

An Analysis of Interference from Javanese in the Pronunciation of [θ], [ð] and [ɹ] in English
by the Students of Faculty of Letters in Gajayana University.

Pradnya Paramita Dewi

Faculty of Culture and Sciences

Gajayana University Malang

Abstrack

English as one of the international languages has been learned by the students of Faculty of Letters in Gajayana University. In learning English as foreign language, most learners have problem in pronunciation, especially in the way they pronounce the sound of the target language. Mispronunciations which are produce by the learners is caused by the interference of the source language or first language. The object of this research is the students of Faculty of Letters in Gajayana University 2005/2006 intake who are native speakers of Javanese and have been done phonology class. Some specific sounds are discussed in these research namely English sounds of inter-dental fricative[θ], [ð] and alveolar approximant[ɹ]. The finding of the research are some interferences occur in pronouncing those sounds, they are 1) voiceless inter-dental fricative [θ] is pronounced using voiceless dental stop [t̪], aspirated voiceless dental stop [t̪^h], voiced dental stop [d̪], and voiceless palato-alveolar affricate [tʃ]. 2).Voiced inter-dental fricative is pronounce using voiceless dental stop [t̪], aspirated voiceless dental stop [t̪^h], voiced dental stop [d̪], and voiceless palato-alveolar affricate [tʃ]. 3).Voiced alveolar approximant [ɹ] is pronounced using voiced alveolar trill[r]. 4). the possible reasons for the interferences made are based on the similarity of characteristics in the state of vocal cords, place of articulation, and manner of articulations.

Keyword: interference

Abstrak

Inggris merupakan salah satu bahasa internasional yang dipelajari oleh mahasiswa Fakultas Sastra Universitas Gajayana. Dalam mempelajari bahasa Inggris sebagai bahasa asing, sebagian besar pelajar mengalami kesulitan dalam pengucapan, khususnya cara pengucapan bunyi bahasa target. Kesalahan pengucapan yang dihasilkan oleh pelajar disebabkan adanya interferensi dari bahasa sumber atau bahasa pertama. Obyek dalam penelitian ini adalah mahasiswa Fakultas Sastra Universitas Gajayana angkatan 2005/2006 yang asli berbahasa Jawa dan telah menempuh mata kuliah Phonology. Beberapa bunyi dibahas dalam penelitian ini yaitu inter-dental frikatif [θ], [ð] dan alveolar approximant [ɹ]. Temuan dari penelitian ini terdapat beberapa interferensi yang muncul dalam pengucapan bunyi-bunyi tersebut yaitu 1).

voiceless inter-dental frikatif [θ] diucapkan dengan voiceless dental stop [t], aspirated voiceless dental stop [t^h], voiced dental stop [d], and voiceless palato-alveolar affricate [tʃ]. 2). Voiced inter-dental fricative diucapkan dengan voiceless dental stop [t], aspirated voiceless dental stop [t^h], voiced dental stop [d], and voiceless palato-alveolar affricate [tʃ]. 3). Voiced alveolar approximant [ɹ] diucapkan dengan voiced alveolar trill [r]. 4). Munculnya interferensi disebabkan adanya persamaan karakteristik pada pita suara, tempat artikulasi dan cara pengucapan.

Keyword: interferensi

1. Background and Problem

Language is the important part of human beings. Using language people can convey what they think, feel, and express experience. Ramelan (1988: 3) states that man uses a language as a mean of communication with other people, as a tool to express their ideas and wishes. By using language people can give command, share they thought, ask something, etc.

In Indonesia there are several languages spoken by the people. The first is regional language that can be called mother tongue. It is a language fro, each region, which is spoken in daily life from one generation to the next continuously. This language has different rule in region but sometime similar to the contiguous one. The second is the national language that is Indonesian. This language is a lingua franca to communicate in many different regions in Indonesia. Third is foreign language that is English. There are a lot of sectors that use English in their delivery. One of it is in education sector. Indonesian government includes English as on of subject in curriculum. Generally, English is studied from elementary school.

