

STUDENTS' UNDERSTANDING OF ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION

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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini menyelidiki pemahaman siswa tentang pelafalan bahasa Inggris, menyoroti pentingnya pelafalan bahasa Inggris untuk komunikasi yang efektif dan kepercayaan diri dalam berbicara. Sebuah kuesioner dibagikan kepada siswa sekolah menengah dan universitas untuk mengidentifikasi tantangan dan strategi mereka dalam menguasai pelafalan. Hasilnya menunjukkan bahwa meskipun sebagian besar siswa menyadari pentingnya pelafalan yang benar, mereka kesulitan dalam penerapannya secara praktis, terutama dengan bunyi-bunyi yang tidak ada dalam bahasa ibu mereka. Keterbatasan paparan terhadap penutur asli bahasa Inggris dan sumber daya semakin memperumit pembelajaran mereka. Penelitian ini merekomendasikan untuk meningkatkan pengajaran pelafalan melalui latihan terstruktur, peningkatan paparan terhadap bahasa Inggris otentik, dan penggunaan teknologi untuk pembelajaran mandiri.

Kata Kunci: Pronunciation, Deskripsi About Pronunciation, Student.

ABSTRACT

This study investigates students' understanding of English pronunciation, highlighting its importance for effective communication and confidence in speaking. A questionnaire was distributed to secondary and university students to identify their challenges and strategies in mastering pronunciation. Results show that while most students recognize the significance of correct pronunciation, they struggle with practical application, particularly with sounds absent in their native language. Limited exposure to native English speakers and resources further complicates their learning. The study recommends enhancing pronunciation instruction through structured practice, increased exposure to authentic English, and the use of technology for independent learning.

Keywords: Pronunciation, Deskripsi About Pronunciation, Student.

INTRODUCTION

Understanding english pronunciation is a crucial aspect of language learning that can significantly impact students' communication skills. Accurate pronunciation not only aids in oral comprehension but also helps build students' confidence in speaking. However, many students face challenges in mastering english pronunciation, particularly due to the phonetic differences between their native language and english. Various factors, such as knowledge of pronunciation rules, exposure to the language, and listening skills, can influence their understanding of pronunciation. Therefore, this study aims to explore students' understanding of english pronunciation through the use of a questionnaire, which is expected to provide insights into the challenges they face and the strategies they employ to improve their pronunciation.

Students' understanding of english pronunciation involves their ability to recognize, produce, and use english sounds accurately, including phonemes, word stress, intonation, and rhythm. Many students face difficulties due to differences between the phonetic systems of english and their native language, as well as the inconsistency between spelling and pronunciation in english. Moreover, the lack of focus on pronunciation in many english teaching contexts can exacerbate this issue. Therefore, it is important to explore students' understanding of english pronunciation to identify the challenges they face and the strategies they use to improve their pronunciation skills.

A good understanding of English pronunciation is crucial in language learning because it directly relates to students' communication skills. Clear and accurate pronunciation allows students to express their ideas and opinions effectively, ensuring they are easily understood by native speakers or others. Additionally, correct pronunciation plays a key role in boosting students' confidence when speaking, which in turn encourages their participation in verbal interactions.

In an increasingly interconnected global world, good pronunciation skills are essential, especially in professional and academic fields. Students with a strong grasp of English pronunciation are more likely to adapt to environments where English is the primary medium of communication. On the other hand, poor pronunciation can lead to misunderstandings, confusion, and hinder smooth communication. Therefore, students' understanding of English pronunciation significantly impacts their ability to interact effectively in various social, educational, and professional contexts.

Students often face challenges with English pronunciation due to differences between the phonetic systems of English and their native language. For example, English has more vowels and diphthongs that do not exist in Indonesian, as well as consonants like "th" (/θ/ and /ð/) that are difficult to pronounce. Additionally, the inconsistency between spelling and pronunciation in English makes it hard for students to predict how words are pronounced. Irregular stress patterns and intonation also confuse students. The lack of exposure to native English and limited pronunciation practice in the curriculum exacerbate these issues, making it difficult for students to speak naturally and be understood by native speakers.

To improve students' understanding of English pronunciation, several key strategies can be applied. First, providing exposure to authentic English through media such as podcasts, movies, or videos helps students become familiar with different accents and intonations. Second, practicing listening and mimicking native speakers' pronunciation, using methods like "shadowing," can enhance pronunciation accuracy. Additionally, teaching stress patterns and intonation rules in English helps students pronounce words more naturally. Lastly, providing constructive feedback and utilizing technology, such as pronunciation apps, can accelerate the process of improving students' pronunciation.

