THE SOUNDS SHIFTED BY THE MYANMAR SPEAKER IN ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION: PHONOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

Ambalegin Ambalegin
Universitas Putera Batam, Batam, Indonesia
e-mail: abhi140475@gmail.com

Muhammad Nasir
The Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Pakistan
e-mail: sendtonasir@gmail.com

Aung Si Thu
Pantapwinttaung Buddhist Missionary University, Yangon, Myanmar
e-mail: aungsithu.99999@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This study is a phonological analysis that discusses the sounds of letters spoken in English words viewed from phonology and phonetics. The purpose of this study is to describe the use of sound patterns on vowels and consonants of English words. This study identifies the sound shifting produced by the Myanmar speaker. The data were collected by using observation method. The technique used was the recording and note-taking. Then, the data were analyzed by using phonetic articulatory identity method. The theories used were Roach, Fasold and Connor-Linton, Finegan, Ladefoged and Disner, and Skandera and Burleigh's theories related to the pronunciation corresponding to English phonetic symbols. Furthermore, the results of data analysis were presented by using descriptive narrative. The phonological issues occurred in term of deletion, insertion, and alteration. There were some sounds shifted and neutralized to the speaker's first language. The effect of first language pronunciation makes the English pronunciation unstandardized.

Keywords: English consonants, English vowels, Myanmar speaker, phonological analysis, shifting

1. INTRODUCTION

In this post-COVID 19 era, communication is done at home virtually. Online learning class, webinar, conference, interview session, and online meeting need the skill of speaking to communicate to the audience. An effective speaker can inspire the listeners a lot and gain the complete attention for the listeners and maintain the same tempo until the end of the speaker's speech. Not only famous people, but also the way the speakers deliver the speech is the factor whether the activities are interesting.

In oral way, all elements must be involved, there are five elements of speaking such as pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension (Ambalegin et al., 2017). However, in communication process,

neither vocabulary nor grammar makes ESL/EFL learners faulty but pronunciation is (Ambalegin & Arianto, 2018). Pronunciation is the manner where someone utters the words. Pronunciation has a big contribution for better English spoken. Pronunciation is the important skill in speaking English (Gilakjani, 2016; Himmayati & Triyoko, 2024). With good pronunciation, everyone is able to pronounce words correctly and gain self-confidence while speaking in English (Kasimov, 2022). Inadequate pronunciation skill may increase lack of self-confidence to speak up (Prodanovska-Poposka, 2017).

Pronunciation is the unique linguistic phenomenon since every language has its own pronunciation rules. Every language has different number of sounds that makes ones find difficulty to pronounce other languages. Some speakers finally pronounce the foreign language sounds by adapting their first language pronunciation. The adaptation of pronunciation to another language will produce the change of original sounds of a language. This issue is not only to the different sound production but also the change of meaning of a language.

Mastering English pronunciation allows the speakers to communicate effectively, helps native speakers understand their English, and conveys meaning accurately (Ambalegin, 2025b). Pronouncing English words correctly averts misunderstandings and enhances overall speaking skills with confidence (Ambalegin, 2025c).

The production of correct pronunciation is crucial to avoid misunderstanding. Some said that speaking foreign language with local accent is not matter as long as the hearer understands what the speaker says. In fact, the influence of the first language pronunciation to the foreign language pronunciation will distract the language and the hearer. The problem of pronunciation is usually about the incorrect pronunciation of a language made by the speakers, and it may ruin the original sounds of a language (Ambalegin, 2022). This issue can be seen from the speech of the 7th president of Indonesia and the speech of candidate for vice president, Sandiaga Uno.

Ambalegin and Arianto (2018) captured the English sound shifting articulated by the 7th president of Indonesia on his speech. It was discovered that the consonant sounds /θ/, /ð/, /v/, /z/, and /ʃ/ were mispronounced, along with the vowel sounds /ə/, /ɒ/, /ɛ/, /i/, /e/, and /ɪ/, as well as the diphthong sounds /ɪə/, /eɪ/, /əʊ/ and /aʊ/. The center of the word's consonant, /l/, was not spoken. The middle consonant, /j/, is left out of the term. The spelling corresponded to how the consonants /g/, /tʃ/, and /r/ were spoken. The nouns' last consonants, /t/, /s/, and /k/, were eliminated. At the conclusion of the word, the letter <y> had the pronunciation /e/ but had the /ɪ/ sound. The pronunciation of the diphthongs /ɪə/, /eɪ/, /əʊ/ and /aʊ/ were /ɪ/, /ʌ/, /ɛ/, /ə/, /e/, and /ɔ/.

