

# THE FACTOR ANALYSIS OF PRONUNCIATION IN JOHN'Y'S VLOG COMMUNICATION: PHONOLOGY ANALYSIS

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## Abstract

Many people do not speak English as their first language. It is possible that they perceive various sounds differently because the languages have different phonological features. This study is aimed to find out the process of phonological in mispronunciation and the factors of phonological that caused the mispronunciation. The elements of linguistics that being analyzed are the sounds in NCT Johnny's vlogs named Shopping at IKEA & Assembling a Rack and 3rd Ep of Johnny's Communication Center (JCC). The researcher collects the data by listening to all the conversations spoken by Johnny NCT in his YouTube vlogs videos. All of the words that are mispronounced are listed down and then being transcribed into phonetics transcriptions. the researcher found 25 data of mispronunciation words in Johnny's Communication Center (JCC) vlog. The type of mispronunciation words consists of 5 consonant's mispronunciation and 20 vowels' mispronunciation. There are three kinds of mispronunciation based on the phonological process, they are deletion, substitution, and insertion. Furthermore, based on the results of interviews conducted by researchers, four factors influence Johnny's pronunciation errors, namely mother tongue, exposure, language identity, and ego, as well as motivation and concern for sound pronunciation.

**Keywords:** Phonology; Pronunciation; Linguistics

## INTRODUCTION

Language is a set of regular spoken or written symbols that people from the same culture use to communicate with one another. Language reflects and influences cultural thinking, and cultural changes influence the development of that language. When speakers of related languages are separated from one another, the differences between them become more apparent. English is the most widely spoken language in the world (as a first or second language) (Hyams et al., 2013). It increases the number of people who speak English as a second language. Many people do not speak English as their first language. It is possible that they perceive various sounds differently because the languages have different phonological features. This research discusses mispronunciation of English sounds by NCT, a boy group from South Korea. The mispronunciation is taken from one of the member vlogs on YouTube. NCT is a boy group with twenty-three members who are the most are from South Korea and the rest are from the United States, Canada, Japan, Thailand, and China. Even though they are not native English speakers, some NCT members are fluent in speaking English. To solve the problem formulation, the theories that are related will be used to find and analyze data of the research. Because this is a study of sounds, the theory is about English phonology. The word "Phonetics" refers to the physical and the production of the speech sounds (Odden, 2005). While Phonology is study that deals with the language structure. Both the phonetics and phonology give human the knowledge of how we produce each of the sounds and how the sound we produce is structured. Sound in

English are Consonant and Vowels. Two of English consonants are the place of articulation and the manner of articulation with total 24 consonants. While vowels has only one, the tongue position with 20 sounds including diphthongs.

English consonants are divided into two, the articulation's place and the articulation's manner. Both of them are further described as follows:

a. A Place of Articulation: Refers to the consonants happens when the airflow limitation occurs in the vocal tract (Hyams et al., 2013). It's divided into eight parts:

- Bilabial** Articulated by bringing the both lips together. Three bilabial's phonemes are [p], [b], and [m]
- Labiodental** Articulated by touching the bottom lip to the upper teeth. The phonemes are [f] and [v]
- Interdental** Articulated with the sound of "th", to pronounce we need to insert the tip of the tongue between the teeth. The phonemes are [θ] and [ð]
- Alveolar** Articulated by raising tongue in various ways to the alveolar ridge. The phonemes are [t] [d] [n] [s] [z] [l] [r].
- (Alveo) Palatal** Articulated by raising the tongue's front part to the palate. The phonemes are [ʃ] [ʒ] [tʃ] [dʒ] [j]
- Velar** Articulated by raising the back of the tongue to the soft palate or velum. The phonemes are [k] [g] [ŋ]
- Uvular** Articulated by raising the back of the tongue to the uvula, the fleshy protuberance that sticks from the rear of our throats. Phonemes are [ʀ] [q] [ɢ], but all of them are rarely occurs in English
- Glottal** Articulated by flowing air through the open glottis and past the tongue and lips, preparing them pronounced as vowel. The phoneme is [h]

b. A Manner of Articulation: it refers to the way the airstream is influenced as it passes from the lungs up and out of the mouth and nose also varies with speech sounds.

