diphthong [aɪ] is 27.59%. From these results it can be concluded that students still have to practice a lot so that they can be easily understood and avoid misunderstandings.

Keywords: English Diphthong, Pronunciation Error, Monophthongization

INTRODUCTION

English is an international language spoken in most parts of the world. There are many scientific books written in English. Moreover, information in the field of technology especially the internet uses English. This makes English an International language that is commonly studied in every school in Indonesia. English consists of four language skills, namely reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Pronunciation is one part of the speaking skills in English. According to Novarita (2017) pronunciation is the way of language says certain words or sounds. It has been debatable how much the mother tongue affects the target language. The majority of academics concur that the learner's mother tongue affects how the target language is spoken. Contrastive analysis, often known as comparing one's mother tongue's structure to that of the target language, is crucial. (Gao, 2005). (Pratiwi & Indrayani, 2021). This study uses a qualitative approach, this technique is carried out by means of observation and using voice recording media. This research involves 7 students from Stikubank University in 7th semester. This research will be conducted at Stikubank University for students majoring in English Literature.

METHODOLOGY

In this research, the researcher used the descriptive quantitative method. This method was used to know the English diphthong pronunciation problem committed by seventh-semester students

majoring in English Literature for the 2018 academic year at Stikubank University Semarang. To have the result of this research, the researcher did some procedures. First, the research gave the test to the students. Then, the researcher collected the voice record from the students sent as the data. Second, the researcher identified the diphthong pronunciation error made by the students.

Third, the researcher described and classified the data. Next, the researcher interpreted the data and concluded the result of the research.

The unit of analysis in this study is English pronunciation problem. This test only involves 7 students out of 14 students in the English Literature Department.

The analysis is about English Diphthong [eɪ], [aɪ], [aʊ] pronunciation problems. The instrument used in this research was an oral test. This instrument is a list of words test provided by the researcher. The word oral test consist of fifteen words on each diphthong and the oral test was recorded.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

There are transcription from Oxford Online Learner Dictionary and the transcription which are transcribed by the writer from the seven records provided by the seven speakers. The transcription of speakers' pronunciation shows several mistakes of diphthongs [eɪ], [aɪ], [aʊ] pronunciations. The pronunciations with diphthongs error are put and categorized further into the following table.

Table 1. Error Pronunciation of Diphthongs [eɪ], [aɪ], [aʊ]

Error Pronunciation of Diphthongs [eɪ], [aɪ], [aʊ]						
No	Words	Phonetic Transcription		Speaker's Number	Errors Count	Percentage
		Dictionary Transcription	Pronunciation's Mistakes			
Diphthong [eɪ]						
1	Information	/ɪnfəmeɪʃn/	/ɪnfɔrme:ʃn/	3, 4, 5	3	
2	Aid	/eɪd/	-	-	0	
3	Rain	/reɪn/	/rɛɪn/	5	1	
4	Take	/teɪk/	/te:k/	2, 5	2	
5	Say	/seɪ/	/se:/	2, 3, 4, 5	4	
Total Pronunciation Errors of Diphthong [eɪ]					10	
Diphthong [aɪ]						
1	Idea	/aɪdɪə/	/ɪdeə/	1	1	
2	Environment	/ɪnvəɪrənmənt/	/ɛnvɪrəmənt/ /ənvɪrənmənt/ /ɛnvɪrənmən/ /ɛnvɪrəmənt/	1, 3, 4, 5	4	
3	Crocodile	/krə:kədəɪl/	/'krə:kədəɛl/	5, 6, 7	3	
4	Nile	/naɪl/	-	-	0	
5	Lime	/laɪm/	-	-	0	
Total Pronunciation Errors of Diphthong [aɪ]					8	

