

PRONUNCIATION ERRORS AMONG YORUBA SPEAKERS OF ENGLISH

BY

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[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Pronunciation Errors Among Yoruba Speakers of English" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

PROJECT SUPERVISOR

Date

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Date

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

Date

DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

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ABSTRACT

This study examined pronunciation errors among Yoruba speakers of English, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of pronunciation; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with pronunciation and errors. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Speech Act Theory and the Systemic Functional Linguistics. A sample size of 383 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 367 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 3.16). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.521$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 6.05, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.11$, $p > 0.05$). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on pronunciation.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of pronunciation errors among Yoruba speakers of English is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

Pronunciation occupies a prominent position in contemporary debates about errors and national development. The colonial and post-colonial legacies of the Nigerian state continue to influence contemporary patterns of pronunciation. Empirical evidence from Eze and Alade (2021) suggests that positive developments in errors are associated with improvements in pronunciation. For practitioners, the practical significance of pronunciation cannot be overstated, given its demonstrable link with errors. Research by Aderemi and Adebayo (2021) using mixed methods provided particularly rich insight into the mechanisms connecting pronunciation and errors. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. Despite these advances, notable gaps persist, particularly with respect to context-specific evidence from Nigeria.

Pronunciation occupies a prominent position in contemporary debates about errors and national development. Rapid urbanisation and demographic expansion across Nigerian cities have heightened the salience of pronunciation in everyday life. Findings reported by Umeh and Olawale (2018) observed that respondents with greater exposure to pronunciation recorded markedly different results. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding errors. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Dauda and Eze (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. A recurring weakness in the literature concerns the difficulty of isolating the precise influence of {k0} from confounding factors.

Pronunciation occupies a prominent position in contemporary debates about errors and national development. The Nigerian context presents peculiar challenges, ranging from infrastructural deficits to institutional weaknesses, which shape the manner in which pronunciation unfolds. The work of Dauda and Eze (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that errors reinforces the effects of pronunciation. These developments carry important implications for policy and practice in English language. The work of Okonkwo and Adeniyi (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that errors reinforces the effects of pronunciation. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding errors. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

Over the past two decades, pronunciation has become increasingly significant within the Nigerian landscape and beyond. Rapid urbanisation and demographic expansion across Nigerian cities have heightened the salience of pronunciation in everyday life. Comparative work by Bello and Adeniyi (2022) across several