In the process of learning of foreign language, the students will learn about the whole rules including the system from the language which is called target language. Meanwhile, the students have mastered the rules of their own language automatically, called source language. English is learned later, therefore, interference occurs from both mother tongue and lingua franca.

One of the interferences that are occurred is pronunciation. Jones (1972: 2) states that non-spoken English students find difficulties in making the foreign sounds with his own speech organs. In learning English as a foreign language, most learners have problem in pronunciation; especially in the way they pronounce the sounds of target language. If they pronounce differently in manners, there will be different in meaning and also writing. According to Ramelan (1988: 4) when a student wants to learn a foreign language, in this case English, he will have to learn to speak it. He has to try to speak in the way the native speakers speak the language. This can be achieved by closely imitating and mimicking them until his pronunciation is satisfactory and acceptable to them.

Sahulata (1988: 58-59) states that the two languages are not phonologically identical. This can lead to the serious interference problem in speaking the target language. It can be

described when Javanese people find certain English sounds that are not available in Javanese. It may be caused by some factors such as the fossilization of mother tongue and different system of sounds between English and Javanese.

Ramelan (1988: 3-4) states that there are some reasons for pronunciation problems categories as: 1). The habit of speaking the first language, 2). The degree of difference between the two languages, 3) There are sounds which have the same phonetic features in both languages but differ in their distribution, 4). The elements that are different that is found between the first language and the target language.

Related to the background, this research discusses the interference which Javanese speakers make in producing the English sounds of inter-dental, fricative [θ], [ð] and alveolar, approximant [ɹ]. Besides, this research also finds the possible reasons for the occurrences for the interferences.

2. Theoretical Framework

In discussing interference specifically in producing sounds, phonetics can be one of the studies to support. Ladefoged (1993: 1) states that phonetics is concerned with describing the speech sounds that occur in the language of the world. It is also concerned with what these sounds are, how they fall into pattern, and how they change in different circumstances. Meanwhile, Yule (1987: 34) states that phonetics can be divided into three parts: 1). Articulatory Phonetics deals with of how speech sounds are made or articulated; 2). Acoustic Phonetics deals with the physical properties of speech sounds as wave in the air; 3). Auditory Phonetics deals with the perception of speech sounds via the ears.

Wolfgang (1986: 3-10) states that a second language acquisition of the first language the distinction become blurred. There is a notion that second language acquisition become difficult and less effective after the age of puberty rather than before. The adult second language learners often seem to encounter special difficulties in the case of phonology.

A common tendency of students' attempting to learn second language is to use the sound from their native language. Gimson (1974: 32) states that second language learning, then, was viewed as a process of overcoming the habits of the native language in order to acquire the new habits of the target language. It will be difficult for the learners to change their habit of moving their speech organs in producing the foreign language, because since childhood they have been speaking his mother tongue, which has been deeply implanted as part of the habit. Afterward, they probably transfer the unfamiliar sounds into the sounds that are close to it in the native language.

3. Research Methodology

This research is descriptive research, because it described the facts found in the real life as they are without any manipulation. The population of the research is the students of the Faculty of Letters, Gajayana University 2005/2006 intake who are native speakers of Javanese and have been done Phonology class. The number of them is 24 students. The consideration in choosing them are based on the placed they lived and the language they speak in daily live that is Javanese.

The data are collecting by doing some recording. The first step, each respondent asks to introduce their self. After that the respondent is given two different instruments, the first one is words in isolation which consists of English sounds of inter-dental, fricative [θ], [ð] and alveolar, approximant [ɹ]. The number of the words is 30 words containing each sound in the initial, medial and final position. Thus, the total number of words in isolation is 90 words. The second instrument is consist of three short passages that presents sounds of inter-dental, fricative [θ], [ð]and alveolar, approximant [ɹ]. Each passage is focused on each sound in the initial, medial and final position.

In analyzing the data the researcher classifying the words in accordance with the English inter-dental, fricative [θ], [ð] and alveolar, approximant [ɹ] and observing whether there is any interference made by each respondent.