**Voiced and Voiceless Sounds:** Voiced when the vocal cords are together, the airstream strains its way through, causing them to vibrate. Phonemes: [b, d, g, z, ð, v, ʒ, dʒ, m, n, ŋ, l, r, w, j]. Voiceless when the vocal cords separated and the air, flows freely from the glottis into the mouth cavity. Phonemes: [p, t, k, s, f, θ, ʃ, tʃ, h, ʔ]

**Nasal and Oral Sounds:** *Nasal sounded* when we lower the velum and the air in it escapes through both the nose and the mouth. Phonemes: [m] [n] [ŋ]. *Oral Sounded* when the velum is up, blocking the air, escaping through the nose as the air could only escape through the oral cavity. Phonemes: [b] [d] [g] [p] [t] [k]

**Stops and Continuants:** *Stops Sounds* is consonants in which the airstream in the mouth cavity is totally closed for a short period of time like tens of milliseconds. Phonemes: [p] [b] [m] [t] [d] [n] [k] [g] [ŋ] [ʃ] [dʒ] [ʔ]. *Continuants* is when the airstream open up. The phonemes are all phonemes except the stops ones like [s].

**Fricatives:** Fricatives are made when the airstream got heavily blocked thus it causing friction. Fricative phonemes are [f] [v] [θ] [ð] [s] [z] [ʃ] [ʒ] [x] [χ] [h]

**Affricates:** The sounds, [tʃ] [dʒ], are produced by a stop closure followed immediately by a closure's progressive release, that give out a fricative characteristic.

**Liquids:** The sounds made when several obstruction occurs in the airstream but it's fail to produce friction. The phonemes are [l] [r]

**Glide:** Glide's [j][w] happening when there's a little obstruction in the airstream.

**Approximants:** Sounds [w], [j], [r], [l] when articulators get close to friction but no actual friction happens.

**Trill And Flaps:** Trill [r] is produced by vibrating articulator rapidly. Flap [ɾ] is produced by flicking the tongue against the alveolar ridge.

Vowels are articulated with minimal limitation of airflow from the lungs through the mouth and nose. It has three dimensions described as follows:

1. Vowel height: Represented in vertical dimension which is based on the tongue position between the articulators. There are 3 types of vowel, high ([i], [I], [u], [ʊ]), mid ([e], [ɛ], [ə], [ʌ], [o]), and low ([æ], [a], [ɔ]).
2. Frontness and backness: Represented in horizontal dimension of table. Classified into 3 kinds, front [i, I, e, ɛ, æ], central [ə, ʌ, a], and back [u, ʊ, o, ɔ] vowel.

Lip posture (or rounding): When lips' in rounded shape, it made [u], [ʊ], [o], [ɔ]. But, in unrounded lip it made [i], [I], [e], [ɛ], [æ], [ə], [ʌ], [a]

The phonological process in English are divided into 4 types described as below.

1. Assimilation: The sound process that makes a side to side segments similar.
2. Dissimilation: It's when sound of a segment less similar to his next segment.
3. Insertion: The additional process of a sound segment to form the sound. Insertion can be happened to either a consonant or a vowel.

Deletion: The phonological process of deleting the entire sound segment. Compare to insertion, deletion is the most common found in phonological process. Deletion usually occurs when [r] is in the final position.

The factors that influence pronunciation are divided into six, namely: 1) Native language, 2) Age, 3) Exposure, 4) Innate, 5) Identity and language ego, and 6) Motivation and concern for good pronunciation (Brown, 2001). The purpose of this research is to learn about the production of English sounds by natives who grew up in South Korea and have Korean ancestry, as well as Koreans who grew up in an English-speaking country. As a result, the writer will use the NCT members' pronunciation. The purpose of this study is to investigate mispronunciation by South Korean singers and to identify phonological factors in mispronunciation. The second objective is to recognize factors that influence mispronunciation.