Ikhsan and Ambalegin (2020) discovered Sandiaga Uno's instances of misspelled phonemes in his speeches as a candidate for vice president, candidate for governor of Jakarta, and prominent figure in Indonesia. The primary outcome is that the phenomena of misspelled phonemes presented in the

dental region, such as the phoneme /θ/, the glottal region, such as the sound /ɒ/, and also the palatal region, such as the phoneme /ʤ/.

The English sound shifting was previously discovered by Ambalegin and Hulu (2019). They revealed the mispronunciation of EFL learners who studied at Universitas Putera Batam. They mispronounced some English sounds. The consonant sounds /ð/, /θ/, /th/, /z/, /ɹ/, /ʃ/, /ʧ/, /ʤ/, /nj/ and consonant-closed syllable sound /k/ were all mispronounced. The consonant sound /ð/ is pronounced as /d/, /θ/ as /t/, /th/ as /t/, /z/ as /ɟ/, /ɹ/ as /r/, /ʧ/ as /s/, /ʃ/ as /s/, /ʤ/ as /d/, and /nj/ as /ɲ/. The /k/ consonant-closed syllable sound is pronounced as /ʔ/. The vowel sounds /ə/ and /æ/ were wrongly pronounced as /e/, while the diphthong sound /eɪ/ was incorrectly produced as /e/.

The influence of the English sound shifting is known from different numbers of phonemes for every language. The sound which belongs to English sometimes does not belong to other languages i.e., Batak language does not have schwa [ə] as the batak-neses pronounce **student** as /ˈstʊ.den/ instead of /ˈstʊ.dnt/ (Ambalegin & Suryani, 2018), and the influence of the Lani language on Malang's native Lani speakers' spoken Indonesian was investigated by Tabuni et al., (2020). Vowel substitution, consonant substitution, and phoneme deletion results are reviewed. [aɪ] is replaced by [aɛ], [r] is replaced by [t], [ʤ] is replaced by [j], [ŋ] is replaced by [n], [ŋ] is replaced by [ŋg], [g] is replaced by [ŋ], [h] is pronounced silent, [b] is replaced by [p], [d] is replaced by [nd], [n] is replaced by [ŋ], [f] is replaced by [p], [b] is replaced by [mb], [v] is replaced by [p], [ʧ] is replaced by [s].

Some local languages originating from outside Indonesia influence English pronunciation. Mishra and Mishra, (2016) discussed the English mispronunciation made by the Indians. The Indians pronounce the /r/ in any position, whereas the standard British English, /r/ occurs only before vowel. They found that the aspirated sounds of /p, t, k/, the process of epenthetic vowels /i/ processes the clusters spring /ispriŋ/, stool /istu:l/, school /isku:l/. /ð, θ/ are pronounced as /d, t/, and /t, d/ are pronounced as /ḍ, ṭ/.

According to Mafalees, (2020), Yemeni EFL students had difficulties pronouncing the sound "p" in all word positions. They pronounced it with /b/ sound. It took place for the letter /v/. In nearly all word locations, participants pronounced this sound incorrectly. They spoke it with /f/ sound. The participants mispronounced the consonant sound /t/. They pronounced it with the sound /ʃ/, particularly near the middle. Due to the fact that /p/, /v/, and /tʃ/ do not exist in Arabic, these consonants /p/-/b/, /f/-/v/, and /tʃ/-/dʒ/-/ʃ/ appear to be difficult for Yemeni pupils. then they pronounced **play** and **slay** with the short vowel /i/ as in /plei/ and /sli/. Finally, they mispronounce words with three beginning consonants, such as **spread**, **street**, **strategy**, **scream**, **spring**, and **wonderful**. They add the vowel /i/ to words like **spread**, **splendiferous**, and **splendid**. Some English consonants, such as /ð/, /θ/, and the vowel /ə/, which is sounded as /d/, /t/, and /e/, are difficult for Macedonian students to speak. The short vowels and absence of the vowel /ə/, which is heard as /æ/, are typical of

Turkish students. Additionally, they are unable to pronounce the sounds /ð/ and /θ/.