4. Interferences Made for the Sounds

The most five interferences made by the students in pronouncing each sounds is presented in table with the second column shows the given words, the third column shows the correct pronunciation, the fourth column shows how many students make the correct pronunciation, the fifth column shows the varieties of pronunciation made by the students and last column shows the number of students made each variety of pronunciation.

4.1.1 Interferences Made for Voiceless, Inter-dental, Fricative [θ]

Sound in initial position

No	Words	Correct Pronunciation	Number of Respondent	Pronunciation Variety	Number of Respondent
1	thesis	/θi:sis/	9	/t̪i:sis/	11
				/t ^h i:sis/	2
				/ti:sis/	1
				/t̪ ^h i:sis/	1
				/ði:sis/	1
2	thief	/θi:f/	9	/t̪i:f/	11
				/ti:f/	2
				/t ^h i:f/	2
3	thanksgiving	/θæŋksgɪvɪŋ/	12	/t̪æŋksgɪvɪŋ/	10
				/tæŋksgɪvɪŋ/	1
				/t̪ ^h æŋksgɪvɪŋ/	1

4	theater	/θɪətə(r)/	11	/tɪətə(r)/	8
				/t ^h ɪətə(r)/	4
				/t ^h ɪətə(r)/	1
5	thaw	/θɔ:/	11	/tɔ:/	6
				/t ^h ɔ:/	3
				/tɔ:/	1
				/d ^h ɔ:/	1
				/dɔ:/	2

Voiceless, inter-dental, fricative [θ] in initial position is pronounced using, voiceless dental stop [t], aspirated voiceless dental stop [t^h], voiced dental stop [d], voiceless alveolar stop [t], and aspirated voiceless alveolar stop [t^h]. Based on the varieties, interferences from Javanese are voiceless dental stop [t], aspirated voiceless dental stop [t^h], and voiced dental stop [d].

Sound in the middle position

No	Words	Correct Pronunciation	Number of Respondent	Pronunciation Variety	Number of Respondent
1	mathematics	/mæθmæɪks/	1	/mæɾmæɪks/	15
				/mæɾ ^h mæɪks/	2
				/mæɾmæɪks/	3
				/mæɾ ^h mæɪks/	2
				/mæθmæɪks/	2
2	telepathy	/tələpəθi/	2	/tələpəɾi/	9
				/tələpəɾ ^h i/	8
				/tələpəɾ ^h i/	5
3	orthography	/ɔ:θɒgrəfi/	2	/ɔ:tɒgrəfi/	14
				/ɔ:t ^h ɒgrəfi/	2
				/ɔ:ðɒgrəfi/	1
				/ɔ:tɒgrəfi/	1
				/ɔ:t ^h ɒgrəfi/	4
4	earthquake	/ɜ:θkweɪk/	4	/ɜ:ɾkweɪk/	9
				/ɜ:t ^h kweɪk/	2
				/ɜ:ɾkweɪk/	7
				/ɜ:t ^h kweɪk/	2
5	gothic	/gɒθɪk/	5	/gɒɾɪk/	10
				/gɒɾ ^h ɪk/	4
				/gɒɾɪk/	2
				/gɒɾ ^h ɪk/	3

Voiceless inter-dental fricative [θ] in medial position is pronounced using voiceless dental stop [t], aspirated voiceless dental stop [t^h], voiced dental stop [d], voiced inter-dental fricative [ð], voiceless alveolar stop [t], and aspirated voiceless alveolar stop [t^h]. Based on

the varieties, the interferences from Javanese are voiceless dental stop [ṭ], aspirated voiceless dental stop [ṭ^h], and voiced dental stop [ḍ].

