

STUDENTS' ABILITY IN PRONOUNCING ENGLISH DIPHTHONGS

Ni Luh Desy Suari Dewi, Gek Wulan Novi Utami, I Gede Neil Prajamukti Wardhana

desysuaridewi@undhirabali.ac.id

Universitas Dhyana Pura

ABSTRACT

Pronouncing English vowels are more difficult than Indonesian vowels. English has more vowels than the Indonesian language. The difference between those vowels triggers some errors in pronouncing the English Vowel sounds made by Indonesian students. Therefore, in this research, the ability of second semester students of English Literature Study Program at Undhira University in pronouncing English vowels, especially diphthongs will be analyzed. The data were collected by asking the students to make a video of pronouncing some words that consist of diphthongs sounds. Based on the analysis, it can be concluded that students' pronunciation is in the average level to very good level. The most difficult diphthong to be pronounced is diphthong [ʊə] and the easiest diphthong sound that can be pronounced is diphthong [ɔɪ].

Keywords: Pronunciation, English Vowels, Diphthongs

ABSTRAK

Mengucapkan vokal bahasa Inggris lebih sulit daripada vokal bahasa Indonesia. Bahasa Inggris memiliki lebih banyak vokal daripada bahasa Indonesia. Perbedaan antara vokal tersebut memicu beberapa kesalahan dalam melafalkan bunyi Vokal Bahasa Inggris yang dibuat oleh siswa Indonesia. Oleh karena itu, dalam penelitian ini akan dianalisis kemampuan mahasiswa Sastra Inggris semester II Universitas Undhira dalam melafalkan vokal bahasa Inggris khususnya diftong. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan cara meminta siswa membuat video pengucapan beberapa kata yang terdiri dari bunyi diftong. Berdasarkan analisis, dapat disimpulkan bahwa pengucapan siswa berada pada level cukup hingga level sangat baik. Diftong yang paling sulit diucapkan adalah diftong [ʊə] dan bunyi diftong yang paling mudah diucapkan adalah diftong [ɔɪ].

Kata kunci: Pengucapan, Vokal Bahasa Inggris, Diftong

I. INTRODUCTION

In learning the English language, students have to know how to pronounce English sounds. Those sounds are vowels and consonants. Delahunty and Garvey (2010: 98) stated that vowels are distinguished from consonants in several ways. Consonants are produced by constricting the airstream to

various degrees as it flows through the oral tract. Meanwhile, vowels are produced with a smooth, unobstructed airflow through the oral tract. Vowels are produced with the vocal tract open. They are articulated without any kind of obstruction in the oral cavity and usually occur in the syllable central position. English vowels are divided into two major

types, simple vowels (also called pure vowels or monophthongs) and diphthongs (Dobrovolsky and Katamba, 1996: 35-36). Ramelan (1999), says a diphthong is a kind of vowel sound with a special feature in which there is a glide made from one vowel position to another position to produce one vowel syllable. The production of diphthongs will be explained below:

- a) The starting position of diphthong [eɪ] is [e] with tongue in mid-position at front of mouth then it moves the tongue up to produce [ɪ] sound.
- b) The starting position of diphthong [aɪ] is [æ] with tongue in low-front of mouth then moves to high-front to produce [ɪ] sound.
- c) The starting position of the diphthong [ɔɪ] is [ɔ:] with the tongue in mid-back position and the mouth is rounded then it moves forward and up to produce [ɪ] sound.
- d) The starting position of the diphthong [əʊ] is [ə] with the tongue in mid-central position then it moves back and up to produce [ʊ] sound.
- e) The starting position of the diphthong [aʊ] is [æ] with the tongue in low front then it moves to back high with rounded mouth to produce [ʊ] sound.
- f) The starting position of the diphthong [eə] is [e] with the tongue in mid-position in front of the mouth and it moves back to mid-central position in your mouth to produce [ə] sound.
- g) The starting position of the diphthong [ɪə] is [ɪ] with the tongue in high position in front of the mouth and it moves back to the mid-central position to produce [ə] sound.

- h) The starting position of the diphthong [ʊə] is [ʊ] with the tongue in back high position and the mouth rounded then it moves forward to the mid-central position to produce [ə] sound.

For Indonesian students, pronouncing English vowels are more difficult than Indonesian vowels. English has more vowels than the Indonesian language. The difference between those vowels triggers some errors in pronouncing the English Vowel sounds made by Indonesian students. Therefore, in this research, the ability of second semester students of English Literature Study Program at Undhira University in pronouncing English vowels, especially diphthongs will be analyzed. The students are joining the English Phonology class in which they have learned how to produce English vowel sounds.

