JAVANESE INTERFERENCE IN ENGLISH CONSONANT SPEECH OF THE 5TH PRESIDENT OF INDONESIA

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Abstract

Having good public speaking is essentially needed for presidents who have a great influence among people. They have to do speeches not only in their native language but also English as the international language. However, Indonesia, which is divergent in its local languages, struggles in eliminating the interference of its dialect when speaking English. This occurred when the 5th president of Indonesia, who is a Javanese lady, made her speech in the state palace which was attended by foreign ministers. This research is aimed at finding out the factors and the interference of Javanese phonemes in the English consonants in the 5th president speech. Descriptive qualitative method is used in this research in which the data were taken from the documentary of the 5th president English speeches. The data were transcribed into phonetic transcription to identify the phonemes pronounced in the speech. The result showed that the interference of Javanese phonemes occurred especially in plosive sounds /b/, /d/, /g/, and /t/, fricative sounds /v/, /ð/, /z/, /ʃ/, and affricate /dʒ/. The factors influencing the interference are the different phonemes in English and Indonesian, educational and environmental background.

Introduction

The most efficient means of conveying ideas from speakers is through language. Language is a pattern, according to Saussure (1916), and each of its components has a unique function that is influenced by each other. Saussure, in his book, Course in General Linguistics, argues that language distinguishes between sound and thought, and that the two work together to facilitate communication. Language has a great impact on human life as it functions as a means of communication. Communication is not perfect if the other person does not understand the language.

Different pronunciations of phonemes or sounds of certain words can cause confusion and change the meaning of words. However, language usage varies by region of the country. Especially in Indonesia, there are many different cultural expressions, especially in regional languages. Due to the wide variety of regional languages spoken across Indonesia, each region has its own native or regional language that sets it apart from the rest. Indonesians often insert their regional dialect as their native language into English in such situations. Javanese is one of the commonly heard regional languages in Indonesia. It is a dialect of the island of Java, and is widely spoken by inhabitants of some provinces in Central Java, Yogyakarta, East Java, and even in some parts of West Java. The accent, voice, intonation, and dialect that are specific to the Javanese language set it apart from other regional tongues. The qualities of their mother

tongue, the Javanese language, have an impact on their second language, Indonesian, moreover to English as a foreign language. According to recent research by Smith, Bradlow, and Bents (2003) entitled "Production and perception of temporal contrast in foreign accent English," they stated that adults who acquire foreign languages typically have the accent of their native tongues. According to Flege, Munro, and Skelton (1992), the influence of acoustic temporal patterns of speech on the accent of foreign speakers is an important feature of the English language that is still being actively investigated.

Studies related to English speech pronunciation and accent have been widely conducted and have become an interesting issue among English studies. The issues attracting researchers are mostly related to pronunciation error and difficulties. Ansar and Duhir (2020) conducted research on mispronunciation by Tarakanese. The research focuses on the mispronunciation on the consonant alveolar plosive /t/ and /d/ in the final position. Another research tried to investigate English pronunciation for Java Students in pronouncing phonemes /b/, /d/, /g/, /j/, /ʤ/, and /ð/. This research was conducted by Hakim (2012). From the research, it was found out that Java students mostly have difficulties in pronouncing /d/ and /ð/. However, this research focuses on the mispronunciation in the speech of the fifth president, Megawati.

English, as an international language, is used in speeches in international events. A president, who is the representative and the leader of a country, should make speeches in an international forum. Therefore, the ability to use English is needed. Of the 7 Indonesian presidents, the only one president who never uses English in his speech is Soeharto. Soeharto, with his power and strength, always brought his translator whenever he had to deliver his speeches in English. Some other presidents used English in their international speeches. However, Megawati, the first and only female former president in Indonesia, and who originated from Yogyakarta, her speech in English is difficult to find. There was only one video found on the internet with her doing a speech in English. As she is Javanese, it is interesting to analyze the interference of Javanese in her English speech.

English Vowel Sounds

Fromkin, Robert and Hyams (2001, p. 585) define vowels as sounds produced without significant constriction of the air moving through the oral cavity. In this case, vowels are described by looking at the way they are pronounced. It is also identified that vowels are sounds with relatively unrestricted flow of air. According to Yule (2014, p. 33), he stated that in describing vowels, consideration is given to how the tongue influences the shape through which the airflow must pass. Kelly (2001, p. 31-33) found that vowels fall into three categories based on articulation features; (1) closed vowels (/i:/,/ɪ/, /ʊ/, and /u:/), (2) mid vowel sounds (/e/ /ə/ /ɜ:/ /ɔ:/), and open vowel sounds (/æ/ /ʌ/ /ɑ:/ /ɒ/). Mc Mahon (2002, p. 69) added that vowels are marked as long and short vowels denoted by the symbol [:]. Below is the chart of RP English anatomy for monophthongs.