Sound in the final position

No	Words	Correct Pronunciation	Number of Respondent	Pronunciation Variety	Number of Respondent
1	month	/mʌnθ/	1	/mʌṇṭ/	13
				/mʌṇṭ/	7
				/mʌṇṭ ^h /	3
2	filt	/filθ/	2	/fiḷṭ/	19
				/fiḷṭ/	1
				/fiḷṭ ^h /	2
3	south	/sauθ/	2	/saụṭ/	20
				/saụṭ ^h /	1
				/saụṭ ^h /	1
4	death	/deθ/	3	/dẹṭ/	16
				/dẹṭ/	1
				/dẹṭ ^h /	2
				/dẹṭ ^h /	2
5	mouth	/mauθ/	4	/maụṭ/	17
				/maụṭʃ/	1
				/maụṭ ^h /	2

Voiceless inter-dental fricative [θ] in final position is pronounced using voiceless dental stop [ṭ], aspirated voiceless dental stop [ṭ^h], voiceless alveolar stop [ṭ], aspirated voiceless alveolar stop [ṭ^h], and voiceless palato-alveolar affricate [ṭʃ]. Based on the varieties, interferences from Javanese are voiceless dental stop [ṭ], voiceless dental stop aspirated [ṭ^h], and voiceless palato-alveolar affricate [ṭʃ].

4.1.2 Interferences Made for Voiced, Inter-dental, Fricative [ð]

Sound in the initial position

No	Words	Correct Pronunciation	Number of Respondent	Pronunciation Variety	Number of Respondent
1	than	/ðən/	6	/ð̣ən/	18
2	this	/ðɪs/	7	/ð̣ɪs/	15
				/ṭɪs/	1
				/ṭɪs/	1
3	that	/ðæt/	7	/ð̣æt/	16
				/zæt/	1
4	thy	/ðai/	9	/ð̣ai/	4
				/ṭai/	3
				/ṭai/	5
				/ṭai/	1

				/tai/	1
				/θai/	1
5	thee	/ði:/	8	/ɖi:/	12
				/tʃi:/	1
				/ti:/	2
				/tʰi:/	1

Voiced, inter-dental, fricative [ð] in initial position is pronounced using voiceless dental stop [t̥], aspirated voiceless dental stop [tʰ], voiced dental stop [ɖ], voiceless inter-dental fricative [θ], voiceless alveolar stop [t], aspirated voiceless alveolar stop [tʰ], voiced alveolar stop [d], voiced alveolar fricative [z], and voiceless palato-alveolar affricate [tʃ]. Based on the varieties, interferences from Javanese are voiceless dental stop [t̥], aspirated voiceless dental stop [tʰ], voiced dental stop [ɖ], voiceless palato-alveolar affricate [tʃ].

Sound in the medial position

No	Words	Correct Pronunciation	Number of Respondent	Pronunciation Variety	Number of Respondent
1	bathing	/beiðɪŋ/	0	/beɪt̥ɪŋ/	4
				/beɪtʰɪŋ/	4
				/beɪθɪŋ/	10
				/beɪtɪŋ/	1
				/beɪdɪŋ/	1
				/beɪtʰɪŋ/	4
2	dither	/dɪðə(r)/	7	/dɪt̥ə(r)/	9
				/dɪtʰə(r)/	3
				/dɪθə(r)/	2
				/dɪtʰə(r)/	3
3	leather	/leðə(r)/	14	/leɪt̥ə(r)/	5
				/leɪd̥ə(r)/	4
				/leθə(r)/	1
4	although	/ɔ:ðəʊ/	14	/ɔ:t̥əʊ/	3
				/ɔ:d̥əʊ/	1
				/ɔ:tʰəʊ/	4
				/ɔ:tʰəʊ/	2
5	together	/təgeðə(r)/	16	/təgeɪt̥ə(r)/	4
				/təged̥ə(r)/	4

Voiced, inter-dental, fricative [ð] in medial position is pronounced using voiceless dental stop [t̥], aspirated voiceless dental stop [tʰ], voiced dental stop [ɖ], voiceless inter-dental fricative [θ], voiceless alveolar stop [t], aspirated voiceless alveolar stop [tʰ], and voiced alveolar stop [d]. Based on the varieties, interferences from Javanese are voiceless dental stop [t̥], aspirated voiceless dental stop [tʰ], and voiced dental stop [ɖ].