## METHOD

The variable of the study is the mispronunciation of English sounds in Johnny's Communication Center (JCC) vlog. The researcher conduct this study to discover the English mispronounce sounds in the Johnny JCC's vlogs. This study is aimed to find out the process of phonological in mispronunciation and the factors of phonological that caused the mispronunciation. The elements of linguistics that being analyzed are the sounds in NCT Johnny's vlogs named *Shopping at IKEA & Assembling a Rack* and *3<sup>rd</sup> Ep of Johnny's Communication Center (JCC)*. There are two methods used in this study, they are data collection and data analysis that described as follows:

In collecting the data, the researcher use purposeful sampling strategy. This strategy of sampling is used because the researcher chose the sample and the place purposefully in order to understand the problem of this study and a central phenomenon (Creswell & Poth, 2016). To meet the aim of this study, the researcher only take the data from NCT Johnny's vlogs named *Shopping at IKEA & Assembling a Rack* and *3<sup>rd</sup> Ep of Johnny's Communication Center (JCC)*. The researcher collects the data by listening to all the conversations spoken by Johnny NCT in his YouTube vlogs videos. All of the words that are mispronounced are listed down and then being transcribed into phonetics transcriptions. The listening took more than one time or done repeatedly to ensure the mispronunciation. In finding the right mispronunciation, the researcher used Praat, a software to analyze speech in phonetics. Then, the researcher made a comparison

of Praat’s phonetics transcription result to the English phonetics pronunciation in the Longman Pronunciation Dictionary.

In analyzing the data, there are some steps that researcher do. First of all, the researcher find for the incorrect pronunciation in the videos. Next, the mispronounced words are all written down into the phonetic transcriptions. After that, the researchers classified all words based on the type of the phonological processes and in this case, there are only two processes: substitution and deletion. Then, the researcher do the classification again by categorizing each of the words into the type of the sound, consonants and vowels. To make the researcher easier in analyzing data, the table consist of the Type of Phonological Process, the English word, the supposedly pronunciation, and the pronunciation of NCT Johnny is created. The table is presented as below.

Table 1. Substitution or Deletion in NCT Johnny’s Vlog Videos

| Type of Phonological Process | English Word | Supposedly Pronunciation | NCT’s Johnny Pronunciation |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
|                              |              |                          |                            |

For the next step, researcher will then analyze the pattern of mispronunciation by determining how the sounds changed from each word. To analyze, the researcher make a comparison between the supposedly pronunciation and NCT Johnny’s pronunciation. To get a clearance, the researcher list down a notation for each of the mispronunciation pattern.

For the final step, when all the data has been already displayed in the table form, the researcher then make conclusion/verifications based on the phonological process’s theory.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Results

Based on the analysis, the researcher found 25 data of mispronunciation words in Johnny's Communication Center (JCC) vlog. The type of mispronunciation words consists of 5 consonant’s mispronunciation and 20 vowels’ mispronunciation. There are three kinds of mispronunciation based on the phonological process, they are deletion, substitution, and insertion. The further explanation of data are written as follows:

#### 1. Substitution of Sounds

This part discussed the mispronunciation of substitution. The substitution is a process where one sound substitutes the other sound. There were 10 types of substitution that the researcher found in the video, they are /ʌ/ to [ɑ], /ə/ to [u], /ɑ:/ to [o], /ɪ/ to [e], /æ/ to [e], /u:/ to [ə:], /ɪ/ to [ə], /u/ to [ə], /ə/ to [ɪ], and /a/ to [ə].