All students could pronounce every other consonant sound except for four, which were /dʒ/, /ʒ/, /tʃ/ and /g/, respectively. This was discovered by Zaw, (2022). Only five of the total 14 vowel sounds, namely /a:/, /ɜ:/, /ə/, /æ/ and /e/, were determined to have pronunciation problems. The only two diphthong sounds that the experts mispronounced were /ɔɪ/ as in **boy** and /eə/ as in **chair**. There are no concluding sounds in the Burmese language for words ending in the consonant sounds /p/, /d/, /b/, /k/, and /m/. /a:/ and /ɜ:/ sounds correctly, which may be due to the absence of these sounds in Burmese. As there are no such sounds in Burmese, errors are made when pronouncing the diphthongs /e/ and /a/. No /ʒ/ sound can be heard in.

However, the educator experiences the shifts. The shift of English sounds due to the first language influence was also experienced by the speaker from Myanmar on webinar held in Universitas Putera Batam. While delivering his speech, the speaker from Myanmar shifted some English sounds such as **culture**, **understanding**, and **divided** as /kʌ.cʌ/, /ʌ.nəs.te.nɪn/, and /dʒə.faɪ.dʒəd/. He spoke English with a Burmese accent.

This English sound shifting does not only disturb the auditory phonetics but also the perceptual phonetics. The audience of webinar, after interviewing them, did not understand what the Myanmar speaker said, because the audience did not identify the sounds articulated and they did not catch the meaning. Although the speaker is able to speak English but because he spoke English with his Burmese accent, he did not realize the listeners did not understand his English.

The Myanmar speaker graduated from one of the state universities in Java in 2017. He is teaching in one of the universities in Yangon, Myanmar. He is able to speak English as he spoke English while talking with the researchers. Below is one of the statements taken from his speech which was shifted.

Speaker : Now may I present the cross culture in language learning process?
/naw -se- meɪ aɪ prɪ.sen de krɔː kʌ.cʌ ɪn leŋ.gʊ.wes le.nɪn prɒ.seʔ/

From the phonetic transcription, the speaker shifted, omitted, and added some sounds.

1. The speaker shifted
   a. [aʊ] in **now** [naʊ] to [n**aw**],
   b. [z] in **present** [prɪ.zent] to [prɪ.**s**en],
   c. [ð] and [ə] in **the** [ðə] to [**de**],
   d. [tʃ] and [ə] in **culture** [kʌl.tʃə] to [kʌ.**cʌ**],
   e. [æ], [ɪ], and [dʒ] in **language** [læŋg.wɪdʒ] to [l**e**ŋ.gu.w**es**],
   f. [ɜ:] and [ŋ] in **learning** [lɜ:.nɪŋ] to [l**e.nɪn**],
   g. [əu] and [s] in **process** [prəu.ses] to [pr**ɒ.se**ʔ].

2. The speaker omitted
   a. [s] in **cross** [krɒ**s**] to [krɔː],
   b. [t] in **present** [prɪ.zen**t**] to [prɪ.sen],
   c. [l] in **culture** [kʌ**l**.tʃə] to [kʌ.cʌʔ].

3. The speaker inserted [u] between [g] and [w] in **language** [læŋ.gwɪdʒ] as [leŋ.g**ʊ**.wes].

As the speaker is from Myanmar, it is important to know the phonetic system of Burmese language. Myanmar was the former British colony where British was the country that started the presence of English in Myanmar but English did not grow properly in the former colony (Hartati et al., 2022). 5% only of Myanmar people speak English as this country was colonialized by British so English as a second language and English is familiar for the people of Myanmar (Hartati et al., 2022). But the people of Myanmar use Burmese language as their first language.