METHOD

This article uses a quantitative research method with a survey approach through the distribution of a questionnaire to collect data on students' understanding of English pronunciation. The questionnaire is created in the form of a Google Form, containing a series of questions related to students' awareness of pronunciation, the challenges they face, and the strategies they use to improve their pronunciation skills. The questionnaire is designed to gather information about students' perceptions of English pronunciation, the influence of external factors (such as exposure to English), and the learning methods they employ.

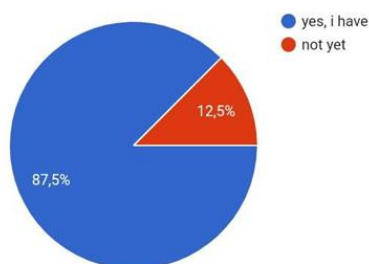
The participants in this study are students who are learning English at the secondary school or university level. The questionnaire will be distributed online to randomly selected participants, with a guarantee of confidentiality for personal data. The collected data will be analyzed descriptively to identify common patterns in students' understanding and challenges with English pronunciation, as well as to evaluate the strategies they consider effective in improving their pronunciation skills.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

After conducting interviews by filling out questionnaires in the form of Google Forms with several respondents, the results obtained can be seen below:

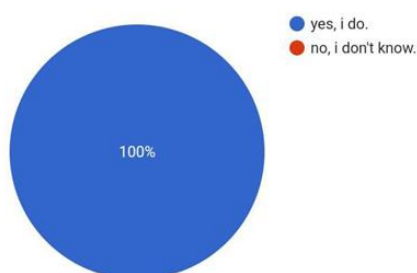
1. Are you have ever studied pronunciation?

Answer: 7(87,5%) ever studied about pronunciation and 1(12,5)% never studied it.



2. Do you know what pronunciation is?

Answer: 8(100%) know about pronunciation and 0% don't know about pronunciation.



3. What does "pronunciation" mean in english? Answer:

1. Pronunciation is a production of speech organs that produces sounds and voices that have a certain meaning.
2. Pronunciation is the way of saying words or sounds in english, which includes articulation, emphasis, and intonation.
3. Pronunciation is the way words or phrases are pronounced in english. This includes sounds, word stress, intonation, and how to produce the correct sound.
4. Pronunciation refers to the way in which a word is spoken. It involves the correct articulation of sounds and stress patterns as established by the phonological system of.
5. Pronunciation referensi to the way in which a word or language is spoken.
6. "pronunciation" means the way a word is spoken.
7. How to pronounce words in english
8. Pronunciation is the way words are spoken. Sometimes you can tell where someone is from by their pronunciation of certain words.

4. What is meant by "intonation" in pronunciation? Answer:

1. Intonation in pronunciation is the sound of a person's tone of voice that comes out of their speech organ, which produces different tones.
2. It is an essential aspect of spoken language that helps convey meaning, emotion, and emphasis beyond the literal words. Intonation involves rising and falling pitch patterns that can influence how a message is interpreted.
3. Intonation is the change in tone of voice when speaking. Intonation can convey meaning or emotion in a conversation, such as raising your tone to indicate a question or lowering your tone for a statement.
4. Intonation refers to the rise and fall in the pitch of the voice when speaking. It affects the meaning and emotion conveyed by the spoken words.
5. Intonation in pronunciation refers to the variation of pich while speaking

6. "intonation" refers to the rise and fall in pitch while speaking, which helps convey meaning or emotion.
 7. The high and low tones in a sentence that emphasize certain words in a sentence
 8. Intonation is the variation in pitch used to indicate the speaker's attitudes and emotions, to highlight or focus an expression.
5. Why is correct pronunciation important in learning english? Answer:
1. Because, correct pronunciation greatly influences how other people understand the meaning of what we say, so that the information and message we want to convey can be conveyed correctly.
 2. Correct pronunciation is essential in learning english because it directly impacts
 6. Communication, comprehension, and overall language proficiency.
 3. Pronunciation is really important to ensure that others can understand the words we say. This also helps in effective communication and reduces confusion or misunderstanding.
 4. Correct pronunciation is important in learning english because it ensures clear communication and helps learners understand and be understood by native speakers. Proper pronunciation also aids in vocabulary acquisition and improves listening and speaking skills.
 5. Clarity of communication
 6. Correct pronunciation is important in learning english because it ensures clarity, helps avoid misunderstandings, and allows effective communication. It also boosts confidence and makes it easier to be understood by others.
 7. Helps effective communication, increases self-confidence, helps understand and remember words, helps integrate with the english-speaking community, helps in career
 8. Enables you to express yourself clearly, be understood effortlessly, and build confidence in your spoken English.
6. What is the difference between "voiced" and "voiceless" sounds in pronunciation? Answer:
6. Voiced sounds are sounds produced by vibration of the vocal words, for example /b/ as is boy, /d/ as in duck, /g/ as in go. Meanwhile, voiceless sounds are unvoiced sounds are sounds in which the vocal chords are not activated, such as; /k/ as in cat or kite, /f/ as in fox, /h/ as in hat, /p/ as in pot, /q/ as in quick.
 7. The difference between voiced and voiceless sounds in pronunciation lies in whether the vocal cords vibrate when producing the sound.
 8. Voiced" sounds are sounds produced by vibration of the vocal cords, such as /b/, /d/, and /g/. Meanwhile, "voiceless" sounds are sounds produced without vibration of the vocal cords, such as /p/, /t/, and /k/.
 9. The difference between "voiced" and "voiceless" sounds in pronunciation lies in whether the vocal cords vibrate when the sound is made. Voiced sounds, such as "b" and "d," involve vibration, while voiceless sounds, like "p" and "t," do not.
 10. The difference between voices and voiceless sound in pronunciation lies in whether the vocals cords vibrate during the articulation
 11. Voiced sounds involve vocal cord vibration (e.g., /b/, /d/). Voiceless sounds don't
 7. Involve vocal cord vibration (e.g., /p/, /t/).
 8. Voiced refers to the condition in which the vocal cords vibrate. Voiceless or voiceless means that the sound of air flowing through the articulation area does not vibrate the vocal cords.
 9. In phonetics, 'voiced' refers to a sound produced with the vocal folds vibrating,