##### a. Vowels’ Substitution

Substitution can also occur in the vowel sounds. Although Johnny is a fluent English speaker and someone’s who live in abroad, as a Korean-blood artist that stays in and speak Korea the difference in phonological system between the two country made Johnny mixed up his pronunciation into another. There are 15 vowel’s substitution in JCC’s vlogs described as follows:

| Type of Substitution | English Word | Supposedly Pronunciation | NCT’s Johnny Pronunciation |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| /ʌ/ to [ɑ]           | Rug          | /rʌg/                    | [rag]                      |
| /ə/ to [u]           | Medium       | /'mi:diəm/               | ['mi.dium]                 |
| /ʌ/ to [ɑ]           | Buddy        | /'bʌdi/                  | ['badi]                    |
| /ɑ:/ to [o]          | Coffee       | /'kɑ:fi/                 | ['ko.fi]                   |

|              |           |              |              |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| /ɪ/ to [e]   | Mattress  | /'mætrɪs/    | [mætres]     |
| /ə/ to [u]   | Difficult | /'dɪfɪkəlt/  | ['dɪfɪkult]  |
| /u:/ to [ə:] | Screw     | /skru:/      | [skrə:]      |
| /æ/ to [e]   | Basket    | /'bæskɪt/    | ['beskɪt]    |
| /ɪ/ to [ə]   | Vinegar   | /'vɪnɪgə/    | ['vɪnəgə]    |
| /ʌ/ to [ɑ]   | Front     | /frʌnt/      | [frant]      |
| /ə/ to [ɪ]   | Episode   | /'epəsəʊd/   | ['epɪsəʊd]   |
| /ʌ/ to [ɑ]   | Wonderful | /'wʌndərfəl/ | ['wʌndərfəl] |
| /ə/ to [ə]   | Subscribe | /səb'skraɪb/ | [səb'skraɪb] |
| /æ/ to [e]   | Panda     | /'pændə/     | ['pendə]     |
| /ə/ to [u]   | Adventure | /əd'ventʃər/ | [əd'ventʃur] |

b. Deletion

In NCT JCC’s Vlog, the second phonology process of mispronunciation that occurs is deletion. Deletion is a process when a certain sound is being removed or deleted. There are total 8 deletion of sound in JCC’s Vlog Videos described as follow.

| Type of Deletion | English Word | Supposedly Pronunciation | NCT’s Pronunciation | Johnny |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------|
| /p/              | Lamp         | /læmp/                   | [lem]               |        |
| /d/              | Hand         | /hænd/                   | [hæn]               |        |
| /t/              | Lost         | /lɒst/                   | [lɒ:s]              |        |
| /j/              | Ridiculous   | /rɪ'dɪkjələs/            | [rɪ'dɪkələs]        |        |
| /ɪ/              | Dangerous    | /'deɪndʒərəs/            | ['dendʒərəs]        |        |
| /ʊ/              | Hometown     | /hoʊm'taʊn/              | [,hom'taʊn]         |        |
| /ɪ/              | Flavor       | /'fleɪvər/               | ['flevər]           |        |
| /k/              | Exciting     | /ɪk'saɪtɪŋ/              | [ɪsaɪtɪŋ]           |        |

c. Insertion

In NCT JCC’s Vlog, the second phonology process of mispronunciation that occurs is insertion. Insertion is a process when one sound is being add to the form of sound. There are 2 insertion found in JCC’s Vlog Videos described as follow.

| Type of Insertion | English Word | Supposedly Pronunciation | NCT’s Pronunciation | Johnny |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------|
| /r/               | Slender      | /'slɛn.də/               | ['slɛn.der]         |        |
| /f/               | Café         | /'kɑ'feɪ/                | [kaf.fe]            |        |

2. Factors Influencing Mispronunciation

Based on the researcher’s analysis, there are some factors that caused the mispronunciation of NCT Johnny in JCC’s Vlog Videos, described as follows:

- a. Native language: Although Johnny speaks English fluently, his native language is still Korean thus’ as a bilingual, Johnny pronunciation got mixed between the Korean and English language in term of the phonemes.
- b. Exposure: Even though Johnny had lived abroad for a long time, that doesn’t mean that he could perfectly speak that language. Moreover, Johnny has been stayed in Korea for a quite long of time and almost take conversation in Korean language. This exposure of the daily language can cause him to mispronounce the English words.