Myanmar or Burmese language is spoken by the most all the people all across the country (Win et al., 2019). English is a foreign language in schools (Hartati et al., 2022) as it is not widely used as a medium of instruction in classroom across the country (Ulla, 2018). Many teachers and students hardly communicate in English because they translate the English book into Myanmar language to understand the concept (Ulla, 2018).

Myanmar language is a tonal, pitch register, and syllable-timed language, largely monosyllabic and analytic language. Syllables or words with different tones will have different lexical meanings such as /sa̰ʔ/ **to start**, /sà/ **a lesson**, and /sá:/ **to eat**. There are 21 phonemes for 33 consonant scripts or **abugida**. Some scripts share the same pronunciation (Naing et al., 2015).

One script is pronounced as three different endings;
a. creaky tone [ʔ] ဃ /ka̰ʔ/

b. low tone ဃာ /kà/

c. high tone ဃာ: /ká:/

The consonant sounds are grouped into unaspirated and aspirated, voiced, voiceless, and nasal. Tables 1, 2, and 3 show the script groups. The Burmese consonants are pronounced by the glottal stop ends.

Burmese Consonants	
Unaspirated	Aspirated
က= k /ka̰ʔ/	ခ=kh /kʰa̰ʔ/
စ=s /sa̰ʔ/	ဆ=hs /sʰa̰ʔ/
ဋ=t /ta̰ʔ/	ဌ=ht /tʰa̰ʔ/
တ=t /ta̰ʔ/	ထ=ht /tʰa̰ʔ/
ပ=p /pa̰ʔ/	ဖ=hp /pʰa̰ʔ/
ယ=y /ja̰ʔ/	ရ=r /ja̰ʔ/
	ဟ=h /ha̰ʔ/

Table 1. Grouped Consonants (Chang, 2009)

Burmese Consonants	
Voiced	
ဂ=g /ga̰ʔ/	ဃ=gh /ga̰ʔ/
ဇ=z /za̰ʔ/	ဈ=z /za̰ʔ/
ဍ=d /da̰ʔ/	ဒ=d /da̰ʔ/
ဎ=d /da̰ʔ/	ဓ=dh /da̰ʔ/
ဗ=b /ba̰ʔ/	ဘ=bh /ba̰ʔ/
လ=l /la̰ʔ/	ဝ=w /wa̰ʔ/
ဠ=l /la̰ʔ/	အ=a /a̰ʔ/

Table 2. Grouped Consonants (Chang, 2009)

Burmese Consonants
Nasal
င=ng /ŋa̰ʔ/
ည,ဉ=ny /ɲa̰ʔ/

ဣ=n /na̰ʔ/

ၐ=n /na̰ʔ/

 မ=m /ma̰ʔ/

သ=th /θa̰ʔ/

Table 3. Grouped Consonants
(Chang, 2009)

The 33 consonants in Myanmar alphabet, several have the same pronunciation, leaving just 21 phonemes; /k/, /kʰ/, /g/, /s/, /sʰ/, /z/, /ŋ/, /ɲ/, /t/, /tʰ/, /d/, /n/, /p/, /pʰ/, /b/, /m/, /j/, /l/, /w/, /θ/, /h/. There are seven basic vowel phonemes: /a/, /i/, /u/, /e/, /o/, /ɛː/, /ɔː/, and four basic diphthong phonemes: /ei/, /ai/, /au/, /ou/.

Depending on the tone level, these can be stretched into 50 other vowels. Since there are four different tonal levels in Myanmar language, phonemic contrasts can be created based on the tone of a vowel. Along with the pitch, these differences also entail phonation, intensity (loudness), length, and vowel quality (Hlaing & Thida, 2018; Sadeghi, 2019).

Based on the issue of English sound shifting in social context, the researchers were interested in conducting this phonological analysis to identify specifically how the first language affects the changes in foreign language articulation. The data were taken from the Myanmar speaker when he delivered his speech on webinar with his natural and spontaneous English pronunciation.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

To speak English with appropriate pronunciation, the non-English native speakers must know the English phonetics. This English phonetics shows the speech sounds and teaches the articulatory. The correct position of the speech organs will produce correct sounds (Ambalegin, 2025a).