causing audible vibrations. It contrasts with 'voiceless' sounds, which occur when the vocal folds remain open without vibrating. Examples of voiced sounds include 'b', 'd', and 'g', while 'p', 't', and 'k' are voiceless.

12. Why can the pronunciation of words in English be different even though they are spelled the same?

Answer:

1. Because there are variations in regional accents and dialects. And also, the phonetic rules of the English language are often inconsistent, leading to words with the same spelling being pronounced in different ways.
2. The pronunciation of words in English can be different even though they are spelled the same because of several factors, including historical changes, borrowing from other languages, and English's inconsistent spelling system.
3. English pronunciation can differ due to variations in regional accents and dialects. Additionally, the phonetic rules of the English language are often inconsistent, leading to words with the same spelling being pronounced in different ways.
4. The pronunciation of words in English can be different even though they are spelled the same due to regional accents and dialects. English has various pronunciations for the same spelling based on geographical and social factors, leading to different auditory renditions of written words.
5. Homographs: example: lead (to guide) and lead (a metal)
6. English words can be pronounced differently despite the same spelling due to factors like stress, meaning, and accents. For example, "lead" can be pronounced /li:d/ (to guide) or /led/ (the metal).
7. Because of the existence of homographs, namely words that have the same spelling but different meanings
8. Homographs are words that are spelled alike but are different in meaning or derivation or pronunciation.

Most students understand English pronunciation, the results of the study show that almost all students have a good basic understanding of English pronunciation. This indicates that most students are aware of the importance of correct pronunciation in English communication and understand that accurate pronunciation can affect the comprehension of the message being conveyed. Generally, students are able to recognize the differences between English sounds and those of their native language, and they know that correct pronunciation involves more than just pronouncing individual phonemes, but also correct word stress and intonation. However, the biggest challenge students face is the ability to apply their knowledge practically. Although they understand the rules of pronunciation, many still struggle with producing certain sounds that do not exist in their native language, such as the "th" sounds (/θ/ and /ð/) or more complex vowels. This suggests that while there is a good theoretical understanding, practical application still requires continuous practice.

Most students also report that they are aware of the importance of exposure to native English and feel that listening to English-language media helps them improve their pronunciation. However, not all students have adequate opportunities to interact with native speakers or fully utilize pronunciation teaching technologies. This indicates that while awareness of pronunciation is fairly good, external factors, such as limited opportunities to practice with native speakers or access to resources, may hinder their progress. Overall, while most students have a good understanding of English pronunciation, there is still a need to strengthen practical aspects through more structured practice and the implementation of more interactive teaching methods to help students overcome the pronunciation challenges they face.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the article, it can be concluded that most students have a good basic understanding of English pronunciation. They recognize the importance of correct pronunciation in communication and understand basic aspects such as phoneme differences, word stress, and intonation. However, despite having a good theoretical understanding, many students still face difficulties in applying this knowledge practically, especially in pronouncing sounds that do not exist in their native language. Limited exposure to authentic English and restricted access to supporting resources, such as pronunciation teaching technology, are additional challenges faced by students.

To improve students' understanding and pronunciation skills, it is recommended that English teaching place more emphasis on pronunciation by incorporating more structured and interactive pronunciation practice. Additionally, students should be encouraged to increase their exposure to authentic English through media such as podcasts, movies, or conversations with native speakers. The use of technology, such as pronunciation apps, should also be maximized to help students practice independently. Finally, providing constructive and detailed feedback to students is crucial to help them overcome the pronunciation challenges they face.

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