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Pronunciation Errors in Producing English Bilabial Consonants Sounds by Korean Speakers

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Abstract

Every language has a unique system of vowel and consonant sounds, for example, English has five (5) vowels and 21 consonants. Others like in Korean language, it has ten (10) vowels, and nineteen (19) consonants. Since every language has a different set of vowel and consonant systems, it might affect to the differences in the pronunciation of each sounds in each of the languages. Cho (2020) theory states that pronunciation errors result from the transfer of Korean phonological processes to English and the inability to acquire English phonological processes. This study observed three Korean natives, live in South Korea, and have no history of a mother tongue other than Korean. The three participants also came from different backgrounds and English-speaking experiences. The data were taken by recording and examining some English words contained and related to English bilabial consonant sounds. The voice recordings were analyzed to find the differences in their pronunciation applying the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) according to the standard English pronunciation. The finding showed that 1) the Korean speakers were able to pronounce the English Bilabial plosive and nasal /p, b, m/ at the beginning and middle of the word, but there was a tendency to add an extra vowel when the Bilabial consonant plosive /p, b/ placed at the end of the word, 2) the voiceless bilabial plosive /p/ was taken as a substitution consonant for the words that contained fricative consonant */f/*, 3) *the voiced labial-velar approximant /w/ was not pronounced correctly by having the two lips moving closer, but it was pronounced by either sounding the vowel [u] first or [o] first. Those errors were caused by the different sound systems in Hangeul that influences the speakers' English pronunciation.*

***Keywords**: Pronunciation Errors, English Bilabial Consonants, Korean Speakers*

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Introduction

As is mostly known, English is used by speakers worldwide to communicate since English is an international language. However, only some can pronounce English due to the influence of their mother tongue pronunciation. In some areas, English has distinct pronunciation sounds from other languages, which causes common difficulties in speaking English correctly and properly.

Based on Hammer (2007), pronunciation is defined as how the sounds of the language

are made, how the word and sentence stress are placed, and how the pitch and intonation are used to indicate our feeling and meaning. Pronunciation is the first thing that suggests how proficient a person is in English. When a speaker pronounces words correctly, listeners judge the speaker's overall language ability much more effectively, even to the extent of tolerating grammatical mistakes (Gilakjani, 2012)

Gussman (2002) states that phonetic transcription was created to address ambiguities in traditional spelling systems, such as in English, where words like wind can be pronounced differently depending on the meaning. It also addresses the discrepancy between sounds and spelling in all languages with an orthography. Phonetic transcription adopts the basic mechanism of any orthographic convention, assuming speech is segmented with vowels and consonants following each other in different arrangements. This linguistic tradition reinforces the intuitive recognition of the segment able nature of speech.

According to Brown (2007) phonological differences between their native language and their second/foreign language cause issues. According to Roach (2009) vowels distribute sound from free air going through the larynx to the lips, whereas consonants have significant restrictions, making it difficult for air to pass along the same route. Each language has a unique vowel and consonant sound system that sets it apart from other languages. Korean contains seven vowel sounds compared to English, which has twelve vowels, meaning that Korean has fewer vowels than English. /i/, /ɪ/, /e/, /ɛ/, /ae/, /ə/, /ʌ/, /u/, /ʊ/, /o/, /ɔ/, and /ɑ/ are the vowels in English. Korean speakers may substitute English vowels absent from their vowel system with fewer and more distinct vowels. A consonant is a letter for spoken sounds exclusive to partially or fully closed vocal tracts. Certain lip, tongue, and cheek postures are needed for consonants.

International Phonetic Association (1999) points that certain English consonants do not have the same phonetic characteristics or auditory clues as any Korean consonants. There are 21 consonants in the English alphabet: B, C, D, F, G, H, J, K, L, M, N, P, Q, R, S, T, V, W, X, Y, Z. While in Korean, there are only 19 consonants. Paik (1977) also states that both have phoneme problems and, most likely, the Korean students will substitute /d/ in its place. They usually substitute /t/ for /s/, /r/ for /l/, /h/ for /f/, /b/ for /v/, /z/ as /jj/ and so on.

Kang (2011) states that Korean consonants are diverse articulation points, including bilabial, alveolar, apicoalveolar, velar, laryngeal, and palatal semi-vowels. However, glottal consonants have a single sound, 'h', and Korean does not have palatal consonants. Major consonants in Korean are obstruent and sonorant, with each type divided into lax, fortis, and aspirated. Plosive obstruent, fricative, and affricative sounds are further categorized based on sound features. Fortis consonants have a constricted glottis sound, while aspirated consonants have a spread glottis sound. Koreans also have other complete types of consonants.