There are some experts discussed the English phonetics such as Roach (2012), Fasold and Connor-Linton (2006), Finegan (2015), Ladefoged and Disner (2012), and Skandera and Burleigh (2005). The explanation of English phonetics are shown below based on the experts' theories.

a. Vowels

The sounds in which are produced with relatively little obstruction in the vocal tract is called vowel sounds. Vowels contain of long and short ways to articulate. The long vowel sounds are marked by the colon (:). Based on the characteristics of the articulation, there are three categories vowel sounds; closed vowel sounds [iː, ɪ, ʊ, uː], mid vowel sounds [e, ə, ɜː, ɔː], and open vowel sounds [æ, ʌ, ɑː, ɒ].

b. Diphthongs

A diphthong is two vowel sounds together. They are classified as one phoneme by forming nucleus of syllable. There are three types of diphthong sounds based on the articulation characteristics: centering diphthongs [ɪə, ʊə, eə], closing diphthongs ending in [ɪ]; [eɪ, ɔɪ, aɪ], and closing diphthongs ending in [ʊ]; [əʊ, aʊ].

c. Triphthongs

A triphthong is a swift, uninterrupted transition from one vowel to another and then to a third. The triphthongs can be thought of as consisting of five closely spaced

diphthongs with the schwa sound. The triphthongs list as [eɪə], [aɪə], [ɔɪə], [əʊə], and [aʊə].

d. Consonants

Consonants are sounds made with a lot of constriction in the mouth, so that the air coming up from the lungs gets squashed, and when larynx vibrates; this sensation is known as voicing. A spot of articulation is any location along the airstream where sound can be altered to produce a different sound. There are articulation points on the lips, inside the mouth, in the pharynx, and at the glottis. The movement of active and passive articulators where the articulators meet to obstruct the air in articulating the consonants refers to the place of articulation. Seven different types of places where articulation occurs: bilabials, labiodentals, dentals, alveolar, palatal, velar, and glottal.

1. Bilabial sounds are vocalizations made with the upper and lower lips together to produce [p], [b], and [m].
2. Labiodental sounds are produced using the lower lip and upper teeth. The sounds are [f] and [v].
3. Dental sound is produced when the tongue tip behind the top front teeth is used to create [θ] and [ð] sounds.
4. Alveolar sounds are made on the alveolar ridge, which is the bony ridge that is rough and directly behind and above the upper teeth. Alveolar sounds are [t], [d], [s], [z], [n], and [l].
5. Palate is a hard area in the roof of mouth which is back behind the alveolar ridge. Palatals are the names for sounds made with the tongue and palates (or alveo-palatals). The palatal sounds are [ʃ], [ʒ], [tʃ], [dʒ], [r], and [j].
6. The soft palate, also known as the velum, is located even further back on the roof of the mouth, beyond the hard palate. Velars are the sounds made when the back of the tongue rubs against the velum. The sounds are [k], [g], [ŋ], and [w].
7. The area in the larynx between the vocal folds is known as the glottis. [h] can be made without the tongue or other elements of the mouth being actively used.

There are different manners or ways of the air released when the articulators meet. Manner of articulation in consonants are consists of stops, affricative, nasal, liquid, fricative and approximant which stated below.

1. The sound that is produced when the air stream is blocked or stopped. The stops are [p], [b], [t], [d], [k], and [g].
2. Affricate can be produced by combining a momentary interruption of the air stream with a restricted release that creates some friction. Affricates are [tʃ] and [dʒ].
3. The majority of noises are made orally, with the velum raised to block airflow into the nasal cavity. However, the sounds are referred to as nasals when the velum is lowered and the air stream is allowed to exit via the nose to generate [m], [n], and [ŋ].
4. Fricative is an articulation technique that involves almost blocking the airstream and forcing

the air through a very small space to produce [f], [v], [θ], [ð], [s], [z], [ʃ], [ʒ], and [h].

5. Approximant is formed by bringing up the articulators close together but not full closure without any producing turbulent air friction to produce [r], [w], and [y]. [l] is produced when the tongue tip makes contact with the centre of the alveolar ridge while allowing air to flow around the sides of the tongue.