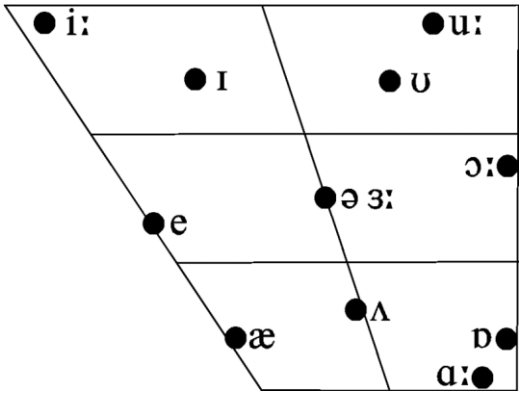

Figure 1. RP English Monophthongs
(Source: Ogden, Richard. An Introduction to English Phonetics. p.69)

From figure 1, it can be seen that the vowels can be classified into two dimensions; The front-back and the high-low dimensions. Some vowels can be differed from the position of the lip. The front-back dimension is divided into three; front ([ɪ] kit, [ɛ] dress, [æ] trap, [iː] fleece, [eɪ] face), back ([ɑː] lot, [ʊ] foot, [ɔː] thought, [oː] goat, [uː] goose), and central ([ə] about, [ɜʳ] nurse, [ʌ] sturt). The high – low dimension, it has high ([ɪ] kit, [iː] fleece, [ʊ] foot, [uː] goose), low ([æ] trap, [ɑː] lot), and mid ([eɪ] face, [oː] goat, [ɛ] dress, [ɔː] thought, [ə] about, [ɜʳ] nurse, [ʌ] sturt). For the lip position, some of the sounds have rounded position like in [ʊ] foot, [ɔː] thought, [oː] goat, and [uː] goose.

English Consonant Sounds

Consonants have the opposite meaning from the vowels where vowels have no significant constrictions, consonants are made with the constrictions between two articulators in the vocal tract. Ogden (2009, p. 174) stated that "consonants are produced with a stricture of at least open approximation in the vocal tract". He added that consonants are described by the place of articulation, manner of articulation, and the voicing sounds. Table 1 shows consonant sounds based on IPA (International Phonetics Alphabet). P.51

Table 1. International Phonetic Alphabet (revised to 2020)

CONSONANTS (PULMONIC) © 2020 IPA

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Plosive	p b			t d		ʈ ɖ	c ɟ	k g	q ɢ		ʔ
Nasal	m	ɱ		n		ɳ	ɲ	ŋ	ɴ		
Trill	ʙ			r					ʀ		
Tap or Flap		ⱱ		ɾ		ɽ					
Fricative	ɸ β	f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ	ʂ ʐ	ç ʝ	x ɣ	χ ʁ	ħ ʕ	h ɦ
Lateral fricative				ɬ ɮ							
Approximant		ʋ		ɹ		ɻ	j	ɰ			
Lateral approximant				l		ɭ	ʎ	ʟ			

Symbols to the right in a cell are voiced, to the left are voiceless. Shaded areas denote articulations judged impossible.

(Source: https://www.internationalphoneticassociation.org/IPAcharts/IPA_chart_orig/pdfs/IPA_Kiel_2020_full.pdf)

The sounds drawn in the IPA chart in Table 1 are the pulmonic sounds uttered in languages around the world. The sounds are classified to their place of articulation (Rows), manner of articulation (columns), and voicing (left sounds for voiceless sounds and right sounds for voiced

sounds). Not all sounds in the charts are used in English. Some set of symbols used in English consonants as a systematic level is described in Table 2.

Table 2. Systematic transcription of English consonants

p	pip, happy, spot, lamp
t	take, hot, matting, stop, rant
k	cake, sticky, scan, rank
b	baby, hobby, rub, bulb
d	dad, rudder, hand
g	gig, ghost, ragged, rag
tʃ	church, inch, itchy
dʒ	judge, edgy, gem
m	mat, hammer, ram, lamp, lamb
n	not, gnat, honour, phone
ŋ	sing, finger, rank
f	fall, offer, if, philosophy, laughter, rough
v	velvet, delve, love, over
θ	think, ether, truth, tenth
ð	though, rather, breathe
ʃ	ship, fish, Russia, station, facial
ʒ	invasion, pleasure, beige
l	look, hilly, all, play, help
r	red, erro(r), sorry, write
w	wall, away, (wh)ite, witch
(ʍ)	white, while, which
j	young, computer, beauty

(Source: Ogden, Richard. An Introduction to English Phonetics. p.26)

The symbols of the sounds are written in the left while the illustrations of the sounds are described in the right side of the symbols. The underlined letters in the words are illustrated by the sounds represented by the letters pronounced in the words. The sound in the bracket shows an optional sound which not many people use. However, this research is restricted to only consonants.