Sound in the final position

No	Words	Correct Pronunciation	Number of Respondent	Pronunciation Variety	Number of Respondent
1	lathe	/leɪð/	0	/leɪt̚/	13
				/leɪt̚ ^h /	3
				/leɪt/	4
				/leɪt̚ ^h /	4
2	with	/wɪð/	1	/wɪt̚/	15
				/wɪd̚/	1
				/wɪθ/	4
				/wɪt/	2
				/wɪt̚ ^h /	1
3	teethe	/ti:ð/	1	/ti:t̚/	9
				/ti:t̚ ^h /	5
				/ti:θ/	4
				/ti:t/	2
				/ti:t̚ ^h /	1
4	soothe	/su:ð/	1	/su:t̚/	14
				/su:d̚/	1
				/su:t̚ ^h /	3
				/su:θ/	3
				/su:t̚ ^h /	2
5	clothe	/kləʊð/	2	/kləʊt̚/	16
				/kləʊd̚/	1
				/kləʊd/	1
				/kləʊt̚/	2
				/kləʊt̚ ^h /	2

Voiced, inter-dental, fricative [ð] in final position is pronounced using voiceless dental stop [t̚], aspirated voiceless dental stop [t̚^h], voiced dental stop [d̚], voiceless inter-dental fricative [θ], voiceless alveolar stop [t], aspirated voiceless alveolar stop [t^h], and voiced alveolar stop [d]. Based on the varieties, interferences from Javanese are voiceless dental stop [t̚], aspirated voiceless dental stop [t̚^h], and voiced dental stop [d̚].

4.1.3 Interferences Made for Alveolar, Approximant [ɹ].

Sound in the initial position

No	Words	Correct Pronunciation	Number of Respondent	Pronunciation Variety	Number of Respondent
1	room	/ru:m/	12	/ru:m/	11
				/ru:m/	1
2	ritual	/ɹɪʃuəl/	12	/ɹɪʃuəl/	12
3	receive	/ɹɪsi:v/	13	/ɹɪsi:v/	11
4	remind	/ɹɪmaɪnd/	14	/ɹɪmaɪnd/	10

5	rabbit	/ɹæbɪt/	16	/ræbɪt/	8
---	--------	---------	----	---------	---

Voiced alveolar approximant [ɹ] in initial position is pronounced using alveolar trill [r] and the interference from Javanese is voiced alveolar trill [r].

Sound in the medial position

No	Words	Correct Pronunciation	Number of Respondent	Pronunciation Variety	Number of Respondent
1	interest	/ɪntɪəst/	10	/ɪntrəst/	14
2	guarantee	/gæɹənti:/	11	/gærənti:/	13
3	kangaroo	/kæŋgəɹu:/	13	/kæŋgəru:/	11
4	grow	/gɹəʊ/	13	/grəʊ/	11
5	private	/praɹɪvət/	15	/praɪvət/	9

Voiced alveolar approximant [ɹ] in initial position is pronounced using alveolar trill [r] and the interference from Javanese is voiced alveolar trill [r].

Sound in the final position

No	Words	Correct Pronunciation	Number of Respondent	Pronunciation Variety	Number of Respondent
1	harder	/hɑ:ɹde(ɹ)/	19	/hɑ:rdər/	5
2	December	/dɪsɛmbə(ɹ)/	20	/dɪsɛmbər/	4
3	tiger	/taɹgə(ɹ)/	21	/taɹgər/	3
4	hamburger	/hæmbɜ:ɡə(ɹ)/	22	/hæmbɜ:ɡər/	2
5	dinner	/dɪnə(ɹ)/	22	/dɪnər/	2

Voiced alveolar approximant [ɹ] in initial position is pronounced using alveolar trill [r] and the interference from Javanese is voiced alveolar trill [r].