Diphthong [aʊ]					
1	Out	/aʊt/	/aʊt/	4, 5	2
2	About	/əbaʊt/	/əbaʊt/	4, 5	2
3	How	/haʊ/	/haʊ/	3, 4	2
4	House	/haʊs/	-	-	
5	Power	/paʊə(ɪ)/	/pəwər/ /pəwə(ɪ)/ /pəʊər/ /pəwər/ /pəwər/	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	5
Total Pronunciation Errors of Diphthong [aʊ]					11

Table 1 shows that there are some pronunciations errors omitted by seven speakers. Total Pronunciation Errors of Diphthong [eɪ] is ten. Total Pronunciation Errors of Diphthong [aɪ] is eight. Total Pronunciation Errors of Diphthong [aʊ] is eleven. Therefore, the most errors are found in Diphthong [aʊ] pronunciations. Total errors are twenty-nine.

Discussion

The writer notices two types of sound change that become errors in speaker's pronunciation. The first noticeable sound change happens when one vowel in the diphthong disappears. For example, when /teɪk/ is pronounced as /te:k/. The second noticeable sound change happens when one vowel turns into another vowel. For example, when /əbaʊt/ is pronounced as /əbaʊt/. The first sound change, in which, one of diphthong's sound is deleted, and the diphthong turns into monophthong, is called monophthongization. On the other hand, the second sound change, in which, one vowel in the diphthong is replaced by another vowel is called phoneme substitution. To support the analysis of monophthongization and phoneme substitution, the writer also applies phonological distinctive features concept proposed by Schane (1973). Schane (1973:25-36) defined the appropriate features into eight features, but only five of them will be mentioned, due to its relevancy with this study: binary features, major class features, manner features, place of articulation features, and body of tongue features.

Next, the second type of the errors, that is phoneme substitution. Substitution is the most general pattern of phonic interference that occurs when phonemes of first language are similar with the ones in second language but have different phonetic realizations or different pronunciation (Weinreich, 1979, p. 19). Phoneme substitution, or in short, it is referred as substitution this point onward, happens as another type of pronunciation errors of this study. The substitution happens in diphthong [eɪ], [aɪ], and [aʊ].

Differ from monophthongization, substitution happens when the sound changes into different sound, for example, in this study the diphthong [aʊ] changes into sound [ɔ], which is not the sound that exist in diphthong [aʊ] itself. Meanwhile, Monophthongization on the previous subheading, is about deletion of one vowel in diphthong but another vowel remains there.

In the end of this discussion, the writer concludes some important points. The first point is that there are some possible causes of the pronunciation errors. The writer finds that the cause of the errors, is the influence of the first language. This happens because the acquisition of the phonological system of a second language is a continual process of restructuralization of the mother tongue phonological system into phonological system of target language. This is how any

language, such as Javanese or Bahasa Indonesia may cause the pronunciations errors in speaking English words.

The second point is that the monophthongization and phonetic substitution are considered as error in pronunciations, but mostly they happen under the situations in which the speakers have been exposed to more than language, therefore, there are some phonological rules of certain language, that is applied when the speaker pronounces words in other language. This is shown by the monophthongization that exist in Javanese only, is found as errors in pronouncing English diphthongs.

CONCLUSION

The total amount of errors is twenty-nine. The most errors are found in diphthong [aʊ] which has 39.93%. The diphthong [eɪ] which has 34.48%. The least is diphthong [aɪ] with 27.59%. the most errors are performed by speaker 5 with 31.03% and speaker 4 with 24.14%. The pronunciation errors in this study are part of phonic interference phenomena: the monophthongization and the substitution.

REFERENCES

- Pratiwi, D. R., & Indrayani, L. M. (2021). Pronunciation Error on English Diphthongs Made by EFL Students. *Teknosastik*, 19(1), 24. <https://doi.org/10.33365/ts.v19i1.486>
- Schane, Sanford A. (1973). *Generative Phonology*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J: Prentice-Hall.
- Weinreich, U. (1979). *Languages in Contact*. New York: The Hague Mouton.