Methodology

The descriptive qualitative approach was utilized in this study to determine how Megawati Soekarno Putri's Javanese dialect influenced her English pronunciation. Therefore, the investigation was conducted using a phonological approach. The technique used in this research is a non-participatory technique in the observation method. This means the researcher gathered the data by observing the speech recording where there was no interaction with the participants. The information was gathered from a 2004 Youtube video entitled "Meeting starts, comments, photo-op". This research is based on the corpus according to the type of this research. Hence, the source of data is in the form of verbal speech spoken by Megawati, a former president of Indonesia. There was only one video found on the internet in which Ibu Mega made her speech in English. In analyzing the data, her speech was transcribed into a phonetic transcription. From the transcription, the data were analyzed and put a note on the phonemes that were influenced by her native dialect. Then, the analyzed data were described and put into conclusion.

The research limits the scope to phonemes on consonants which were pronounced by Megawati and the factors that influence the interference. The pronunciation was compared to an English dictionary, Macmillan Dictionary, to identify the Javanese interference spoken in her speech. The phonetic symbols used in this research are the symbols used in IPA (International Phonetic Alphabets).

Finding and Discussion

Javanese brings a unique characteristic to the second or third language. This could be in the form of dialect, accent, stress, or even intonation. The interference of the first language sometimes does not give a specific issue in conveying the meaning. However, strong interference may cause confusion or misperceptions. In this case, this research is trying to find out the interference in the form of consonant sounds.

Consonants

The data

Table 3.

	The Words	**Standard RP**	**Mispronunciation**	
1	The	/ðiː/	/de/	/ð/
2	Unilateralism	/ˌjuːnɪˈlæt(ə)rəˌlɪz(ə)m/	/ˌjuːnɪˈlæt(ə)rəˌlɪʒ(ə)m/	/z/
3	Resolving	/rɪˈzɒlviŋ/	/rɪˈsɒlviŋ/	/z/
4	Conflict	/ˈkɒnflɪkt/	/ˈkɒnflɪk/	/t/
5	East	/iːst/	/iːs/	/t/
6	Destabilise	/diːˈsteɪbəlaɪz/	/diːˈsteɪbəlaɪs/	/z/
7	Still	/stɪl/	/sɪl/	/t/
8	Unresolved	/ˌʌnrɪˈzɒlvd/	/ˌʌnrɪˈzɒlv/	/d/
9	Vulnerability	/ˈvʌln(ə)rəb(ə)ləti/	/ˈfʌln(ə)rəb(ə)ləti/	/v/
10	That	/ðæt/	/det/	/ð/
11	Must	/mʌst/	/mʌs/	/t/
12	Fight	/faɪt/	/faɪg/	/t/
13	Against	/əˈgenst/	/əˈgens/	/t/
14	Most	/məʊst/	/məʊs/	/t/
15	Terrorism	/ˈterəˌrɪz(ə)m/	/ˈterəˌrɪʒ(ə)m/	/z/
16	Has	/həz/	/həs/	/z/
17	Every	/ˈevri/	/'efri/	/v/
18	Established	/ɪˈstæblɪʃt/	/eˈstæblɪs/	/ʃ/ /t/

Based on table 3. Megawati has difficulty in pronouncing the consonant /ð/ at the beginning of words such as the words 'the' and 'that'. She changed the pronunciation of the two words from /ðiː/ and /ðæt/ to /de/ and /det/. In addition to having difficulty pronouncing /ð/, Megawati also has difficulty pronouncing the consonant /z/. In her speech, she pronounced the words 'unilateralism' and 'terrorism'. She changed the pronunciation of the two words from

/ˌjuːnɪˈlæt(ə)rəˌlɪz(ə)m/ and /ˈterəˌrɪz(ə)m/ to /ˌjuːnɪˈlæt(ə)rəˌlɪʒ(ə)m/ and /ˈterəˌrɪʒ(ə)m/. Not only did she changed the pronunciation of the consonant /z/ to /ʒ/, it was also found that the words 'resolving', 'destabilise', and 'has' where the correct pronunciation of these words are /rɪˈzɒlviŋ/, /diːˈsteɪbəlaɪz/, and / həz/. Megawati changes the pronunciation of the consonant /z/ to /s/ and pronounces the three words into /rɪˈsɒlviŋ/, /diːˈsteɪbəlaɪs/, and /həs/. Another consonant pronunciation that Megawati changed was the consonant /v/ to consonant /f/. In her speech the words 'vulnerability' and 'every' should be pronouced /ˈvʌln(ə)rəb(ə)ləti/ and /ˈevri/ but she pronounced them as /ˈfʌln(ə)rəb(ə)ləti/ and /'efri/.