Sohn (2001) explains that Korean articulatory features differ from English, such as producing also-dental consonants with the tongue tip touching the back of upper teeth and the gum-ridge area with the tongue tip touching the back of lower teeth. Unlike English affricates, palatal series and also-dental fricatives are produced with flattened lips. Korean palatals are monotonous stops without fricative quality, and all stop and fricative consonants are voiceless except for lax stops that become lightly voiced between voiced sounds. No Korean consonant is released in the syllable-final (coda) position, as seen in the pronunciation of 'front'.

Several studies were conducted in Korean-English. Hermastuti (2018) found that the Korean singers tended to mispronounce their English singing due to the absence of some consonants in their Korean language. The study found that the most irritating aspect for Korean speakers when trying another language was the consonant difference, particularly the /r/ sound changed to the /l/ sound. This previous study only observed consonants using English song lyrics and

focused on /r/ sound mispronunciation of the Korean singers. Meanwhile, this study provides the different data and the focus is in the English Bilabial consonant sounds.

Nurhijatul (2022), in her undergraduate thesis, aimed to investigate the problem of vowel errors pronounced by Korean speakers in Korean drama. The descriptive technique was used, which, in this case, meant collecting phrases from several Descendant of the Sun episodes. The findings showed that Korean speakers mispronounced three diphthongs and six monophthongs of English vowels. Both studies covered the pronunciation mistakes made by native Korean speakers. However, the current study focuses on consonant sounds, while the previous research focused on vowel sounds.

Another undergraduate thesis by Hwang (2008) was to investigate how the daily activities of Korean language learners affected their ability to understand and pronounce English. According to the study, learners' development of English pronunciation may benefit from exposure to communication-oriented activities. It completely supported the thesis's argument. This study and the research discussed the elements that affected their ability to grasp English and pronounce words correctly. Nonetheless, it concentrated more on comprehensibility than just consonants.

Talking about the English pronunciation system, English also has several pronunciations that come from the absorption of other languages. For example, the consonant /h/ is considered a silent consonant due to French language influence (which French derived it from Latin). Some words have no aspirated vowels at the beginning, but to commemorate their Latin form, the letter h is added at the beginning of the word, but it is not pronounced; this letter h is called mute h, and most French words with a mute h at the beginning of the word retain the French pronunciation characteristics, thus enriching the pronunciation of the letter h in English words (Gu, 2013)

Stonham (2014) states that nasal consonants, /m, n, ŋ/, are basically the same in English and Korean. For this reason, the English nasal consonants can be adequately rendered by the equivalent existing *Hangeul* symbol in a straightforward, one-to-one fashion. English nasal sounds pose little difficulty concerning pronunciation. The only thing to note here is the case of English, which is sometimes accompanied by a following velar segment as a vowel.

Furthermore, Korean phonetics and phonology have been a subject of significant discussion in modern linguistic theories, ranging from structuralism to classical generative grammar (Yule, 2010). The concept of the phoneme is a single stable sound type represented by a single written symbol, which is what we utilize when learning to write in the alphabet. It is possible to analyze two languages and determine the differences in the phonemes.

Carr (2013) explains further that phonology is concerned with the fundamental design, or blueprint, of each sound type, which serves as the consistent foundation for all changes in distinct physical articulations of that sound type in various circumstances. When seen from this perspective, we can see that phonology is concerned with the abstract collection of sounds in a language that allow us to discern meaning from the actual physical sounds we say and hear.

Cho (2006) states that pronunciation mistakes result from the transfer of Korean phonological processes to English and the inability to acquire English phonological processes. The aspiration process is a phonological process that is difficult for Koreans to learn. At the phonemic level, aspirated stops do not exist in English. When voiceless stops /p, t, k/ appear as the initial onset segment, they are considered aspirated (typically at a stressed position).

This study focuses on English Bilabial consonant sounds pronounced by native Korean speakers. According to McMahon (2002), English bilabial sounds are pronounced by forming a constriction between the lower and upper lips. The example of English bilabial sounds are:

1) /p/ voiceless bilabial plosive

2) /b/ voiced bilabial plosive
3) /m/ voiced bilabial nasal
4) /w/ voiced labial-velar approximant

Therefore, based on the explanation above, this study aims to identify and analyze the pronunciation errors in producing English bilabial consonant sounds by native Korean speakers.