3. RESEACH METHOD

This research focused on the identification of the English sound shifts articulated by the Myanmar speaker at the international seminar. It specifically captured the position of places of articulation and manner of articulation which was shifted. As this research drew the issue or phenomenon of social or human problem, this research designed qualitative method (Creswell, 2013), and this research used words which were articulated as the data (Creswell & Poth, 2018). The data were taken from the speech script of the Myanmar speaker at the international webinar held by Universitas Putera Batam on July 29th, 2020.

The method of collecting data by means of observation is how people use their languages (Sudaryanto, 2015). While collecting the data, the researchers did not involve in the dialogue as the researchers recorded and scripted it. The researchers noted all the monologue into a script. The way to taking note is to ease to follow the flow of the monologue while conducting the research. It might be found several times of the same words with the same

pronunciation in the speech. In this case, the data which have the same characteristic were reduced. Thus, it applied the technique of data reduction (Miles et al., 2014).

While doing the analysis, the researchers identified the sounds which were shifted. The change of standard sounds to the unreceived pronunciation was identified by matching them to the received pronunciation. This research adapted the identity method theorized by (Sudaryanto, 2015). The sound shifting developed the speech organs. When the standardized sounds which were pronounced did not articulate properly, then the sounds were produced differently. From these unstandardized sounds, the researchers started identifying the speech organs involved. The participant used the inappropriate speech organs to articulate the English sounds, thereupon this research identified the speech organs which shifted the sounds. As it involved the speech organs, the analysis applied the technique of articulatory phonetic identification (Sudaryanto, 2015).

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION
4.1 Result

There are several shifts of the English sounds that occur in the speaker's articulation because of the influence of the speaker's first language. The Burmese articulation brings significant changes to English articulation. There are several additions, omissions, and alterations that occur in the English pronunciation.

a. Transformation of diphthongs into monophthongs

b. Standardization of English vowels to Burmese vowels
c. Vowel intervening in consonant compounds
d. Consonant final devoicing
e. Alteration of final velar nasal to alveolar nasal
f. Voiced and voiceless indistinction
g. Pronouncing creaky, low, and high tones by dropping the coda
h. Neutralization of English non-sibilant fricative into Burmese plosives

The existence of different sounds when the speaker pronounced the English words is because the different places and manners of articulation. The speaker pronounced the English sounds by adapting to his first language.

The speaker showed different height of tongue, position of tongue, and lips movement when he shifted the English vowel sounds. And the speaker showed different places where the articulators meet and different ways which the air is released when he produced the English consonant sounds.

4.2 Discussion
a. Monophthongization

Words	Phonetic Transcription	
process	prəʊ.ses	əʊ
	prɒ.seʔ	ɒ
environment	ɪn.vaɪ.rən.mənt	aɪ
	ɪn.bʌ.rʌ.mən	ʌ
behavior	bɪ.heɪv.jəʳ	eɪ
	bɪ.he.bɪ.jɑː	e
place	pleɪs	eɪ
	ples	e
areas	eə.rɪəz	eə
	e.rɪɑː	e
approach	ə.prəʊtʃ	əʊ
	əp.rɒs	ɒ

communication	kə.mju.ːnɪ.keɪʃn	eɪ
	kɒ.mu.ːnɪ.ke.sen	e

The diphthongs /əʊ/, /aɪ/, /eɪ/, /eə/ appeared several times. The diphthongal sounds were produced as the monophthongal sounds. /əʊ/ is produced as /ɒ/, /aɪ/ is produced as /ʌ/, /eɪ/ is produced as /e/, and /eə/ is produced as /e/. The speaker pronounced /əʊ/ as /ɒ/ as the vowel in the words is represented by the letter <o>. The letter <o> is pronounced as /ɒ/. /eɪ/ and /eə/ are represented by the letter <a> meanwhile /eɪ/ and /eə/ are pronounced as /e/. The speaker pronounced the letter <a> as /e/. The speaker pronounced the vowels as what were written.