The next pronunciation errors that the researchers were able to find are in the consonants /t/ and /d/ at the end of the word. In the words 'conflict, 'east', 'must', 'against', 'most', 'established', and 'unresolved'. Megawati should pronounce the consonants /t/ and /d/ at the end of the words /ˈkɒnflɪkt/, /iːst/, /mʌst/, /əˈgenst/, /məʊst/, /ɪˈstæblɪʃt/, and /ˌʌnrɪˈzɒlvd/, but what she did was omitted the consonants /t/ and /d/ from the pronunciation of these words, and pronounce them into /ˈkɒnflɪk/, /iːs/, /mʌs/, /əˈgens/, /məʊs/, /eˈstæblɪs/ and /ˌʌnrɪˈzɒlv /. In addition to removing the consonant /t/ at the end of the word, Megawati also removed the consonant /t/ in the middle of the word as in the word 'still' which should have been pronounced correctly as /stIl/, she pronounced the word as /sIl/. The last pronunciation error found by the researcher was in the word 'fight'. In the word 'fight' the consonant /g/ should be omitted, but what Megawati did was say the word /faɪg/ which should have been pronounced /faIt/.

The Factors Influencing the Interference

The factors that influence the mispronunciation of English consonants in Mrs. Megawati Soekarnoputri speech are her background. The woman whose full name is Dyah Permata Megawati Setiawati Soekarno Putri is the daughter of the first president of Indonesia, Ir. Sukarno.
Megawati was born in Yogyakarta, January 23, 1947. Living for several years in Yogyakarta, Megawati started her education, from elementary to high school at Cikini College, Jakarta. Then he continued his education at the Faculty of Agriculture, Padjadjaran University, Bandung (1965-1967) and the Faculty of Psychology, University of Indonesia (1970-1972). Living and growing up in Yogyakarta made Megawati communicate in Indonesian as well as Javanese. Javanese is the local language used by Javanese people, one of which is Yogyakarta. A characteristic feature of the Javanese language is that the consonants /b/, /d/, /g/, /dʒ/, and /ð/ are pronounced with a Javanese accent or retroflexed sound (Hakim, 2012, p. 247).
Javanese who speak Indonesian or a foreign language such as English will be affected by the Javanese accent. Because one of the factors that can influence a person in pronouncing or sounding consonants is the mother tongue. After being analyzed, in Megawati's speech, she could not pronounce the consonants /t/, /d/, /v/, /ð/, /z/, /ʒ/, /ʃ/. She experienced the interference in pronouncing the consonants due to several factors, including:

i. Mother tongue interference.

Mrs. Megawati Soekarnoputri a Javanese. Javanese is known for their unique accent of saying some consonants. This fact influences her way of pronunciation of a second or third language.

ii. Sound system differences between English and Javanese.

Javanese and English have many similarities in their consonants. In Javanese, there are consonants /b/, /g/, /v/, /f/, /s/, and /z/ which English also has these consonants. However, the Javanese language does not have the consonant /ð/ that English has. The absence of the consonant /ð/ in Javanese made Megawati experience difficulty in pronouncing some words.

iii. Educational and enviromental background.

Mrs. Megawati Soekarno Putri was born and raised briefly in Yogyakarta. She spent her educational study in Indonesia and none of that study is focused on the English language. She was raised in Yogyakarta where the Javanes cultures is respected and the ethnic and cultures in language, that becomes one of her primary ways of communication in her environment.

Conclusion

This research about the interference in the English speech of the fifth president of the Republic of Indonesia has been found. These mistakes were caused by several factors. Based on the analyzed data, it was found that consonant sounds /ð/, /z/, /v/, and /t/ was pronounced incorrectly, the consonant sound /t/ at the beginning and at the end of a word was omitted and the consonant sound /d/ at the end of a word was omitted. Pronouncing the consonant /g/ in the word 'fight' where the consonant /g/ should be omitted. The factors that influenced the English consonants mispronunciation of the fifth president of the Republic of Indonesia in her official speech was her mother tongue interference, the differences between the Indonesian and English sound system, the educational background, and the environmental background. In further research, other researchers can perhaps include more discussions such as discussing the phonemes or vowels to achieve further maximal results. The data-gathering method can also be varied for different results, such as using different influential and well-known Javanese Indonesian figures.

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