Methodology

This study employs the qualitative approach. This is because, according to Creswell (2018), the qualitative approach's main objectives are to collect data and then evaluate them to explain current occurrences.

This study analyzes the English bilabial consonant sounds pronounced by native Korean speakers. The participants of the study are three native Korean speakers that are chosen from several criteria, such as those who were born originally and are identified as South Korea citizenship, those who rarely use English for communication, but understand English in daily basis. The participants are also chosen based on different backgrounds and have never studied abroad. To make it easier to read, N.K. (abbreviation of Native Korean) is used to describe each participant, as follows:

1) N.K.1 is Mr. Im Dong Wook (**임동욱**), 23 years old, graduate student
2) N.K.2 will be Mr. Jo Jong Min (**조종민**), 29 years old, postgraduate student
3) N.K.3 will be Mr. Kim Ki Beom (**김기범**), 48 years old, lecturer

The study used descriptive methods and collected data by voice recording, taking notes, and interviews. List of English words are made and given to the participants to be pronounced. The pronunciation process by all three participants are recorded in voice recordings. The interview is also conducted to gain supporting information related to the study. The data obtained then being compared to the standard English pronunciation (based on dictionaries). The analysis is also used McMahon's (2002) theory to see and compare the detail description on English bilabial consonant sounds. Furthermore, to support the information on the situations that influence the errors, the interview results are taken into the analysis.

The data analysis results are presented in a way that makes the research's explanation effective, comprehensible, concrete, and easy for readers to understand. The findings of this study are presented using an informal method. In presenting the comparison of English standard pronunciation, the study uses (*Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus*, n.d.) as the standard. The English standard pronunciation is presented in phonetic transcription on the left side, then the pronunciation made by the participants is presented on the right side.

Results and Discussion

1. Consonant /m/

Consonant /m/ is considered as a voiced sound. This voice sound causes vocal folds to close off the glottis, but air pressure from the lungs causes them to part, and their elastic nature forces them back together. As consonant /m/ is a bilabial nasal sound, because the active articulator is the bottom lip, and the passive articulator is the top lip, and the airflow from the lung passes through the nasal cavity. Thus, the consonant /m/ belongs to the voiced bilabial nasal (McMahon, 2002). Explained below is the detail pronunciation of the consonant /m/ by the native Korean speakers.

a. Consonant /m/ at the beginning of words (money)

[1] money: ['mʌni] → ['mɔːni]

This is the pronunciation made by N.K.1 and N.K. 3. As the data shows, N.K.1 and N.K.3 are able to pronounce the consonant /m/ in the word "money" correctly.

The difference is the vowel after the consonant /m/ changes from /ʌ/ into /ɔː/. This might be caused by the principle of ten (10) vowel sounds in the Korean language that only has the sound closer to /ɔ/ than /ʌ/. That Korean vowel sound is /**어**/ or /eo/.

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[2] money: ['mʌni] → ['men.i]

Like the others, N.K.2 also able to pronounce the consonant /m/ in the word "money" correctly. However, N.K.2 seems confused with the word, and instead of pronouncing the word "money", N.K.2's pronunciation sounds like pronouncing the word "many".

b. Consonant /m/ in the middle of words (admit)

[3] admit: [əd'mɪt] → [ədə'mɪt]

This is the pronunciation made by all three participants. As the data shows above, all the participants pronounce the consonant /m/ in the word "admit" correctly. However, there is an additional vowel sound [ə] added after consonant /d/ and before consonant /m/.

c. Consonant /m/ in the end of words (System)

[4] system: ['sɪstəm] → ['sɪstəm]

This is also pronounced by all three participants. As the data shows, all the participants pronounce consonant [m] in the word "system" well, and the entire word correctly.

Based on the data above, it is found that Korean speakers are able to pronounce consonant /m/ correctly. This might be because the consonant /m/ also exists in the Korean language, represented by the *hangeul* character /ㅁ/, and it also has the same pronunciation as in English. Korean words also have all consonant /m/ in the beginning, middle, and at end, so there are supposed to be no challenges in pronouncing the consonant /m/ in both languages.

