



VIETNAMESE ENGLISH ACCENT VS AMERICAN ENGLISH ACCENT: LOCATING THE PHONOLOGICAL VARIATION

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Abstract

Accent is something important in communication things. There are intonation, tone, stress, rhythm and segmental also supra segmental features in an accent. It has lot of function for all the speakers from all over the world when two speakers using the languages to communicate. The objective of this study is to compare Vietnamese English accent and American English accent by seeing the consonants production from each English language. The writer investigated supra segmental features, sound changes, and correspondences to disclose the comparison to the accents. Moreover, this analysis applied qualitative method in which data were obtained through interview and some instruments such as a spoken language in a transcription form, facebook messenger, whatsapp and audio recording. The findings show that the number of the consonants production in Vietnamese is not the same with English Consonants. Several deletion or apocopate and addition or paragoge occurred.

Keywords: *American English accents, comparing, phonology, sound correspondence, Vietnamese English accent*

INTRODUCTION

As English has become an international language that has been used for many years in this world (Novanti & Suprayogi, 2021), many people from different nationalities and cultural backgrounds learn English as their Second Language (L2) or English as a Foreign Language (EFL) to communicate among them. Further, English is used at most of international event (Dosia & Rido, 2017). Therefore, English has gained the status of a prestigious language worldwide. Everyone learning English wants to gain full profits of modern education, research (Nadeem and Arshad, 2010) and business fields (Afrianto and Gulö, 2019). That means people realize that learning English is important for their future career (Suprayogi & Pranoto, 2020a).

When people who use English as their Second Language (L2) or English as Foreign Language (EFL) to communicate; however, their mother tongue (L1) can influence the way they speak English. The way they speak English might be different because of the imperfection of each speaker to acquire English as its native speakers do. It happened due to different background of language variety. This phenomenon can clearly be seen from pronunciation aspects. Those aspects can create a phonological variation called as an accent. Behravan (2012:16) defined accents as “varieties in pronunciations of a certain language and refers to the sounds that exist in a person's language”. Furthermore, Becker (1995:37) also stated that “accent can identify the speaker's regional origin or national/ethnic identity”. Therefore, accent can be known as a person's status belonging by guessing the sound and pronunciation in language she/he utters. Accents are different in quality. Moyer (2007) stated that accent can connect to social belonging, identity and communicative fluency. Furthermore, accent includes prosody; intonations, tone, stress, pronunciations and rhythm.

Additionally, when L2 or EFL learners talking in English, they use their strong accents that may influence the meaning when they are pronouncing some words that are not similar compared to common English pronunciation that we heard on television and class. This consequently result in the possibility of misunderstanding (Renaldi, Stefani, and Gulö, 2016). The people might face difficulties talking in English because of their different language background. One of the examples is Vietnamese. Based on the writers' experience when talking to Vietnamese native speakers, the writers found some unique accents when they pronounced like [westən] for “question” but it heard like “western” and [neil] for “snail” but it heard like “nail”. It might be ambiguous for several people that are not familiar with those words above, and it can cause misunderstanding because they have similar sounds with other English words. From this observation, the writer is interested to see bigger phenomena of Vietnamese English accent.

Moreover, when we read Vietnamese alphabet, we cannot rely on its real alphabets because it has different pronunciation on its tone. It comes from this example “yêu quá em Oi” [iu wa em oi] that means “how lovely you are, babe” in English. When we look at Vietnamese alphabet, it makes some Vietnamese have to have attention lots to the word pronunciation in English for basic daily conversation to interact with people outside the country based on the writer experienced. In the end, this research is expected to make the readers understand the theory that they implement while having communication interaction. The writers believe that through this study, new pattern of sound changes and correspondences from Vietnamese English Accent to American English Accent can be further observed. Many studies have been conducted on the topic of language variation such as variation in Javanese (Suprayogi, 2019) on English across genders and genres (Puspita & Suprayogi, 2021), and other. However, it is limited to see how Vietnamese English accent is observed.

