

DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to the pure souls of my father
... and mother

To the members of my dissertation committee ,professor
Abdul Wahab Abbashar Hassan(Al Sha‘rani) ,professor Abbas
..Babikr (Al Ansari) , Dr Salah Addoumah

.. To my friends of life

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the problems in English pronunciation experienced by learners whose first language is Sudanese Spoken Arabic. In other words to find the problematic sounds and the factors that cause these problems . Then find some techniques that help the Sudanese Students of English improve their pronunciation. The subjects for the study were fifty students from University of Sudan of Science and Technology (SUST), and thirty university teachers of English language from the same university.

The instruments used for collecting the data were observation, recordings and a structured questionnaire. The data collected were analyzed both statistically and descriptively. The findings of the study revealed that Sudanese Students of English whose language background is Sudanese Spoken Arabic, had problems with the pronunciation of English vowels that have more than one way of pronunciation in addition to the consonant sound contrasts **e.g.** /z/ and / ʒ /, /s/ and / θ/, /b/ and /p/, / ʃ/ and / tʃ/.

Based on the findings, the study concluded that factors such as interference, the differences in the sound system in the two languages , inconsistency of English sounds and spelling militate against Sudanese Students of English (SSEs)competence in pronunciation.

يدرس هذا البحث مشكلات النطق في اللغة الإنجليزية , التي تواجه الطلاب السودانيين الذين يتحدثون باللغة العربية السودانية . حيث يهدف البحث إلى تحديد الأصوات التي تسبب مشكلات للطلاب ومعرفة العوامل التي تقف وراءها ومن ثم إيجاد بعض الطرق التي تساعد طلاب اللغة الإنجليزية السودانيين على تحسين النطق . عينة الدراسة الأساسية كانت (50) طالبا من جامعة السودان للعلوم والتكنولوجيا , وكانت العينة الثانية (30) أستاذا من نفس الجامعة . الأدوات التي استخدمت في جمع المعلومات هي الملاحظة , شريط الكاسيت والاستبيان . أتبع الباحث المنهج الوصفي و الإحصائي في تحليل المعلومات .

كشفت نتائج الدراسة أن طلاب اللغة الإنجليزية السودانيين الذين يتحدثون باللغة العربية السودانية لديهم مشكلات في الأصوات الإنجليزية اللينة (vowels) التي تنطق بأكثر من طريقة بالإضافة الى الأصوات الساكنة (consonants) التي لها أصوات مقابلة تختلف عنها (contrast) مثل /z/ and /ð/ , /s/ /θ/ , /b/ /p/ , /ʃ/ /tʃ/ / بناءاً على النتائج توصلت الدراسة إلى انه هناك بعض العوامل التي تسبب هذه المشكلات وهي التداخل اللغوي , الإختلاف في نظام الأصوات , تضارب النطق في بعض أصوات اللغة الإنجليزية والتهجئة . تعيق طلاب اللغة الإنجليزية السودانيين من الكفاءة في النطق .

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DEFINITION OF TERMS

Pronunciation:

- 1- The way in which a language or a particular word or sound is pronounced: a guide to English pronunciation;
- 2- The way in which a particular person pronounces the words of a language; your pronunciation is excellent.
- 3- The way a word or a language is customarily spoken (e.g. The pronunciation of Chinese is difficult for foreigners) www.Babylon.com (website dictionaries).
- 4- The manner in which someone utters a word (e.g. they are always correcting my pronunciation) (ibid).

Note: Definition no.1 is adopted by the researcher.

Vowel:

- 1- The sound in which there is no obstruction to the flow of air as it passes from the larynx to the lips (Roach, 2003).
- 2- A letter of the alphabet standing for spoken vowel (ibid).

Note: Definition no.1 is adopted by the researcher.

Consonant:

- 1- A speech sound where the air stream from the lungs is either completely blocked (stop) partially blocked (lateral) or where the opening is so narrow that the air escapes with difficulty (Patt, 1992).
- 2- A letter of the alphabet standing for spoken consonant.

Note: Definition no.(1) is adopted by the researcher.

Error:

- 1- (in the speech or writing of a second or foreign language learner) the use of linguistic item (e.g. a word or grammatical item, a speech act, etc) in away which a fluent or a native speaker of a language regards as showing faulty or incomplete learning.
- 2- departure from what is ethically acceptable (ibid).
- 3- Part of statement that is not correct (e.g. The book was full of mistakes).

Note: Definition no.1 is adopted by the researcher.

Mispronunciation: incorrect pronunciation (ibid).

Mother Tongue: one's native language; the language learned by children and passed from one generation to the next (ibid).

Spelling: forming words with letters according to the principles underlying accepted usage (ibid).

Interference: the act of hindering or obstructing or impeding (ibid).

Inconsistency: the quality of being inconsistent and lacking a harmonious uniformity among things or parts (ibid).

Improve: get better (e.g. The weather improved towards evening) (ibid).

To make better (e.g. The editor improved the manuscript with his changes).

Difficulty: a factor causing trouble in achieving a positive result or tending to produce a negative result (ibid).

ABREVIATIONS

SLA : Second Language Acquisition

L1 : First Language

L2 : Second Language

SUST : Sudan University of Science and Technology.

RP : Receive Pronunciation .

SPSS : Statistical Package for Social Sciences .

SSEs : Sudanese Students of English

