

## ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION CHALLENGES FACED BY BS ENGLISH 7<sup>th</sup> SEMESTER STUDENTS

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### ABSTRACT

This study explores the challenges faced by students of B's English 7th semester at the University of Kotli in pronunciation. These challenges include incorrect pronunciation, struggles with silent letters, mispronunciation of words borrowed from other languages into English, and difficulty distinguishing between similar sounds. The study aims to understand how pronunciation impacts overall communication skills. A questionnaire was designed and administered to a sample of 15 students from the English department enrolled in the 7th semester of B's English. Data was collected through a questionnaire consisting of close-ended questions. The findings indicate that pronunciation plays a crucial role in communication, and incorrect pronunciation can negatively impact students' confidence in speaking English at the undergraduate level. Recommendations for future research would include emphasizing the importance of consistent practice in improving pronunciation. Students should engage in regular English-speaking practice to enhance their pronunciation skills. Additionally, they should practice English sounds by utilizing their own speech organs.

**Key words:** English pronunciation, challenges, BS English, 7th semester students

### INTRODUCTION

Pronunciation is an important part of language learning because it has a significant impact on understanding and engaging in conversation because English sounds are different from one's native language. Pronunciation can be especially challenging for learners of English of other languages. In essence, pronunciation is the process we produce sounds in order to convey meaning ("Fact", 2002). If a person cannot easily speak with other people and resists mispronouncing words, which may cause to errors and communication issues they are unable to have fully learned the English language.

The goal of this study is to assess the obstacles which students who learn English face during pronouncing words accurately. Do they know how important pronunciation is to communicating effectively? Also, this study intends to gain knowledge about the students' individual points of view.

### Objectives:

- 1: Common pronunciation difficulties that BS English 7th semester students face
- 2: Analyzing the reasons behind these challenges in pronunciation.

### Research Question:

**QNO 1:** what specific pronunciation issues do BS-English 7<sup>th</sup> semester students have?

**QNO 2:** what effect do these pronunciation issue have on BS English students' overall language proficiency?

### Literature review:

In a study conducted by Yovani 2021 Some common pronunciation issues that arise for English language learners and suggestions for fixes. These issues are caused by a number of factors, including learners' age, attitude, and lack of background knowledge in the phonology and phonetics of the English language. It has also been reported that linking

seriously hinders suprasegmental phonetics learning. Furthermore, it has been noted that the primary element causing difficulties in learning phonetics is phonetic ability.

Based on the thematic analysis conducted, the sounds that were commonly mispronounced by the students were vowels (pure short vowels, pure long vowels and diphthongs), consonants (plosives, fricatives and affricates), silent letters, and the ‘-ed’ form. From the findings, this study recommends the use of the commonly mispronounced sounds as the content in producing an instructional pronunciation video for helping low oral proficiency students of the 21st century to address their pronunciation problems.

Shak and Stephen 2016 the sounds that students frequently mispronounced were vowels (pure short, pure long, and diphthongs), consonants (plosives, fricatives, and affricates), silent letters, and the '-ed' form, according to the thematic analysis that was done. Based on the results, this study suggests that low oral proficiency students in the twenty-first century should utilize the frequently mispronounced sounds as the subject matter of an instructional pronunciation video to help them with their pronunciation issues.

Chakma 2014 was discovered that while students had no trouble pronouncing individual English consonants, they found it difficult to pronounce the sounds at the beginning and end of words, thus they replaced other plausible sounds.

Yusriatia and Hasibuan (2019) investigated the perceptions of English education students regarding their pronouncing abilities; they also examined the types of pronunciation faults the students encountered and produced, as well as the barriers they encountered.

**Research Methodology:**

The main objective of this research is to determine the challenges that B's English 7th semester students at the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir experience pronouncing the words accurately in English.

For the sake collecting data, 15 students from the seventh semester of B's English were picked. The research methodology encompassed methods involving written tasks and questionnaires to collect data. Ten closed-ended items with multiple choice answers—strongly agree, agree, disagree, and strongly disagree were included in the questionnaire that the researcher organized.

The purpose of this questionnaire is to learn about the difficulties students have pronouncing words correctly in English as well as their opinions on the matter. A piece of paper version of the questionnaire was given to a chosen group of students, who responded by answering questions about pronunciation difficulties they encountered when communicating with others.