The writers applied several theories to approach this phonological phenomena. The first one is sound change. According to Keraf (1996:90) “Sound changes based on its place that are assimilative and dissimilative can be seen from sound changes angle qualities. Besides sound qualities, there are some other changes solely seen from its place in a form”. Based on the place of sound changes can obtain some kinds of sound changes like metathesis, aphaeresis, syncope, apocopate, prosthesis, epenthesis, and paragog. Those branches will show which parts of word that changes the places, its sounds and it appears in every language. In this study, the sound change theory is actually to analogize the both accents. The second is sound correspondence which is a constant of one language to another that has the sameness of structure and word (Crystal, 2019). Alphabets in English are not much same as Vietnamese, but some of the alphabets and words in Vietnamese were influenced by English. It is also valid for the consonants that they have. Pronouncing consonants in Vietnamese will be difficult for some reason because some consonants are not the same in English one. This theory is used to find certain patterns of variation in both accents. The third one is Segmental Features. This segmental features deal with the phonemes.

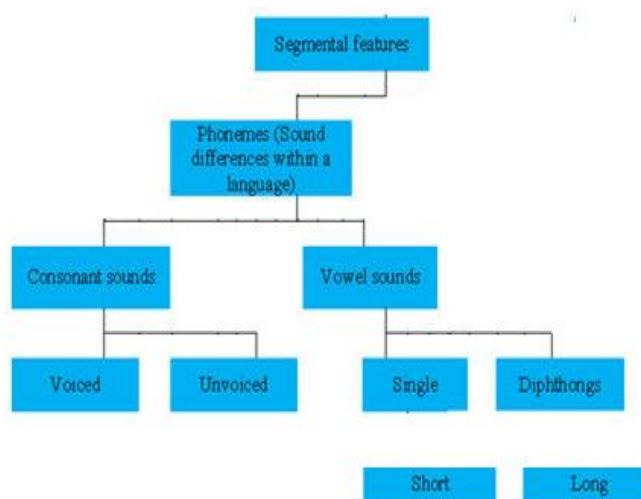


Figure 1 A branch of segmental phonology by Pourhosein (2012, p. 120).

In segmental features there is one branch called as Phonemes. This branch has two sound designs: Consonant and vowel sounds. In consonant, there are two types: Voiced, which is vocal cord vibrate, example **Vanilla** [vənɪlə] meanwhile **Unvoiced, which is no vibration of the vocal cords, example She** [ʃi] On the other hand there is vowel has two types: single (short and long) and diphthongs. Single (**short**) is **ă /æ/ in apple, pan or mat while (long) is ă /oʊ/ in oats, moat or mote.** Diphthongs are made by separated voices within the same syllable. For instance, **sow** [səʊ] or **soy** [sɔɪ].

METHOD

This study use qualitative method, on how the results of the analysis are in form of words (Kuswoyo & Susardi, 2018; Afrianto & Reranta, 2019) and focusing diverse points of view of analysis, and also concerns on inductive and deductive processes (Creswell, 2014 in Suprayogi and Pranoto, 2020b). Data source was taken from questionnaire and interview of 3 Vietnamese speakers who are now in university level. Those speakers could speak English in daily communication as EFL. They were asked to pronounced listed vocabulary then record

themselves using whatsapp voice recorder. The voice is transcribed using International Phonetic Alphabet. The American English Accent each word refers to Cambridge Dictionary online version. The communication was conducted through facebook and whatsapp.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This study analyzed how the consonant productions of Southern Vietnamese English accent are different from American English accent. In the other hand, this analysis shows the sound changes and correspondences of consonants that mostly appear in English when the Vietnamese speakers having conversations also how the changes influence the words and the structure themselves. This analysis was grouped based on the segmental feature; consonant sounds. Additionally, the differences create certain absence of consonants in both languages; Vietnamese English and American English make some sound changes in the way of pronunciation. Sound change differences are found in Vietnamese English and it has many types of sound changes produced in their accent.

The respondent often omit and add the phonemes. These problems can cause many types of sound change appear, additionally, place of sound changes sometimes different from one and another. We cannot predict where the sound is being omitted or changed or even followed by other consonants and vowels for the place. That coexistence of sounds will be different from each other, it depends on how the speakers pronounce the words. In the other word, consonants sound occurred in the front, middle sometimes in the end. In one case of consonant differences can have more than one type of sound changes. Moreover, place and manner in each consonant has seen literally different.

