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Beyond British and American Norms: A Praat-Based Phonetic Analysis of Accent Variation in a Non-Native English Speaker

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Abstract

This study investigates accent variation in the English pronunciation of a non-native speaker, with particular attention to phonetic features that diverge from conventional British and American English norms. Drawing on the theoretical perspective of World Englishes, the study examines the pronunciation of selected lexical items, including cup, pumpkin, tea, taste, roar, rubber, what, water, measurement, and schedule. A qualitative phonetic analysis was conducted to identify variations in vowels, consonants, aspiration, nasalization, rhoticity, plosives, and diphthongal and triphthongal realizations. The findings reveal considerable pronunciation diversity, with several features that cannot be consistently classified within either standard American or British English. The speaker demonstrates distinctive patterns such as unaspirated plosives, nasalized transitions, vowel substitutions, variations in aspiration, voiced alveolar trills, altered vowel qualities, and non-standard realizations of diphthongs and triphthongs. At the same time, the pronunciation of schedule displays features associated with American English, suggesting that the speaker's accent may incorporate influences from different English varieties. The overall findings indicate that the speaker's pronunciation represents a complex combination of linguistic influences and may reflect an emerging individual idiolect rather than conformity to a single established native-speaker model. The study contributes to the growing scholarship on World Englishes by demonstrating the diversity of English pronunciation and emphasizing the need to recognize non-native accents as legitimate manifestations of global English rather than simply deviations from British or American standards.

Keywords: World Englishes; Accent Variation; Non-Native English; Phonetic Analysis; Pronunciation; Idiolect; British English; American English; Global English; Phonological Variation

1. Background of the Study

English has developed from a language historically associated with Britain into a global language used by speakers from diverse linguistic, cultural, and geographical backgrounds. Its international spread has resulted in considerable variation in pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, and discourse practices. Consequently, English is no longer represented exclusively by traditional British or American norms. The emergence of diverse English varieties has become a central concern within the field of World Englishes, which recognizes the legitimacy and systematicity of Englishes shaped by different sociolinguistic and cultural contexts.

Pronunciation represents one of the most visible dimensions of variation among English users. Speakers who acquire English as a second or additional

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language frequently demonstrate phonetic patterns influenced by their first language, other languages in their linguistic repertoire, educational experiences, social environment, and exposure to different varieties of English. Such pronunciation patterns should not necessarily be regarded simply as errors or deficiencies. Rather, they may constitute systematic features of an individual's linguistic identity and contribute to the broader diversity of global English.

Traditional descriptions of English pronunciation have often relied heavily on established British and American models. These models have played an important role in English language teaching and pronunciation research; however, increasing global use of English has demonstrated that many speakers do not conform completely to either model. A speaker may, for example, combine features associated with different varieties while simultaneously producing pronunciation patterns that are not readily attributable to any recognized standard variety. Such variation raises important questions concerning accent, intelligibility, linguistic identity, and the relationship between individual speech and established pronunciation norms.

The present study focuses on the pronunciation of a non-native English speaker whose speech demonstrates considerable variation across individual lexical items. Preliminary observations indicate that the speaker's pronunciation cannot be consistently categorized as either American or British English. For example, the pronunciation of cup involves an absence of expected aspiration, while pumpkin demonstrates a nasalized transition. Similarly, tea involves a long-vowel realization rather than the expected diphthongal form, and taste displays variation in the realization of alveolar plosives. The pronunciation of roar is particularly noteworthy because the occurrence of voiced alveolar trills suggests rhotic influence, contrasting with non-rhotic varieties commonly associated with British English.

Further variation can be observed in words such as rubber, what, and water, where changes in vowel quality and consonantal realization contribute to the speaker's distinctive pronunciation. The word measurement demonstrates substantial changes involving diphthongal/triphthongal realization and nasalized sounds. Interestingly, schedule contains features that can be associated with American English pronunciation. This mixture of features suggests that the speaker's accent may not be adequately explained through a simple binary distinction between British and American English.