b. Vowel Standardization

Words	Phonetic Transcription	
objective	əb.dʒek.tɪv	ə
	ɒ.dʒe.tɪk	ɒ
subjective	səb.dʒek.tɪv	ə
	sʌ.dʒe.tɪk	ʌ
teachers	tiː.tʃəz	ə
	tiː.tʃɑː	ɑː
learning	lɜː.nɪŋ	ɜː
	le.nɪn	e
language	Læŋ.gwɪdʒ	æ
	leŋ.gu.wes	e
communication	kə.mju.ːnɪ.keɪʃn	ə
	kɒ.mu.ːnɪ.ke.sen	ɒ
taxonomy	tæk.sɒ.nə.mi	æ
	des.sɒ.nɒ.mi	e
taxonomy	tæk.sɒ.nə.mi	ə
	des.sɒ.nɒ.mi	ɒ

There are a few English vowels that do not belong to Burmese vowels. The speaker produced English vowels that were adjusted to Burmese vowels standardization. The English vowels that the speaker shifted are /æ/ /ə/ /ɜː/, and

Vol. 7 No. 1
June 2025
e- ISSN 2685 - 0559
p- ISSN 2684 - 673X

Published by Asosiasi Ide Bahasa Kepri

Jurnal
Ide Bahasa
Inspirasi Dosen Bahasa dan Sastra

they are not in Burmese standard vowel inventory. The speaker pronounced /ə/ as /ɒ/ as the vowel in the words is represented by the letter <o>. The speaker pronounced /ə/ as /ʌ/ as the vowel in the words is represented by the letter <u>. The speaker pronounced /ə/ as /ɑː/ as the vowel in the words is represented by the letter <e>. The speaker pronounced /ɜː/ as /e/ as the vowel in the words is represented by the letter <e>. The speaker pronounced /æ/ as /e/ as the vowel in the words is represented by the letter <a>.

c. Vowel Insertion

Words	Phonetic Transcription	
different	dɪ.frənt	
	dɪ.fə.rən	ə
flipped	flɪpt	
	flɪp.təd	ə
behavior	bɪ.heɪv.jəʳ	
	bɪ.he.bɪ.jɑː	ɪ
language	ˈlæŋgwɪdʒ	
	leŋ.gu.wes	u
translation	trænz.leɪʃᵊn	
	trʌn.sə.le.sən	ə
strategies	Stræ.tə.dʒiz	
	sə.tə.rʌ.te.gis	ə
application	æp.lɪ.keɪʃᵊn	
	e.pə.lɪ.ke.sən	ə
communication	kə.mju:.nɪ.keɪʃn	
	kɒ.mu:.nɪ.ke.sən	ə

There are several consonant compounds in English words. The production of these consonant compounds are broken up by schwa. Schwa is a weak vowel sound that is able to normalize the sounds of double consonant. This insertion creates additional syllables. The addition of schwa berween the consonants is intended to conform to Burmese

pronunciation as it is found in English loadword adaptation. The other vowel insertion is [ɪ] and [u] as it is influenced by the semivowels [j] and [w].

d. Consonant Final Devoicing

Words	Phonetic Transcription	
five	faɪv	v
	faɪ	
areas	eə.rɪəz	z
	e.rɪʌ	ʌ
barrier	bæ.riəʳ	r
	be.riɑː	
next	nekst	t
	nes	
would	wʊd	d
	wʊ	

The speaker deleted several final consonants in some English words while pronouncing them. This consonant final devoicing corresponds phonetically to the Burmese coda omission. The speaker omitted the final fricative sounds, the final-r sound, and final plosive sounds to become an open syllables. The final consonants which were omitted are the fricatives [v] and [z], [r], and the plosives [t] and [d].

e. Alteration

Words	Phonetic Transcription	
understanding	ʌn.dəs.tæn.dɪŋ	ŋ
	ʌ.nəs.te.nɪn	n
engaging	ɪn.geɪ.dʒɪŋ	ŋ
	ɪn.geɪ.sɪn	n
coming	kʌ.mɪŋ	ŋ
	ke.mɪn	n
learning	lɜː.nɪŋ	ŋ
	le.nɪn	n

There are some final [ŋ] which is appeared in ending -ing. The speaker altered final [ŋ] as final [n]. As the

