AN ANALYSIS OF PRONUNCIATION ERRORS OF JORDANIAN FEMALE PREPARATORY CYCLE STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

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The aim of this study was to find out the problematic English sounds for Jordanian female preparatory cycle students in the three areas (rural, bedouin, and urban).

The committed errors were identified, classified, and then explanations of the sources of these errors were given.

The total number of the sample of this study was 247 female students of the academic year 1987-1988. Those students were taken from the three following areas: Kufrilma, Mafrag, and Amman.

This study tried to find out answers for the following questions:

1. Which English phonemes are difficult for Jordanian students to produce?
2. How frequent do the students of the preparatory cycle make errors in the difficult phonemes?
3. Are these difficult phonemes developmental or persistent as students progress through the three grades of the preparatory cycle?
4. Which is more difficult for students to learn, phonemes
5. Which is more difficult for Jordanian students to produce vowels or consonants?

6. Does the dialect of the student (rural, bedouin, urban) affect his learning of English segmental phonemes?

The results of this study are as follows:

1. Not all of the tested English phonemes were problematic for Jordanian students. The following sounds were not problematic /s, z, S, d, r, /.

2. Frequency of errors differed from one phoneme to the other.

3. Some of the English phonemes were developmental as students progress through first, second, and third preparatory such as /tS, ʒ, p/.

4. Phonemes in initial position were easier than in medial and final positions.

5. Vowels were more difficult than consonants for students to pronounce.

6. Students found sounds that are part of their dialects' phonemic inventory easier to pronounce than those that are not.

Attempt was made to ascribe the committed errors to: mother tongue interference, overgeneralizations, performance, developmental errors, and the unsystematicity of the orthography of the English language.