

HOW PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS AFFECTS PRONUNCIATION SKILLS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

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Abstract This investigation examines the influence of phonological awareness on the enhancement of pronunciation proficiency in English language learners. A significant number of students encounter challenges in pronunciation due to an inability to accurately perceive and differentiate English phonemes. Phonological awareness facilitates learners' comprehension of sound patterns, word stress, and syllable structures, all of which are fundamental to achieving accurate pronunciation. The research underscores that cultivating phonological awareness can substantially augment learners' speaking capabilities and self-assurance. Furthermore, it stresses the necessity of integrating phonological training into English language instruction to foster improved communication skills.

Keywords: Phonological awareness, pronunciation, English language learners, speech skills, language teaching, sound recognition, fluency, accuracy

Introduction Learning English is not easy, and many students struggle with pronunciation. One reason for this is that they can have a weak phonological awareness, which means that they have difficulty recognizing language sounds. Phonological awareness is an important skill because it helps students hear differences between sounds, understand Word stress, and pronounce words correctly. When students develop this skill, they can improve their speech and gain confidence in the English language. This study explores how phonological awareness affects the pronunciation ability of English language learners and why it should be an important part of Language Teaching.

Pronunciation is the ability to produce sounds to communicate meaning [6]. Both students and teachers believe that fluency is more important than accuracy. This viewpoint holds that learners should focus on sentence structure and vocabulary rather than how native speakers pronounce a word. The ultimate goal of learning English, however, is to achieve native-like proficiency [7]. Nowadays, good pronunciation necessitates both fluency and accuracy [1]. According to Nangimah [5], pronunciation is essential during a conversation to avoid misunderstanding. So, when the simplest words are misspoken, the interlocutors become confused. This study agrees with McArthur et al. [4], who state that pronunciation is the act of correctly sounding out words, syllables, digraphs, and letters, and it is gradable.

According to Hu [2], phonological awareness (PA) is fundamental for figuring out how to peruse alphabetic dialects like English. They contend that exploration has recognized a general grouping of phonological awareness improvement that is all-inclusive across dialects, and those specific qualities of communication in composed dialects impact the pace of ordinary turn of events and levels of phonological knowledge. In addition, Khasawneh & Alkhawaldeh [3] express that phonological awareness is the capacity to perceive and control the verbally expressed pieces of sentences and words. Besides, Wade-Woolley et al [8] state that phonological awareness

is the capacity to distinguish words that rhyme, perceive similar sounding word usage, portion a sentence into words, recognize the syllables in a word, and mix and fragment beginning rhymes. Thus, this study underlines that the issue of phonological mindfulness is the acknowledgment that words have constituent sounds and constituents of a word (e.g., book) might be recognized in three ways: by syllables of /bu:k/, by onsets /b/ and rimes /u:k/ or by phonemes /b/, /u:/, /k/.

Conclusion

In conclusion, phonological awareness plays a decisive role in the development of specific pronunciation skills in English language learners. Students who can recognize sounds can pronounce words more clearly and communicate more effectively. The study shows that both fluency and clarity are important for communication skills. Therefore, teachers should focus more on developing students' phonological skills through effective classroom strategies. This will help students improve their pronunciation, avoid misunderstandings and gain confidence in speaking English

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