Burmese pronunciation, there is rarely final [ŋ] sounded such as in *khaung* [kʰaun], *wang* [wan]. However, the speaker pronounced [ŋ] in the syllable such as in **language [**leŋ.gu.wes].

f. Voiced and Voiceless Indistinction

Words	Phonetic Transcription	
language	læŋg.wɪdʒ	**dʒ**
	leŋ.gu.wes	**s**
present	prəznt	**z**
	prɪ.sen	**s**
example	ɪg.zɑːmpl	**p**
	eʔ.sem.bɛl	**b**
forgot	fə.gɒt	**g**
	fɒ.kɒʔ	**k**
live	lɪv	**v**
	lɪp	**p**
taxonomy	tæk.sɒ.nə.mi	**t**
	des.sɒ.nɒ.mi	**d**

Burmese phonological system has voiced and voiceless consonants. However in Burmese pronunciation, the people pronounce the voiced and voiceless sounds in the same manner and place of articulation indifferently. Burmese people pronounce voiced as voiceless sounds such as in *paw* [bɔ], *pe:* [bɛ], *te* [deʔ]. He pronounced the voiced or voiceless sounds as voiceless or voiced sounds in the same manner and place of articulation such as [z] as [s], [g] as [k], [v] as [p], and [t] as [d].

g. Creaky, Low, and High Tones

Words	Phonetic Transcription	
discuss	dɪs.kʌs	
	dɪs.kʌʔ	**ʌʔ**
cross	krɒs	
	krɔː	**ɔː**
teachers	tiː.ʧəz	
	tiː.ʧɑː	**ɑː**

process	prəʊ.ses	
	prɒ.seʔ	**eʔ**
would	wʊd	
	wʊʔ	**ʊʔ**
without	wɪ.ðaʊt	
	wɪ.d̪auʔ	**uʔ**

There is the process of debuccalization and deletion while pronouncing the English words. The speaker omitted final fricative and final [r]. The final [r] is converted into a high tone. The final [s] and stop alveolar [t] and [d] are converted into the creaky tone. The speaker adapted these tones which he uses in everyday speech into English pronunciation.

h. Neutralization

Words	Phonetic Transcription	
objective	əb.dʒek.tɪv	**v**
	ɒ.dʒe.tɪk	**k**
subjective	səb.dʒek.tɪv	**v**
	sʌ.dʒe.tɪk	**k**
behavior	bɪ.heɪv.jər	**v**
	bɪ.he.bɪ.jɑː	**b**
university	juː.nɪ.vɜː.sə.ti	**v**
	dʒu.ni.ba.si.ti	**b**
live	lɪv	**v**
	lɪp	**p**

/v/ is articulated as plosives /k/, /b/, and /p/. The speaker neutralized the non-sibilant fricative as plosives. In Burmese consonant inventory, there is no non-sibilant fricatives. The speaker pronounced the coda [v] as [k] and [p], and [v] in a syllable is pronounced as [b].

5. CONCLUSION

There are some factors that make speaking English is not as standard as the Received Pronunciation (RP). Local language, first language, mother tongue, or vernacular is able to distract the

second language or the foreign language in term of the way to pronounce or to construct the structure.

The influence of the first language on a foreign languages causess several changes, especially in pronunciation. However, each first language will exhibit cases of mispronunciation differently. From this research, it is concluded that the Myanmar speaker transformed diphthongs into monophthongs, standardized English vowels to Burmese vowels, intervened vowels in consonant compounds, devoiced final consonants, altered final velar nasal to alveolar nasal, equated voiced and voiceless phonemes, dropped the codas into creaky, low, and high tones, and neutralized the English non-sibilant fricative into Burmese plosives.

Some English learners are difficult to pronounce English word due to the different vowel and consonant sounds. Therefore, to speak any language, pronunciation is a must to be considered. Each language has its own characteristics that actually cannot be shifted to other characteristics by means to ease or neutralize the articulation. The language learners should learn it as well.

To speak English requires extra effort to learn the pronunciation. English is known as an inconsistent pronunciation language, thus, learning it by listening to the native speakers. Do not see the words, however the words and the spelling and the pronunciation are different.

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