2. Consonant /b/

In English, the consonant /b/ is considered bilabial plosive. It is generated by restricting airflow in the vocal tract and pushing air using only the intercostal and abdominal muscles. Consonant /b/ is [bilabial], for it is produced by bringing both lips together (McMahon, 2002). The data on the consonant /b/ are presented below:

a. Consonant /b/at the beginning of a word (black)

[5] black: [blæk] → [bəlæk]

This is the pronunciation produced by N.K.1. Based on the data above, N.K.1 pronounces the consonant /b/ well. However, there is an addition of vowel [ə] in the middle of [b] and [l].

[6] black: [blæk] → [blæk]

The second pronunciation is made by N.K.2 and N.K.3. As the data shows above that N.K.2 and N.K.3 are also able to pronounce the consonant /b/ correctly, but the difference with the N.K.1, they are producing the word without the addition of any vowel sounds.

b. Consonant /b/ in the middle of word (cabbage)

[7] cabbage: ['kæbɪdʒ] → ['kæbɪʒɪ]

This is the pronunciation by N.K.1. As the data shows, N.K.1 correctly pronounces consonant /b/ in the middle of the word. However, there is a change in pronunciation of the last syllable of the word where it is supposed to be [dʒ]. However, N.K.1 pronounces [dʒ] as [ʒ] and he also adds a vowel sound [ɪ] after it.

[8] cabbage: ['kæbɪdʒ] → ['kɑ:r.bɪdʒ]

This is the pronunciation made by N.K.2. As the data shows, N.K.2 pronounces consonants /b/ well in the middle of the word. However, there is an additional sound of consonant /r/ before the consonant /b/, on which compared to the English standard pronunciation, there is no consonant /r/ at all.

[9] cabbage: ['kæbɪdʒ] → ['kæbɪdʒ]

Unlike the others, N.K.3 pronounces the consonant /b/ in the middle of word well and also pronounces the whole word correctly.

c. Consonant /b/ at the end of the word (bulb)

[10] bulb: [bʌlb] → [bɜ:lbə]

This is the pronunciation made by N.K.1 and N.K.3. As the data shows, N.K.1 and N.K.3, pronounce a good and clear of consonant /b/ in the end of the word. However, there is a

change in the vowel sound from [ʌ] to [ɜː], and also another addition of the vowel /ə/ in the end of the word.

[11] Bulb: [bʌlb] → [bɒlb]

This is the pronunciation made by N.K.2. As the data shows, N.K.2 is also pronouncing the consonant /b/ at the end of the word correctly. The same with N.K.1 and N.K.3, the vowel is changed from /ʌ/ to /ɒ/. However, in N.K.2's pronunciation, there is no addition of the vowel /ə/ in the end of the word.

Based on the data above, all participants are shown to be able to pronounce the consonant /b/ in the beginning and middle well. However, when the consonant /b/ takes the final position in a word or in a syllable, there is a pattern of vowel [ə] addition to close the word or syllable. The detail explanation will be explained in the later part.

3. Consonant /p/

For a bilabial sound that is plosive, one may be voiced, and the other may be voiceless. An example of the voiceless bilabial plosive is consonant /p/ (McMahon, 2002). Below is the detail of consonant /p/ pronunciation:

a. Consonant /p/ in the beginning of words (park)

[12] park: [pɑːrk] → [pɑːrk]

This is the pronunciation made by N.K.1. As the data shows, N.K.1 can correctly pronounce consonants [p] in the word "park" without adding or changing.

[13] Park: [pɑːrk] → [pɑːk]

The same as N.K.1, N.K.2 are also able to pronounce the consonant /p/ in the word "park" correctly. However, N.K.2 is not pronouncing the consonant /r/ in the middle of the word.

This is because the phonetic structure in the Korean language, they do not have the consonant /r/. In Korean, there is a consonant /ㄹ/, which shares similar sounds as [l] or a very thin /r/. Therefore, at some points, Korean speakers tend to pronounce [r] as [l] or in other cases, they are not able to pronounce the consonant /r/ at all.

[14] park: [pɑːrk] → [prɑːk]

This is the pronunciation of N.K.3. N.K.3 is able to pronounce the consonant [p] correctly. However, N.K.3 fails to pronounce the entire word correctly, because of the consonant /r/ is reversed, which N.K.3 pronounces the consonant [r] first before the vowel [ɑ].

b. Consonant /p/ in the middle of words (wallpaper)

[15] wallpaper: [ˈwɔːlpeɪpər] → [wɑːlˌpeɪ.pə]

This is the pronunciation of N.K.1. As the data shows, N.K.1 pronounces the consonant [p] in the word "wallpaper" clearly. However, N.K.1 could not pronounce the consonant [r] in the end.

