

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRONUNCIATION IN COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE

Abdujalil Kurbonov

academic supervisor, Bukhara international university,
abdujalilkurbonov@gmail.com

Ravshanova Ruhshona

student of Bukhara international university,
ruhshonaravshanova@gmail.com

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Annotation

Language plays a vital role in human communication, and pronunciation is one of the key components that ensures effective interaction among speakers. Correct pronunciation boosts intelligibility, prevents misunderstandings, and contributes to confidence and fluency in speech. The aim of this paper is to examine the importance of pronunciation in communication, its influence on listener perception and comprehension, the difficulties faced by language learners, and the consequences of pronunciation errors. The study is based on descriptive and analytical methods, using theoretical sources, linguistic studies, and examples related to pronunciation in English language learning. The findings illustrates that pronunciation significantly affects communication effectiveness, social perception, and learners' self-confidence. The paper also reveals that factors such as first language interference, lack of pronunciation instruction, and restricted exposure to native speech create challenges in acquiring accurate pronunciation. The study concludes that pronunciation should be given greater attention in language teaching, and that regular listening practice, self-assessment, and shadowing techniques can effectively enhance learners' pronunciation skills and communicative competence.

Keywords:

1.	<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Talaffuz</i>
2.	<i>Communicative Competence</i>	<i>Kommunikativ kompetensiya</i>
3.	<i>EFL learners</i>	<i>Ingliz tilini chet tili sifatida o'rganuvchilar</i>
4.	<i>Speaking skills</i>	<i>Gapirish ko'nikmalari</i>
5.	<i>Intelligibility</i>	<i>Tushunarlilik</i>

6.	<i>Phonology</i>	<i>Fonologiya</i>
7.	<i>English language teaching</i>	<i>Ingliz tilini o'qitish</i>

Introduction

In today's increasingly globalized world, effective communication has become not only a social necessity, but also an important skill in professional, academic and intercultural contexts. The ability to express clearly and reliably verbally is considered necessary, whether it is to participate in business negotiations, classroom discussions or establish social interactions in a multicultural society. Additionally, english has become the dominant international language in education, business, science, and technology. As a result, the ability to communicate effectively in English is increasingly important for students and professionals worldwide. Among the four language skills, speaking is often regarded as the most practical because it enables people to exchange ideas, express opinions, and interact in real-life situations. Effective speaking, however, depends not only on vocabulary and grammar but also on accurate pronunciation. It also discusses common pronunciation difficulties encountered by EFL learners and explores effective instructional strategies that can improve learners' intelligibility and speaking confidence. The study highlights that successful communication depends not only on linguistic knowledge but also on the ability to pronounce words clearly and appropriately.

Literature Review

1.What is the Pronunciation and How is it formed?

Pronunciation refers to how we say the sounds, syllables and words in a language.

It means speaking clearly and accurately so that people can easily understand you. Pronunciation is the way in which a word or a language is spoken. It includes: -Sounds (phonemes)- like like /p/, /tʃ/, /æ/, etc.

- Stress – which syllables are emphasized (e.g., REcord vs. reCORD) 1. Intonation – the rise and fall of pitch while speaking

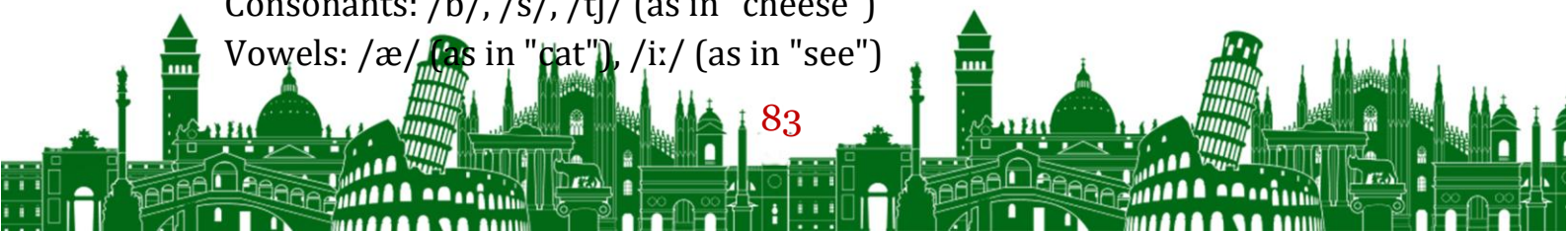
Pronunciation is formed through a combination of:

1. Phonemes (speech sounds)

English has about 44 phonemes. These are the smallest units of sound, such as:

Consonants: /b/, /s/, /tʃ/ (as in "cheese")

Vowels: /æ/ (as in "cat"), /i:/ (as in "see")



2. Articulation

This is how speech organs (like the tongue, lips, teeth, and vocal cords) shape the sounds.

For example, the sound /t/ is made by placing the tongue against the upper front teeth.

3. Syllable Stress

In words with more than one syllable, some syllables are pronounced louder or longer.

Example: PREsent (noun) vs. preSENT (verb)

4. Connected Speech

When speaking naturally, words blend together.

For example:

"Want to" becomes "wanna"

"Did you" becomes "didya"

5. Intonation and Rhythm

This gives speech its musical quality. Questions often rise at the end, and statements fall.

A striking example is that communicative competence has been one of the most influential concepts in language education since it was introduced by Hymes (1972). He argued that language learners should not only master grammatical rules but also know how to use language appropriately in different social situations. Later, Canale and Swain (1980) expanded this concept by identifying four major components of communicative competence: grammatical competence, sociolinguistic competence, discourse competence, and strategic competence. Pronunciation is closely related to these components because it enables learners to express their ideas clearly and effectively

Researchers have increasingly emphasized the concept of intelligibility rather than achieving a native-like accent. Derwing and Munro (2005) argue that the primary goal of pronunciation instruction should be helping learners become easily understood by listeners. Similarly, Jenkins (2000) suggests that English learners do not need to imitate native speakers perfectly. Instead, they should focus on producing speech that is clear and comprehensible during international communication.

Ways to improve Pronunciation

Listening to Native Speech

One of the most effective ways to improve pronunciation is through regular listening practice. Interacting with native speakers through podcasts, movies,

music, and interviews can help students become familiar with natural pronunciation, intonation, rhythm, and stress patterns.

The greater their exposure to authentic spoken English, the more naturally they begin to absorb and replicate correct pronunciation patterns.

5.2 Recording and Self-Assessment

Recording one's own speech is an effective self-monitoring tool. By listening to their recordings and comparing them with native models, learners can detect errors and track their progress. This practice encourages self-awareness and targeted improvement.

5.3 Imitation and Shadowing Techniques

Repeating after native speakers—known as shadowing—is a powerful technique for developing accurate pronunciation. This method involves listening to short segments of speech and immediately repeating them, mimicking the speaker's accent, intonation, and pace. Over time, shadowing helps improve both pronunciation and fluency.

Conclusion

Improving pronunciation not only enhances learners' communicative competence but also increases their confidence and overall English language proficiency. Future research should investigate the long-term effects of innovative pronunciation teaching methods and explore how emerging technologies can further support pronunciation development among EFL learners.

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