Against this background, the study investigates whether the observed pronunciation patterns can be understood as manifestations of a distinctive non-native accent or idiolect. The concept of idiolect is particularly relevant because individual speakers may develop unique linguistic patterns through their accumulated linguistic experiences. A speaker exposed to multiple English varieties may naturally incorporate features from different models, while also developing pronunciation characteristics that are specific to their individual speech. The study therefore situates

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individual pronunciation within the broader framework of World Englishes. Rather than treating deviations from British and American pronunciation as merely incorrect forms, it considers them as evidence of the complexity and diversity of English as a global language. By examining specific phonetic features across selected lexical items, the research seeks to demonstrate how individual linguistic backgrounds and cross-varietal influences can contribute to the formation of distinctive English accents. The study is significant because it contributes to the expanding recognition of English pronunciation diversity beyond native-speaker norms. It may also have implications for English language teaching, particularly in contexts where learners are traditionally encouraged to imitate a single British or American pronunciation model. Understanding variation can encourage a more inclusive approach to pronunciation in which intelligibility, communicative effectiveness, and linguistic diversity is considered alongside conventional native-speaker standards. Ultimately, the investigation highlights the dynamic nature of English pronunciation and supports the view that global English encompasses a wide spectrum of legitimate linguistic forms. This report explores the phonetic and phonological aspects of English as spoken by non-native speakers, with a specific focus on identifying accents such as American, British, or other varieties. By using Praat software, recordings of non-native speakers pronouncing a set of words are analysed in detail, examining frequency, vowel/consonant length, intonation, and stress patterns by observing spectrograms and waveforms. The aim is to compare their phonetic features with the standard pronunciations of American and British English, the phonetic diversity in the pronunciations of World Englishes, investigating variations in pronunciation across different English-speaking regions.

As the world becomes more connected through globalisation, and since English is used globally, researchers find it fascinating to study how people who are not native English speakers use different forms of English. Praat helps researchers carefully study how people pronounce sounds, the way they raise and lower their voice, and the rhythm in their speech.

2. Literature Review

The global expansion of English has fundamentally altered the linguistic landscape in which pronunciation is conceptualized and studied. Traditional approaches to English pronunciation have generally privileged established native-speaker varieties, particularly Received Pronunciation (RP) and General American (GA), as reference models for learners of English. Such approaches implicitly position non-native pronunciation as a deviation from an assumed standard. However, the emergence of World Englishes (WE) and English as a Lingua Franca (ELF) has challenged the assumption that English pronunciation must necessarily approximate British or American norms. English is now used extensively among speakers with diverse linguistic backgrounds, and its pronunciation consequently reflects contact between

English and a wide range of first languages (Jenkins, 2006; Kirkpatrick, 2007).

Jenkins (2002, 2006) argues that the international use of English requires a reconsideration of pronunciation goals. Rather than treating RP or General American as universally appropriate models, pronunciation research should consider the communicative needs of speakers who use English across multilingual and multicultural contexts. Her proposal of the Lingua Franca Core (LFC) represents an important movement away from an exclusive emphasis on native-speaker pronunciation. The LFC identifies phonological features considered particularly important for intelligibility in international communication and therefore provides an alternative conceptualization of pronunciation norms.

This perspective is particularly relevant to the study of accent variation among non-native speakers. A non-native accent should not automatically be interpreted as defective pronunciation; rather, it may constitute evidence of linguistic contact, adaptation, identity, and the development of localized English varieties. Berns (2008) similarly emphasizes the relationship between World Englishes, ELF, and intelligibility, noting that the increasing use of English by speakers from diverse linguistic backgrounds necessitates attention to phonological intelligibility rather than exclusive conformity to native-speaker models.

2.1 The Nateness Principle and the Intelligibility Principle

The distinction between native-like pronunciation and intelligible pronunciation has become central to contemporary pronunciation research. Levis (2005) conceptualized this distinction through the Nateness Principle and the Intelligibility Principle. The former emphasizes approximation to native-speaker pronunciation, whereas the latter prioritizes successful communication. Levis argues that these principles represent substantially different orientations toward pronunciation teaching and assessment.

Subsequent research has reinforced the importance of distinguishing accentedness, comprehensibility, and intelligibility. Munro and Derwing (1995) demonstrated that the presence of a strong foreign accent does not necessarily result in reduced intelligibility. Their study of L2 English speech showed that accent ratings, comprehensibility, and intelligibility are related but distinct dimensions. Importantly, speech perceived as heavily accented could nevertheless remain highly intelligible.

This distinction has important implications for acoustic investigations of non-native English. If pronunciation is examined exclusively by measuring the degree to which a speaker differs from RP or GA, variation may be interpreted as error. A phonetic approach informed by World Englishes, however, can instead document how the speaker systematically realizes English sounds. Thus, acoustic variation in vowel quality, consonant realization, duration, pitch, or other features may be interpreted as evidence of an emerging or localized pronunciation pattern rather than merely as a failure to reproduce a native norm.