Differences in /l/ Sound

A sound change can be seen in another sound like /l/ sound. This /l/ sound meets with vocal /ɛ/ which no other possible consonants put between those sounds. In the other hand, the writer finds out the speakers pronounce it differently. The contrast makes a sound change with labial approximant /w/ sound. This problem happens before alveolar lateral /l/ sound. Articulation of alveolar lateral is when the tip of the tongue touching the teeth. It appears consistently in the middle of /ɛ/ and /l/ sound. /w/ sound is placed in the middle of those sounds. This /w/ sound has epenthesis as its type of sound change. The examples are in the table bellows:

Table 3 /l/ Preceded by /w/

No.	Words	A E A	V E A	Consonants	Types
3.	Tell	[tɛl]	[tɛwl]	+ w	Epenthesis
a.	Storyteller	['stɔ:ritɛlər]	['stɔ:ritɛwlə]	+ w	Epenthesis
b.	Intelligible	[ɪn'tɛlɪdʒəbl]	[ɪn'tɛwlɪdʒəbl]	+ w	Epenthesis
c.	Teller	[tɛlər]	[tɛwlə]	+ w	Epenthesis

Consonant problem shows in this table. This table shows how /w/ sound can occur in the middle of the vocal /ɛ/ and consonant /l/ sound. Labial approximant /w/ sound in Vietnamese consonant comes out as an additional consonant between /ɛ/ and /l/ sound then create epenthesis sound. This /w/ sound appears before alveolar lateral /l/ sound consistently. The strong /w/ sound in these examples make significant clarities that a consonant will always flank or meet a vowel but it happens not because the vowel bring the /w/ sound but it is more to /l/ sound that emphasize the changing itself.

Table 4 /l/ Preceded by /w/

No.	Words	A E A	V E A	Consonants	Types
4.	Else	[ɛls]	[ɛwls]	+ w	Epenthesis
a.	Maelstrom	['mɛɪlstrəm]	[mɛwɪlstrəm]	+ w	Epenthesis
b.	Belsen	[bɛlsən]	[bɛwɪlsən]	+ w	Epenthesis
c.	Elsewhere	[ɛlswɛər]	[ɛwɪlswɛ]	+ w	Epenthesis

Different case has different explanation, but not with this explanation. This explanation has few differences only of previous /l/ sound case. In this case the Vietnamese speakers have the same problem with additional /w/ sound that occurs in the middle between vowel /ə/ and consonant /l/ sounds with the same type either. This /w/ sound is labial approximant where the constriction to articulate it must be rounded at the lips. The writer provides an example table above to make the readers understand easily about the changing in this sound. However, the differences between those tables are only the words. This table shows that /w/ sound is

flanked by vocal /ə/ and consonant /l/ sounds, meanwhile, the previous table is flanked by vocal /ɛ/ and consonant /l/ sounds. Moreover, alveolar lateral /l/ sound is always preceded by labial approximant /w/ sound consistently in this second table of /l/ sound.

Difference in /t/ Sound

This sound exists in another consonant like in /t/ sound. Alveolar un-aspirated /t/ sound has an additional /w/ in the middle where it happens after a vocal /ə/ and before consonant/t/ sounds. Due to the transformation of the sounds, this changing shows that epenthesis which is an additional sound occurs in the middle of the word between /ə/ and /t/. In the other word, this problem shows that /t/ sound preceded by /w/ sound consistently and change the way of its pronunciation like /wt/, however, it has an apostrophe before the /w/ sound, so it is clear if no vocal brings an additional consonant /w/ sound in this changing. It purely happens because labial approximant meets alveolar un-aspirated. The problems can be seen in the following table:

Table 5 /t/ Preceded by /w/

No.	Words	A E A	V E A	Consonants	Types
5.	Hot	[hɒt]	[hə'wt]	+ w	Epenthesis
a.	Mascot	['mæskɒt]	[maskə'wt]	+ w	Epenthesis
b.	Knot	[nɒt]	[nə'wt]	+ w	Epenthesis
c.	Shot	[ʃɒt]	[ʃə'wt]	+ w	Epenthesis

This table experiences adding /w/ sound in the middle of the word and change the word formation. The problem not only comes from /w/ sound, but also /ə/ sound. This coexistence is extremely consistent in its set. This /w/ occurs after vowel /ə/ and before alveolar un-aspirated/t/ sound that create new sound type called as epenthesis.