**Findings** **Table: 1**

Statements	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree
1: Clear and accurate pronunciation plays a crucial role in effective communication.	5	1	7	2
2: students mostly mispronounce words borrowed by English language from other languages	12	0	3	0
3: BS English students often face challenges in accurately pronouncing English sounds especially those that don't exist in their native language.	10	1	4	0
4: understanding and pronouncing correct intonation is a common difficulty for BS English students.	12	1	1	1
5: pronouncing words with silent letters is not a significant challenge for students.	3	10	1	1
6: pronouncing challenges in English can affect a students overall language proficiency.	9	3	3	0
7:BS English student often struggle with pronouncing English vowel sounds.	9	2	4	0
8: pronunciation challenges can impact a student's confidence in speaking English.	5	1	7	2

**Table :2**

Statement	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree
1 <sup>st</sup> statement	33%	6%	46%	13%
2 <sup>nd</sup> statement	80%	0%	20%	0%
3 <sup>rd</sup> statement	66%	6%	26%	0%
4 <sup>th</sup> statement	80%	6%	6%	6%
5 <sup>th</sup> statement	20%	66%	6%	6%
6 <sup>th</sup> statement	60%	20%	20%	0%
7 <sup>th</sup> statement	60%	13%	26%	0%
8 <sup>th</sup> statement	33%	6%	46%	13%

The 1st statement shows that 33% students agree, 6% disagree, 46% strongly agree, 13% strongly disagree with the statement that clear and accurate pronunciation plays a crucial role in effective communication. The 2nd statement shows that 80% students agree, 20% strongly disagree with the statement that students mispronounce words borrowed from other languages.

The 3rd statement shows that 66% students agree, 6% disagree, and 26% strongly disagree with the statement that students face challenges especially those that don't exist in their native language.

In addition, 80% students agree that pronouncing correct intonation is common difficulty for English students, 6% disagree, 6% strongly disagree.

The 5th statement shows that out of 15 students, 20% agree, 6% strongly agree, 6% strongly disagree, and 66% students disagree with statement that pronouncing silent letters is not a significant challenge for students.

From responses of 15 students, 20% disagree, 20% strongly agree, and 60% agree with statement that wrong pronunciation can affect a student's overall language proficiency. Out of 15 students, 60% agree, 13% disagree, 26% strongly agree that students often struggle with pronouncing vowel sounds.

The 8th statement shows that 33% agree, 6% disagree, 46% strongly agree, and 13% strongly disagree that pronunciation challenges can impact students' confidence.

**Table :3**

**How many students find it challenging to pronounce difficult words correctly.**

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Only few	3	20%
Not too many	3	20%
Quiet a few	6	40%
Almost all	3	20%

Out of 15, only 20% of students—nearly all 20%, just a small percentage of 40%, and not too many 20%—find it difficult to pronounce difficult words correctly.

**Table: 4**

**How many students in the BS English department face pronunciation problems?**

Category	Frequency	Percentage
10%	0%	0%
35%	1%	6%
75%	11%	73%
95%	3%	20%

In this statement mostly 73% students face pronunciation problems.

### **Discussion**

The study aims to assess the specific obstacles faced by students in the 7th semester of the BS English program when pronouncing words accurately. The findings from our research provides valuable insights that which challenges that students face.

First, mostly students think that clear and accurate pronunciation plays a crucial role in effective communication. This means they believe that pronunciation is crucial for effective communication. Second, some students think that pronouncing words with different letter is not a significant challenge for students but some of them thinks that it's a big challenge for students to pronounce words with different letters.

Third, mostly students believe that pronunciation challenges can affect a student's overall language proficiency. So, it's seeming like a good pronunciation can make your overall communication better.

However, not everyone agrees that a good pronunciation can impact overall communication skills. Some students feel like it doesn't really help them to get better communication. Our research found that most students think clear pronunciation is important for good communication. Some find it challenging to pronounce words with different letters, while others don't. many students feel that poor pronunciation can negatively impact their language proficiency as a whole, emphasizing the value of accurate pronunciation for better interaction. However, not all students agree that good pronunciation improves communication skills. On the other hand, some students believe that good pronunciation is very important for effectively communicate.

### **Conclusion**

The research highlights the challenges faced by 7th semester B's English students in pronunciation. It reveals that students struggle when mispronouncing words borrowed from other languages into English, dealing with silent letters, and distinguishing between similar sounds. The conclusion emphasizes the importance of improving pronunciation skills in language learning, as it facilitates better understanding for others when words are pronounced correctly. It also stresses the significance of pronunciation in communication. To enhance the overall literacy outcomes and academic success of 7th semester B's English students, it is crucial for the

research to address these pronunciation challenges and employ effective teaching techniques.

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