

THESIS LITERATURE REVIEW SAMPLE

The Aspiration of the Various Languages of the World

Pronunciation refers to the production of sounds in order to convey code or meanings. It requires more attention towards the specific sounds of a language, voice quality, aspects of speech, and others. It is considered as a highly important aspect in our communication. In order to reach a better encoding of sounds in speech, it is important to use a standard pronunciation. It also helps listeners in easily decoding the message. However, because of the various factors involved, there may be various pronunciations in a single language. The difference in pronunciation creates various accents in the language. For example, English has more accents compared to other languages. Since it is also considered as a global language, it has become a requirement to have the capacity to communicate in the English language for each nation in order to survive in this world. Therefore, there are a lot of accents just in the English language, as used by the different people who are using it, either as their first or a second language.

The study involving aspiration plays a very important role in phonology studies. There are different interpretations as to what the concept of aspiration is. Lendl (1995) defines aspiration as a process with which right after the lips are opened for uttering a sound for a consonant, there is silence for a short period of time. Just a little breathing sound going out of the mouth may be heard at this time. This is what aspiration means. In pronouncing the letters /p/, /t/ and /k/, there is a certain delay before the start of the next sound. With this delay, the air flows like a puffing with a sound of air discharging (Kent, 2001). Therefore, aspiration is almost always accompanied by this delay in airflow and as such, aspirated sound refers to the sound that is produced while discharging the air in this delay. In this period of delay of sound creation and air flow as air is discharged, our articulatory organs need to put more force when it comes to moving out air compared to pronouncing other usual sounds. Yale (2008) also describes is phenomenon, saying that in the aspirated sound for the letters /p/, /t/, /k/, the sounds that the muscles need to put more force in pronouncing them. They also require a higher level of pressure coming from the oral organs as we release air in order to pronounce them, putting more effort in releasing breath.

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Aspiration is not just the phenomenon related to the pronunciation of one sound, but involves other factors. One is that aspiration is typically present in those voiceless sounds, given that the voiceless sounds also follow a voiced sound. Another is that aspirated sound usually happens in the initial part of a syllable. The first sound, the one which is voiceless, is aspirated always (Lendl, 1995).

Another factor is that the preceding sound of the sound that is aspirated is half lost and delayed. Mostly, a delay of 30-40 milliseconds, while the preceding sound ends up being shorter than usual. With this delay, some whispering sounds results to voicelessness. Also, while pronouncing the first voiceless sound that the articulators take in form of the second sound, being ready to pronounce it. The sound created in this delay for the articulators is known as aspiration. This is because of the adaptation of the specific shape by the articulators for becoming ready in pronouncing the second voiced segment in between a segment that is voiceless and a voiced segment that followed can be heard.

References

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