Difference in /tʃ/ Sound

Difference in /tʃ/ sound actually happens when Vietnamese speakers pronounce that sound. It happens because in Vietnamese there is /c/ sound which exists in palatal un-aspirated place and manner of Vietnamese consonants must be articulated with the back of tongue comes into near contact with the palate when pronouncing /c/. It is different from English, in English consonants there is no /c/ sound but /tʃ/. Moreover, this /tʃ/ palato alveolar in English consonant sound read as /ch/, it is a mixed of /c/ and /h/ sounds together in this case. The change from /tʃ/ to /ch/ sounds happens because palatal un-aspirated /c/ sound encounters glottal fricative /h/ sound and became /ch/ in phonetics. Apparently, this change brought two types in precise, paragog and epenthesis. Paragog known as added a consonant sound in the end. The examples are provided in the table bellows:

Table 6 Unaspirated /c/ Followed by Fricative /h/

No.	Words	A E A	V E A	Consonants	Types
6.	Much	[mʌtʃ]	[mach]	+ h	Paragog
a.	Nature	['neɪtʃər]	[nəɪtʃɛ]	+ h	Epenthesis
b.	Lunch	[lʌntʃ]	[lach]	+ h	Paragog
c.	Search	[sɜ:tʃ]	[sɜ:ch]	+ h	Paragog

Alphabets in Vietnamese are different from English. Some of the alphabets are the same, but not all and it happens to the consonants sound as well. This /tʃ/ does not exist in Vietnamese consonant, but /tʃ/ can read as /c/ for Vietnamese. Unfortunately, this palatal un-aspirated /c/ sound encounters glottal fricative /h/ sound to be /ch/ when it pronounce in phonetics. Paragog and epenthesis become the types of this sound change.

Difference in /d/ Sound

One of complex sound changes from all sounds in the previous explanation before is /d/ sound. Slightly, this sound sees very complex because there is no existence either in Vietnamese or English. The main problem is not from /d/ sound, but more to what is the thing applies in /d/ sound. Moreover, this sound gets changing by /h/ sound which brings /d/ sound joining into one to be /dh/ sound. /d/ sound in Vietnamese consonants known as alveolar un-aspirated while /h/ is glottal fricative. This change happens when the speakers released /d/ with /h/ together and layer it with /l/ sound. Therefore, /d/ sound change into /dh/ because an additional /h/ in the middle

of /d/ and /l/ which already flanked together like /dl/. The writer puts the examples in a table bellows to see how complex the change is:

Table 7 Unaspirated/d/ Followed by Fricative /h/

No.	Words	A E A	V E A	Consonants	Types
7.	Noodle	['nu:dl]	['nudhl]	+ h	Epenthesis
a.	Cuddle	['kʌdl]	[ku:dh]	+ h	Epenthesis
b.	Doodle	['du:dl]	[dɛʊdh]	+ h	Epenthesis
c.	Spoodle	[spu:dl]	[spɛʊdh]	+ h	Epenthesis

Sound change can happen to alveolar un-aspirated /d/ sound. It has an additional /h/ sound after /d/ and if we look at the words clearly, this /h/ sound is placed in the middle of /d/ and /l/ sound and it consistently happens. That is why the changing form sounds like /dh/ sound. In this /dh/ sound show that there is /h/ sound is flanked by /d/ and /l/ sound and this creates sound change, type epenthesis. Therefore, this changing is kind of complex sound because 3 consonants are flanked together start from /d/ sound followed by /h/ sound and /l/ is preceded by /h/ itself.