4.2 The Possible reasons for the Interference

The replacement of those sounds is based in the similarity of characteristics because Javanese does not have those sounds

The interferences made for voiceless inter-dental fricative [θ] are:

1. Voiceless dental stop [t̪] : the same characteristics are in the state of vocal cords, and place of articulation
2. Aspirated voiceless dental stop [t̪^h] : the same characteristics are in the state of vocal cords, and place of articulation
3. Voiced dental stop [d̪] : the same characteristics are place of articulation
4. Voiceless palate-alveolar affricate [tʃ] : the same characteristics in the state of vocal cords

The interferences made for inter-dental fricative [θ] are:

1. Voiceless dental stop [t̪] : the same characteristics is in the place of articulation
2. Aspirated voiceless dental stop [t̪^h] : the same characteristics is in the place of articulation
5. Voiced dental stop [d̪] : the same characteristics are in the state of vocal cords, and place of articulation
3. Voiceless palate-alveolar affricate [tʃ] : the same characteristics are in the state of vocal cords

The interferences for alveolar approximant [ɹ] is voiced alveolar trill [r] : the same characteristics are in the state of vocal cords, and place of articulation

5. Conclusion

It can be conclude that there are several varieties of the interferences made by the students in pronouncing the inter-dental fricative [θ], [ð] and alveolar approximant [ɹ]. Voiceless inter-dental fricative [θ] is pronounced using voiceless dental stop [t̪], aspirated voiceless dental stop [t̪^h], voiced dental stop [d̪], and voiceless palate-alveolar affricate [tʃ]. Voiced inter-dental fricative [ð] is pronounced using voiceless dental stop [t̪], aspirated voiceless dental stop [t̪^h], voiced dental stop [d̪], and voiceless palate-alveolar affricate [tʃ]. Voiced alveolar approximant [ɹ] is pronounced using voiced alveolar trill [r]. The possible reason for the interferences made based on the similar characteristics in the state of vocal cords, place of articulation and manner of articulation.

References

- Andiani, D. 2003. *The Influence of Javanese Sounds on the Pronunciation of English Plosive Consonants Spoken by the First Years Students of the 2001 Intake at the English Department, Gajayana University*. Unpublished thesis. Faculty of Letters. Gajayana University Malang.
- Fromkin and Rodman. 1983. *An Introduction to Language*. New York: Collage Publishing.
- Gimson, A.C. 1970. *An Introduction To The Pronunciation Of English*. England: Stepen Austin and Sons, Ltd, Caxton Hill, Hertford.
- Jones. D. 1972. *An Outline of English Phonetics*. New York: Cambridge Uuniversity.
- Kridalaksana, H. 2001. *Wiwara Pengantar Bahasa dan Kebudayaan Jawa*. Jakarta: PT. Gramedia Pustaka Utama.
- Kumar, R. 1996. *Research Methodology*. Melbourne: Addison Wesley Longman Pty Limited.
- Ledefoged, P. 1983. *A Course in Phonetics. United State of America*. Harcourt Brace & Company.
- Marcwardi, A.H. 1962. *English As A Second Language And English As A Foreign Language*. USA: Mc. Graw-Hill Book Company.
- Ramelan, 1988. *English Phonetics*. Semarang: IKIP Semarang Press.
- Sahulata, D. 1988. *An Introduction to Sound System of English*. Jakarta. Indonesia: Proyek Pengembangan Lembaga Pendidikan Tenaga Kependidikan.
- Sahudi, B. 2000. *A Study on the Fricative Sounds Produced by the Students of Faculty of Letters Gajayana University at Malang*. Unpublished thesis. Faculty of Letters. Gajayana University Malang.
- Syafei, A. 1988. *English Pronunciation.: Theory and Practice*. Jakarta: Departemen Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan.
- Thomas, C. 1958. *An Introduction To The Phonetics Of American English*. New York: The Ronald Press Company.
- Wolfgang, K. 1986. *Second Language Acquisition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Yule, G. 1987. *The Study Of Language*. New York: Cambridge University.