Levis (2020, 2022) revisits the debate and maintains that pronunciation

research should recognize intelligibility as a central communicative goal. This position is especially significant for research involving individual non-native speakers because an individual's pronunciation may display systematic differences from native models without necessarily preventing effective communication.

2.2 Accent, Variation, and Second-Language Phonology

Accent variation is a multidimensional phenomenon involving segmental and suprasegmental properties. Segmental features include vowels and consonants, whereas suprasegmental characteristics include stress, rhythm, intonation, pitch, speech rate, and temporal organization. Second-language pronunciation is shaped by the interaction between the phonological system of the target language and the speaker's first language. Consequently, learners may transfer articulatory and phonological patterns from their L1 into English.

Research on second-language phonology has repeatedly demonstrated that L2 speakers do not necessarily reproduce the phonetic categories of native English varieties in identical ways. Instead, their productions may involve substitutions, mergers, shifts in vowel quality, changes in consonantal realization, differences in duration, or modifications in prosody. Such patterns can become sufficiently systematic to characterize particular regional or social varieties.

Jenkins (2002) emphasizes that pronunciation variation in international English should be investigated empirically rather than evaluated solely according to native-speaker expectations. Her work is particularly significant because it connects phonological variation with intelligibility and proposes an empirically motivated alternative to conventional RP- and GA-oriented pronunciation models. Research into Pakistani English provides a particularly relevant example. Pakistani English has been described as an institutionalized variety shaped by contact between English and Pakistan's indigenous languages. Jadoon and Ahmad (2022) identify phonetic and phonological characteristics that distinguish Pakistani English from British English and emphasize the role of first-language influence in the development of these features.

More recent research similarly demonstrates that Pakistani English cannot adequately be represented as a simple approximation of British or American English. For example, Khalfan and Anjum (2024) examined vowel nasalization in Pakistani English and found patterns differing from those observed in British English, with speakers displaying both regressive and progressive nasalization in particular contexts.

2.3 Acoustic Phonetics and the Measurement of Accent Variation

Acoustic phonetics provides an empirical means of investigating pronunciation beyond impressionistic judgments. Whereas auditory analysis depends substantially on the researcher's perception, acoustic analysis permits researchers to quantify characteristics of speech through measurable parameters. This makes acoustic phonetics particularly valuable when the objective is to determine whether an

individual's pronunciation differs systematically from established English varieties.

For vowels, the most frequently investigated acoustic parameters are F1, F2, and duration. F1 is broadly associated with vowel height, while F2 provides information concerning the frontness or backness of the tongue position. Together, F1 and F2 can be plotted to represent the acoustic organization of a speaker's vowel space. Vowel duration provides an additional temporal dimension and can contribute to distinctions between long and short vowel categories. Fundamental frequency (F0) is another important acoustic parameter. It corresponds acoustically to the rate of vocal-fold vibration and is closely associated with perceived pitch. Differences in F0 can therefore contribute to the characterization of a speaker's prosodic system. Depending on the research question, acoustic analysis may also examine intensity, spectral characteristics, voice onset time (VOT), consonant duration, formant transitions, and other temporal or spectral measures.

Acoustic analysis is especially useful for accent research because auditory impressions such as "British," "American," or "foreign" can conceal considerable internal variation. A speaker may simultaneously exhibit characteristics associated with several English varieties while also displaying features attributable to the speaker's linguistic background. Consequently, acoustic measurements can reveal patterns that are difficult to identify reliably through auditory transcription alone.

2.4 Praat as a Tool for Phonetic Investigation

Praat has become an important tool in experimental phonetics because it allows researchers to visualize and measure acoustic properties of speech. Its functions include waveform and spectrogram inspection, segmentation, formant measurement, pitch analysis, intensity measurement, duration measurement, and annotation. These capabilities make it suitable for investigating both segmental and suprasegmental properties of non-native English pronunciation.

Previous research on Pakistani English demonstrates the applicability of Praat to the acoustic investigation of localized pronunciation patterns. Warrich et al. (2011), for example, used Praat to examine the acoustic properties of central vowels in Pakistani English. Their findings indicated that Pakistani speakers did not consistently distinguish between /ə/ and /ɜ:/, while /ʌ/ was realized separately, suggesting a reorganization of the central-vowel system.