Difference /r/ Sound

There are two types of sound changes in this case of /r/ sound. The types that this /r/ sound brought are syncope and apocopate. Syncope defines omitting the consonant sound in the middle while apocopate in the end of the word. These types created by /r/ sound problem in this case. /r/ sound in Vietnamese consonants is alveolar trill meanwhile /r/ sound in English consonants is post-alveolar approximants. That difference makes sound change when the Vietnamese speakers pronounce it. It can be seen from the place and manner from each /r/ sound and the way the Vietnamese speakers articulate the sound. Therefore, the writer provides a table to make the readers understand and see the different between /r/ sound in Vietnamese and English even though they have “r” as their consonants.

Table 8 Omitted Trill /r/Sound

No.	Words	A E A	V E A	Consonants	Types
8.	Understand	[,ʌndərstænd]	['andəstend]	- r	Syncope
a.	Chair	[tʃeər]	[tʃea]	- r	Apocopate
b.	Screw	[skru:]	[skʰɛʊ]	- r	Syncope
c.	Thunder	['θʌndə]	[tʰundɛ]	- r	Apocopate

Sound change happens in alveolar trill /r/ sound which omitted in the middle and end. In some cases omitting phoneme, consonant or sound called epenthesis and syncope types. These types have different meaning such syncope, it means a phoneme, consonant or sound omit in the middle of the word meanwhile apocopate means omit it in the end of word.

Difference in /l/ Sound

In this explanation, the writer tries to shows that /l/ sound has omitted. The /l/ sound lateral has omitted after /t/ sound. The way of pronouncing /t/ sound by Vietnamese and American in English Language are different. This difference appears when the speakers pronounce the sound. It happens continuously whenever those sounds meet together. Moreover, this omitting transformation finds out apocopate type as their type because they omit the /l/ sound in the end of the words. The examples have put evidently in the table bellows:

Table 9 Omitted Lateral /l/ Sound

No.	Words	A E A	V E A	Consonants	Types
9.	Bottle	['bɒtl]	['bɒteu]	- l	Apocopate
a.	Shuttle	['ʃʌtl]	['ʃateu]	- l	Apocopate
b.	Battle	['bætl]	[badeu]	- l	Apocopate
c.	Little	['lɪtl]	['liteu]	- l	Apocopate

This transformation is really striking because the writer finds /l/ omitted and brought /eu/ sound in Vietnamese consonants. Where /eu/ is diphthongs sound that coexistence with alveolar un-aspirated /t/ sound. Sound type in this transformation set is apocopate because they omit the /l/ sound in the end of word. The structure of English has been changed here. The changes that happen from American to Vietnamese English syllable in the words shows that the speakers construct those words consistently, but some of those words were correspondence. This correspondence sometimes replacing a consonant to another consonant, but not often they omit the consonants to some consonants that followed by vowels, however, it depends on the phonetics transcription itself. Therefore, the researchers have decided to analyze correspondence in this paper. In the analysis she puts adequate correspondence sound examples in order to show that some words change not only in its sound, but they can correspondence as well. In some cases correspondence sound happens to vowel and consonant or consonant that is followed by vowel and many more examples. The result of correspondence sound itself makes such types to be put and analyze due to the differences of what the sound correspondence to the sound. It is literally seen in the several examples provided bellows.

Moreover, the concern is more to see what the sound that correspondence with other sound even vowel or consonant, while it has its types in the end to look the boundaries. Despite this explanation the writer provides tables for correspondence sound itself. The correspondence sound can be seen in provided table in this page:

/l/ Correspondence to /n/ Sound

This case is /l/ sound correspondence to sound /n/. The writer sees a complexion correspondence sound in this case because there are two consonants correspondence the /l/ sound in one time. The alveolar nasal /n/ sound in Vietnamese consonants articulation is obstructing the airflow in the mouth but allow air to flow through the nasal cavity. This is how /l/ correspondence to /n/. The correspondence of this case produces one consistent type which is apocopate. The /l/ sound omits in the end of the word and the way of pronouncing must be different. It proves in the table bellows:

Table 10 Lateral /l/ Correspondence to Nasal /n/ Sound

No.	Words	A E A	V E A	Consonants
10.	Call	[kɔ:l]	[kɔwn]	l > n
a.	Small	[smɔ:l]	[smɔ:wn]	l > n
b.	Tall	[tɔ:l]	[tɔwn]	l > n
c.	Fall	[fɔ:l]	[fɔ:wn]	l > n

The change that happens in the table above is omitting the alveolar /l/ sound and adding new consonants alveolar nasal/n/ sound. Those sounds combine together to with /w/ sound. This changing sound is placed in the end of the word it means the possibility to omit and replace the /l/ is quite well. Due to the changes, the writer put apocopate as the sound type. The sound type can happen to in correspondence sound, but not all sound types are suitable for the sound correspondences. It means only some sound changes types relate to sound correspondences.