II. RESEARCH METHOD

The research method covers data source, method and technique of collecting data and method and technique of analyzing data. The data were taken from the second semester students of English Literature Study Program at Undhira University. The students are joining the English Phonology class in which they have learned how to produce English vowel sounds. The data were collected by asking the students to make a video of pronouncing some words that consist of diphthongs sounds. The students pronounced 18 words that have been prepared for this research in their video. Then, the students' ability to pronounce the words is analyzed and given a score. To find out the students' percentage in pronouncing English diphthongs, the formula from (Sudijono, 2009:43) is used:

$$P = \frac{F}{N} \times 100\%$$

P = percentage of students

F = number percentage

N = number of students

To find out the stu

used as follows:

$$\text{Pronunciation} = \frac{SR1 + SR2 + SR3}{\text{number of raters}}$$

SR = students' score based on raters

In classifying the level of students' pronunciation, the table of the students' rank

of level in pronunciation that suggested by Pandiya (2013:46) was used, as follow:

Range Score	Category
89-100	very good
73-88	Good
57-72	Average
41-56	Poor
25-40	very poor

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

3.1 Students' Percentage in Pronouncing English Diphthongs

1. Diphthong [eɪ]

In this research there were three words that consist of English

diphthongs [eɪ], that have been pronounced by the students, they were "train, say, plane". The students' scores can be described in the following table:

No	Range score	Frequency	Percentage of Pronouncing [eɪ]	Pronunciation level
1	89-100	20	76,9 %	Very Good
2	73-88	3	11,5 %	Good
3	57-72	3	11,5 %	Average
4	41-56	0	0 %	Poor
5	25-40	0	0 %	Very Poor

Based on the data above, in pronouncing diphthong [eɪ], there are 20 students (76,9%) categorized in the "very good" level. Then, 3 students (11,5%) are categorized in the "good" level and 3 other students (11,5%) are categorized in the "average" level.

2. Diphthong [aɪ]

There were three words that consist of English diphthongs [aɪ], that have been pronounced by the students, they were "high, by, fine". The student's scores can be described in the following table:

No	Range score	Frequency	Percentage of Pronouncing [aɪ]	Pronunciation level
1	89-100	24	92,3 %	Very Good
2	73-88	2	7,7 %	Good
3	57-72	0	0 %	Average
4	41-56	0	0 %	Poor
5	25-40	0	0 %	Very Poor

Based on the table, it can be seen that 24 students (92,3%) are categorized in the “very good” level in pronouncing diphthong [aɪ] and only 2 students (7,7%) are categorized in the “good” level in pronouncing diphthong [aɪ].

3. Diphthong [əʊ]

The words that consist of English diphthongs [əʊ] in this research were “coat, low, note”. The student’s scores in pronouncing these words can be described in the following table:

No	Range score	Frequency	Percentage of Pronouncing [əʊ]	Pronunciation level
1	89-100	0	0 %	Very Good
2	73-88	5	19,2 %	Good
3	57-72	20	76,9 %	Average
4	41-56	1	3,8 %	Poor
5	25-40	0	0 %	Very Poor

Based on data above, it can be concluded that diphthong [əʊ] is difficult for students to be pronounced. It can be seen that, there is no students get “very good” level in pronouncing this diphthong. In pronouncing diphthong [əʊ], there are 5 students (19,2%) categorized in the “good” level. Then, 20 students (76,9%) are categorized in the “average” level

and 1 other student (3,8%) is categorized in the “poor” level.

4. Diphthong [aʊ]

In this research there were three words that consist of English diphthongs [aʊ], that have been pronounced by the students, they were “now, our, house”. The student’s scores can be described in the following table:

No	Range score	Frequency	Percentage of Pronouncing [aʊ]	Pronunciation level
1	89-100	0	0 %	Very Good
2	73-88	18	69,2 %	Good
3	57-72	4	15,4 %	Average
4	41-56	4	15,4 %	Poor
5	25-40	0	0 %	Very Poor

Based on the data above, it can be concluded that diphthong [aʊ] is not easy for students to be pronounced. It can be seen that 0% of students get a very good” level in pronouncing this diphthong. In pronouncing diphthong [aʊ], there are 18 students (69,2%) categorized in the “good” level. Then, 4 students (15,4%) are categorized in the “average” level and 4 other students

(15,4%) is categorized in the “poor” level.