[16] wallpaper: [ˈwɔːlpeɪpər] → [ˈwɔːlpeɪpər]

This is the pronunciation made by N.K.2 and N.K.3. As the data state, N.K.2 and N.K.3 pronounce the consonant [p] in the word "wallpaper", and the entire word correctly.

c. Consonant /p/ in the end of words (stop)

[17] stop: [stɑːp] → [stoːp]

The data above is pronounced by N.K.1. As we can see, N.K.1 pronounces the consonant [p] in the word "stop" clearly. However, there is a change in the vowel sound, where it should be [ɑ], N.K.1 pronounces it as [o].

[18] stop: [stɑːp] → [stɑːp]

The data above is pronounced by N.K2 and N.K.3. As the data shows, N.K.2 and N.K.3 pronounce the consonant [p] in the word "stop" and the entire word correctly.

Pattern 1: Additional vowel sounds at the end of English words or syllables that have final consonant

Based on the result above, the participants seems to pronounce consonant /b/ or /p/ easily at the beginning and middle of a word. This is because according to Cho (2020), the

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vocal folds stretch apart while articulating Korean plosive and aspirated sounds like /b/ or /p/ due to the help of a vocal sound in the middle. Thus, the vowel sounds before or after the consonants/b/ and /p/ help the speakers to pronounce them similar to English standard pronunciation.

However, there is a variation of pronunciation when the consonant /b/ or /p/ takes the final position in a word or syllable. There is a tendency of pattern found by having an additional vowel sound of [ə] after the consonant /b/ or /p/. This might be because the phonetic structure of the Korean language usually demands syllables to end with a vowel or a nasal consonant. The normal structure of Korean syllables is (C) initial consonant, (V) mandatory vowel, and (C) optional or even rarely have final consonant, which means that they always have to add a vowel or any consonants that have vowel qualities, such as nasal consonants to close a syllable.

Pattern 2: Consonant /p/ as the substitution of English fricative sounds /f/

During the research, it is found that the consonant /p/ is often used to substitute another consonant. In the data, the example found is that the participants tend to substitute the consonant /f/ with the consonant /p/. One of the examples is as follows.

[19] phone: [foʊn] → [poʊn]

This is the pronunciation of N.K 1 and N.K 2. Both participants substituted the consonant /f/ in the word "phone" as the consonant /p/.

[20] Phone: [foʊn] → [pʱoʊn]

Meanwhile, N.K.3 also has the same way of pronunciation by substituting the consonant /f/ as /p/ but the difference is that the /p/ sounds has more breathy voiced-aspirated characteristics in it compared to the pronunciation made by N.K.1 and N.K.2.

This might be because the Korean way of writing the word “phone” is with the Hangeul consonant /ㅍ/, which has the same sound as the consonant /p/. Besides, there is no consonant /f/ in the Korean language system. Therefore, for those reasons, it causes the tendency of Korean speakers to substitute the consonant /f/ into /p/

Pattern 3: There found a different way to pronounce consonant /w/

The last English bilabial sound is the voiced labial-velar approximant /w/. This sound is made by the active articulator is the bottom lip, and the passive articulator is the top lip. The open approximation of the articulators alters the shape of the oral cavity, and leads to the production of a particular sound quality. In producing [w], the lips are certainly approximated, though not enough to cause friction or obstruct the airflow; but you should be able to feel that the back of your tongue is also bunched up. Therefore, the consonant [w] is called voiced labial-velar approximant.

4. Consonant /w/

Below are the example of how the participants pronounce the consonant /w/. It is divided into three, consonant /w/ in the beginning, in the middle and at the end of the word.

a. Consonant /w/ in the beginning of words (wind)

[21] wind: [wɪnd] → [ʊɪndəʊ]

This is the pronunciation made by N.K.I. As the data shows, N.K.1 pronounces the consonant [w] close to the standard. However, it seems like the /w/sound is not made by having the two lips getting closer to one another, but with the help of producing the thin vowel [u] first, then when the position of the lips are almost closed, then the lips open wider to sound like [w]. The additional vowel [əʊ] also occurs at the end of words.