- c. Identity and language ego: In the JCC's video, Johnny acts as if he was in holiday in USA. As the identity of him is being a tourist, his attitude is also act like a tourist and that thing can cause the mispronunciation of Johnny's.

Motivation and concern for good pronunciation: The mispronunciation can be caused by his motivation and concern in pronunciation, maybe Johnny thinks that pronunciation is not that important.

## Discussion

The research results identifying disclosure errors in Johnny's Communication Center (JCC) vlogs provide an in-depth picture of the errors and the factors influencing them. This analysis found 25 pronunciation error data, with five consonant errors and 20 vowel errors. These errors are described in three phonological processes: deletion, substitution, and insertion.

Ten types of sound replacement were found in the replacement process, which showed differences between the phonology of Korean and Johnny's mother tongue and English. Even though Johnny is fluent in English, the phonological influence of his mother tongue and the daily environment, which still mostly speaks Korean, affects his pronunciation. This can be seen from the 15 cases of vowel placement in the JCC vlog, which needs to be clarified in the phonological systems of the two languages. This finding aligns with research by Kehoe and Girardier (2020), which states that the mother tongue, primarily used in the home environment, influences a person's second language pronunciation fluency. The complexity between the two languages in terms of structure, linguistics, and pronunciation creates difficulties for someone bilingual, such as Spanish-English (Effala et al., 2018), Polish-English (Tamburelli et al., 2015), and Japanese-English (Nishizawa et al., 2018).

Apart from placement, the deletion process was also one of the errors found in the JCC video. Deletion of sounds occurred eight times, showing Johnny's tendency to delete or not copy some sounds in particular words. *The sound formation* is the third process identified in pronunciation errors. In JCC's vlog, there are 2 cases of sound insertion, indicating Johnny's tendency to add sounds that should not be in his pronunciation.

Factors influencing Johnny's pronunciation errors in the JCC vlog were also analyzed. Johnny's mother tongue, which is still Korean, influences the phonological mixture between Korean and English. Exposure to everyday language, which Korean dominates, is also essential because Johnny communicates more often in that language. The identity he carries in the vlog as a tourist also influences how he speaks and can be one of the reasons for pronunciation errors. This finding is supported by research by Purnama et al. (2019), which found that L1 predominantly caused incorrect pronunciation factors. Apart from that, lack of motivation and concern for good pronunciation can also be a factor that causes errors in pronunciation. This may be because Johnny needs to see the importance of correct pronunciation in a particular context. In the research findings, Purnama et al. (2019) also explain a person's indifference towards these pronunciation errors. The L1 factor, which dominates a person's pronunciation, influences a feeling of indifference so that pronunciation fails to be used by the target language (L2).

By identifying the types of errors and the factors that influence them, this research provides a deeper understanding of the complexity of phonological processes in pronunciation errors and the psycholinguistic factors that influence them in a bilingual speaker like Johnny in the specific context of JCC vlogs.

## CONCLUSION

The findings and discussion in the previous chapter showed two main conclusions. Based on this analysis and research results, 25 words of data needed to be correctly expressed in the Johnny's Communication Center (JCC) vlog. The types of mispronounced words consisted of 5 consonant errors and 20 vowel errors. Then, the results showed that misplacement is the most common pronunciation error in phonological processing. In total, there are 15 vocal placements in the JCC vlog, followed by deletions with a total of 8 sounds removed and insertions with a total of 3 sounds inserted. Furthermore, based on the results of interviews conducted by researchers, four factors influence Johnny's pronunciation errors, namely mother tongue, exposure, language identity, and ego, as well as motivation and concern for sound pronunciation.

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