5. Diphthongs [ɪə]

There were three words that consist of English diphthongs [ɪə], that have been pronounced by the students, they were “hear, ear, career”. The student’s scores can be described in the following table:

No	Range score	Frequency	Percentage of Pronouncing [ɪə]	Pronunciation level
1	89-100	5	19,2 %	Very Good
2	73-88	18	69,2 %	Good
3	57-72	3	11,5 %	Average
4	41-56	0	0 %	Poor
5	25-40	0	0 %	Very Poor

Based on the data above, in pronouncing diphthong [ɪə], there are 5 students (19,2%) categorized in the “very good” level. Then, 18 students (69,2 %) are categorized in the “good” level and 3 other students (11,5%) are categorized in the “average” level.

6. Diphthong [ʊə]

The words that consist of English diphthongs [ʊə] in this research were “your, sure, tourist”. The student’s scores in pronouncing these words can be described in the following table:

No	Range score	Frequency	Percentage of Pronouncing [ʊə]	Pronunciation level
1	89-100	0	0 %	Very Good
2	73-88	4	15,4 %	Good
3	57-72	10	38,5 %	Average
4	41-56	12	46,2 %	Poor
5	25-40	0	0 %	Very Poor

Based on data above, it can be concluded that diphthong [ʊə] is difficult for students to be pronounced. It can be seen that 0 % of student gets very good” level in pronouncing this diphthong. In

pronouncing diphthong [ʊə], there are 4 students (15,4 %) categorized in the “good” level. Then, 10 students (38,5 %) are categorized in the “average” level and 12 other

students (46,2 %) are categorized in the “poor” level.

7. Diphthong [ɛə]

There were three words that consist of English diphthongs [ɛə], that

have been pronounced by the students, they were “hair, careful, there”. The student’s scores can be described in the following table:

No	Range score	Frequency	Percentage of Pronouncing [ɛə]	Pronunciation level
1	89-100	18	69,2 %	Very Good
2	73-88	5	19,2 %	Good
3	57-72	3	11,5 %	Average
4	41-56	0	0 %	Poor
5	25-40	0	0 %	Very Poor

Based on the data above, in pronouncing diphthong [ɛə], there are 18 students (69,2%) categorized in the “very good” level. Then, 5 students (19,2%) are categorized in the “good” level and 3 other students (11,5%) are categorized in the “average” level.

8. Diphthong [ɔɪ]

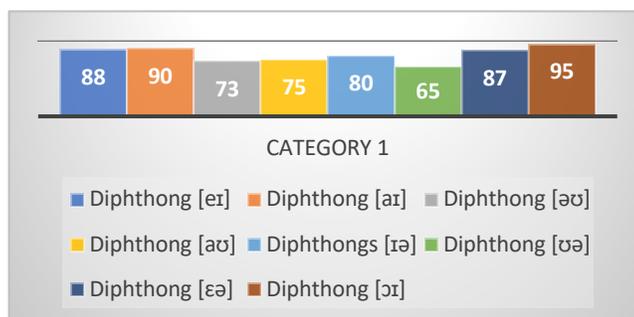
The words that consist of English diphthongs [ɔɪ] in this research were “boy, point, oil”. The student’s scores in pronouncing these words can be described in the following table:

No	Range score	Frequency	Percentage of Pronouncing [ɔɪ]	Pronunciation level
1	89-100	26	100 %	Very Good
2	73-88	0	0 %	Good
3	57-72	0	0 %	Average
4	41-56	0	0 %	Poor
5	25-40	0	0 %	Very Poor

Based on data above, it can be concluded that diphthong [ɔɪ] is categorized as an easy diphthong to be pronounced. It can be seen that all students (100 %) get “very good” level in pronouncing this diphthong.

3.2 Students’ Ability in Pronouncing English Diphthongs

Based on the explanation in the previous part, the students’ ability in pronouncing English Diphthongs can be seen as follow:



From the table above, it can be concluded that the most difficult diphthong to be pronounced by the students is diphthong [ʊə]. The average score for this sound is 65, it is categorized as an average level of pronunciation. Then it also can be seen that diphthong [ɔɪ] is the easiest diphthong sound that can be pronounced by the students. The score for this sound is 95, it is categorized as a very good level of pronunciation.

IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the research, it can be concluded that the students are able to pronounce 18 words that have been prepared for this research in their video. Their pronunciation is in the average level to very good level. The most difficult diphthong to be pronounced is diphthong [ʊə]. The average score for this sound is 65, it is categorized as an average level of pronunciation. The easiest diphthong sound that can be pronounced is diphthong [ɔɪ]. The average score for this sound is 95, it is categorized as a very good level of pronunciation.

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