/d/ Correspondent to /t/ Sound

The correspondence happens in the end of the words where the Vietnamese speakers correspondence the alveolar un-aspirated /d/ sound to the same place and manner alveolar un-aspirated /t/ sound in this case. This problem is not a complex problem at all because the place and manner of articulation has the same state and the way the speakers pronounce it is exactly the same. This correspondence between /d/ and /t/ sound is always shows its similarities location to correspondence that is after /n/ alveolar nasal sound. The problem can be seen in the table following table:

Table 12 Un-aspirated /d/ Correspondent to Un-aspirated /t/ Sound

No.	Words	A E A	V E A	Consonants
12.	Friend	[frend]	[frent]	d > t
a.	Extend	[ɪk'stend]	[ɪk'stent]	d > t
b.	Descend	[dɪ'send]	[dɪ'sent]	d > t
c.	Ascend	[ə'send]	[əsent]	d > t

The last table shows that little correspondence because these /d/ and /t/ sounds are not different in the place and manner itself. The place between those sounds has a little correspondence that consistently happens. It always happens after /e/ and /t/.

/ð/ Correspondence to /d/ Sound

In the next case which is case 2 the writer finds out the contrast between this problem and previous problem. In the previous problem the writer found /ð/ correspondence to /t^h/ sound and here is found /ð/ correspondence to /d/ sound. This problem happens because the sound is correspondence in the middle and flanked by two vowels sounds. Moreover, the interesting things are this correspondence is always followed by /r/ sound in the end and that was omitting by the speakers. Due to this correspondence the writer conclude that epenthesis sound change type is the exact type for this correspondence problem. It definitely can be seen in the following table:

Table 14 Fricative /ð/ Correspondence to Un-aspirated /d/ Sound

No.	Words	A E A	V E A	Consonants
14.	Brother	['brʌðər]	[bradə]	ð > d
a.	Further	['fɜ:ðər]	[fudə]	ð > d
b.	Mother	['mʌðər]	[madə]	ð > d
c.	Weather	['weðər]	[wədə]	ð > d

Contrast with Case one, this /ð/ sound correspondence to /d/ sound. The changing of the sound happened in the middle and flanked by two vowel sounds. Those vowel sounds that was flanked the /d/ sound were different from one and another, but always consistent ended with /ə/ sound. In the same time, /r/ sound that located in the end of the words was omitted. Therefore, in this case 2 is quite different, due to the correspondence happened in the middle, so that epenthesis type appeared to make the sound change can clearly be seen here.

CONCLUSION

The researchers conclude that there are two things in this study that was taken from both consonants, English and Vietnamese. This conclusion is begun based on the analysis of how consonants production between Vietnamese English accents and American English accent are different. The differences are only the number of both consonants. But, that the problems come out due to the way of their pronunciation. Sometimes the consonants correspondence to other sounds and often followed by vowels and other consonants. This problem is not point out to the number of consonants but it happens due to the existence of consonants from both languages. As the results the Vietnamese speakers change the structure that changes the sound and its type. There are 56 words in total that changed in 2 aspects; sound correspondence and sound type. This problem happens because 1) the speaker omit some sounds such as /r/ in the middle and the end of the words. Speakers omitted /l/ sound and replace it to /e/, /ɔ/ and /w/, /n/. Sound /ð/ changeS into /d/. Additional sound also found such /w/ and /h/, 2) transformation of sound change creates types done by the speaker such as epenthesis, apocopate, syncope, and paragog. Different types produced by the Vietnamese speakers depend on how they pronounce and construct the words structures. In this study, the speakers change the place of consonants in the phonetic transcription based on what sound followed and flanked.

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