

Pronunciation Errors Committed by Palestinian Students at An-Najah National University: An Analytical Approach

Oqab Mahmoud Jabali

Director of Language Centre
An-Najah National University, Nablus, Palestine

Yousif Jamal Abuzaid

Nablus, Palestine

Abstract

This empirical study aims at identifying the English consonant sounds that are mispronounced by native speakers of Palestinian Arabic. It also aims to explore the pattern of errors that Palestinian speakers follow in speaking English. Two main questions have been explored in the study: 1) what are the most common mispronounced English consonants produced by Palestinian students? and 2) what patterns do these students follow in so doing? 20 undergraduate students from the English Department at An-Najah National University are observed and their English is recorded to identify the problematic consonant sounds. The study results show that the most problematic sounds include /p/, /tʃ/, /dʒ/, /ɹ/, and /ŋ/. In the light of the findings, the researchers recommend that the best way to learn the pronunciation of a second language is by listening to native speakers of that language and by practicing it regularly.

Keywords: Consonants, mother tongue interference, Palestinian spoken Arabic, problematic sound(s), pronunciation mistakes

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