[22] wind: [wɪnd] → [ʊɪnd]

For this data, the pronunciation is made by N.K.2 and N.K.3. Both pronounce the consonant [w] in a similar way as N.K.1. However, in N.K.2 and N.K.3, there is no additional vowel sound occurring at the end of the word.

b. Consonant /w/ in the middle of words (bowel)

[23] bowel: ['baʊəl] → [boʊl]

This is the pronunciation made by N.K.1 and N.K.3. As the data shows, N.K.1 and N.K.3 pronounce the consonant [w] the same as pronouncing the vowel [ʊ], not [ʊə] as the English standard pronunciation is. So, the pronunciation is not correct.

In this case, it might be explained by the influence of the Korean language system that is not allowed to have three vowel sounds in a row. Therefore, they do not have Korean words using the consonant /w/ in the middle of a word. For that reasons, the Korean speakers tend to follow the principle of the help of vowel [ʊ] in the middle to produce a constriction air at the end.

[24] Bowel: [ˈbaʊəl] → [bɑːʊl]

Similar to the pronunciation made by N.K.1 and N.K.3, N.K.2 also pronounces the consonant [w] in a similar way. However, the difference is in the vowel before the consonant /w/, N.K.2 pronounces the vowel sound as [ɑ] while N.K.1 and N.K.3 pronounce it as [o].

c. Consonant /w/ in the end of words (borrow)

[25] Borrow: [ˈbɔːrəʊ] → [ˈbɔːrəʊ]

This is the pronunciation made by N.K.1. As the data show, N.K.1 pronounces the consonant [w] at the end correctly.

[26] Borrow: [ˈbɔːrəʊ] → [braʊ]

The data shows the pronunciation made by N.K.2. N.K2 pronounce the consonant /w/ in a similar way as others. However, N.K.2 fails to pronounce the entire word correctly. He pronounces it as “brow” instead of “borrow”.

[27] Borrow: [ˈbɔːrəʊ] → [ˈboːroʊ]

This data is pronounced by N.K3. N.K.3 pronounces the consonant /w/ the same way as others. However, N.K.3 pronounces the vowel [ɔ] as [o].

As explained above, according to Cho (2020), in between the sonorant sounds, that could be in the form of vowels, and consonants, such as /m n l w j/, the Korean consonant /w/ is used as a glide or semi-vowel and represented by the Hangul character **"셜".** Here are some details regarding its application in Korean linguistics. In Korean, syllables that start with /ㅜ/ (u) or /ㅗ/ (o) contain the /w/ sound. Depending on the vowel that follows, /우/ (u) or /워/ (wo) represents the /w/ sound when it is being transliterated from English to Korean.

That explains why the sound of /w/ is pronounced by initiating with vowel [u] first, which most of the time becomes lower as in the vowel [ʊ] (depending on the sound after it), then the /w/ sound is made.

All participants failed to pronounce /w/in the beginning as /w/ and in the middle as [ʊə] due to the different phonetics system in the Korean language. However, all participants could pronounce consonant /w/ at the end of the words correctly.

Based on the interview made, several factors are found that influence the participants to produce pronunciation errors while pronouncing English bilabial sounds. Those factors are linguistics as well as psychological factors.

In linguistics, it shows that in Korean language, it has different alphabet system. Therefore, the participants experience difficulty in distinguishing English bilabial sounds that some of them are not existed in Korean. Furthermore, Korean language also has different rules of combining sounds, which influence the participants’ way to pronounce the English words. There are also some psychological factors found, which are the motivation and style in learning English. Those factors affect their pronunciation accuracy. The participants experience anxiety as well as culture shock that lead them to make mistakes in pronunciation, due to their lack of confidence in pronouncing English words.

Conclusion

This study aims to examine the English pronunciation of bilabial consonants from three native Korean speakers, with the criteria as explained above (see methodology). The results show that the participants are able to

pronounce some English bilabial consonants correctly at the beginning and middle, and some at the end are not. This is mostly due to unfamiliarity with consonants and lack of knowledge in English vocabulary.

Additionally, Korean speakers often add vowels to the ends of English words, preserving the phonetic and rhythmic flow of the language. The standard structure of Korean syllables is (C)V(C), meaning they permanently terminate in a vowel or nasal consonant. To follow this pattern, vowels are often added to English words with consonants as its final position in a word or syllable.

Implications of the results with the addition of those several factors are proved to make the participants have different ways of pronunciation. However, this is not a barrier in terms of communication as long as the message can be conveyed properly. Through those factors, language learners can also analyze the best way to learn a language and the things that affect it.

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