Similarly, Abbasi et al. (2018) used Praat to investigate Pakistani English vowels through measures including F0, F1, F2, and vowel duration. Their findings demonstrated acoustic differences in vowel realizations and provided evidence of variation within Pakistani English. More recent work has extended this acoustic approach. Bilal and Asghar's research on Pakistani English central vowels employed Praat to measure F1 and F2 and reported a reduced distinction between certain central vowels. The study consequently conceptualized Pakistani English as a nativized variety rather than simply an imperfect version of British English.

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Acoustic research has also investigated consonantal features. Studies of Pakistani English plosives, for example, have employed Praat to examine acoustic characteristics and reported systematic differences between Pakistani realizations and those found in native English varieties. Likewise, research on particular consonants has used Praat to demonstrate distinctive acoustic patterns associated with Pakistani English. The methodological importance of Praat therefore extends beyond its function as a measurement program. It facilitates a transition from impressionistic descriptions of accent to reproducible acoustic evidence. In the context of the present study, this is particularly important because the objective is not simply to determine whether the speaker “sounds” British, American, or non-native, but to identify measurable phonetic characteristics that constitute the speaker's accent profile.

2.5 Pakistani English and the Emergence of Localized Pronunciation Norms

The development of Pakistani English illustrates the broader theoretical argument that English pronunciation can become localized through sustained language contact. Pakistani English exists within a highly multilingual environment in which English interacts with Urdu and numerous regional languages, including Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashto, Balochi, and Saraiki. Consequently, pronunciation patterns may reflect both English phonological structures and the phonetic resources of speakers' first languages.

Jadoon and Ahmad (2022) argue that Pakistani English displays distinctive phonetic and phonological characteristics at multiple linguistic levels and that deviations from Received Pronunciation can partly be attributed to first-language influence. More recent research has provided acoustic evidence for this variation. For example, research on Pakistani English vowels has identified systematic differences from Standard British English, while regional research has demonstrated variation in F1, F2, and vowel duration across Pakistani English speakers.

Particularly relevant to the present study is research examining Urdu-speaking users of English. A recent comparative acoustic study explicitly investigated Urdu L1 influence on Pakistani English pronunciation in relation to RP and employed Praat to examine segmental variation. The findings indicate that Urdu phonological patterns can contribute to differences between Pakistani English and RP pronunciation. This research supports the broader position that the pronunciation of a non-native English speaker should be examined as an interaction between English phonology and the speaker's linguistic repertoire rather than evaluated exclusively through a native-speaker deficit model.

2.6 From British–American Comparison to Individual Accent Profiling

Although British and American English remain important reference varieties in pronunciation research, a binary British-versus-American framework may be insufficient for describing contemporary English pronunciation. Jenkins (2006) argues that World Englishes research has challenged traditional assumptions about standard English and has emphasized the legitimacy of diverse English varieties. An individual speaker may therefore exhibit a complex combination of phonetic characteristics. For example, a speaker may use a vowel realization closer acoustically to one reference variety while producing a consonant with characteristics associated with another variety. At the same time, neither comparison may adequately describe the speaker's complete accent because additional features may arise from L1 transfer, regional identity, educational background, exposure to multiple English varieties, or individual accommodation.

This conceptual shift is consistent with contemporary approaches to World Englishes and ELF, which recognize variation as an inherent characteristic of global English rather than simply a consequence of unsuccessful acquisition. It also

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corresponds with evidence that accent strength, intelligibility, and comprehensibility are not interchangeable constructs (Munro & Derwing, 1995).

The intersection of Praat, powerful phonetic analysis software, and Kachru's Pre-concentric model, theoretical framework for categorizing global varieties of English, has resulted in a lot of research, analysing the acoustic properties and linguistic variations within diverse English-speaking communities. Kachru proposed a model with three circles; inner, outer, and expanding, to categorize English based on history, culture, and use (Kachru, 1985). Schneider added theoretical support by explaining how English undergoes evolution across diverse sociolinguistic contexts (Schneider, 2007). Holmes (2013), in her research, pointed out how cultural norms strongly shape the way people communicate in English. She explained how cultural expectations and societal values influence the way individuals express themselves through language. By focusing on these cultural factors, she revealed the different ways people communicate in various situations, highlighting the important connection between language and culture in the study of English communication (Holmes, 2013). By examining how words are pronounced differently, Smith and Kachru provide a detailed look at the various sounds in the Pre-concentric model. This helps in understanding the diversity, the way people speak within this linguistic framework. The study gives insights into the different ways words are pronounced and adds depth to in understanding of linguistic variety in the Pre-concentric model (Smith & Kachru, 2013). Wells' exploration of the phonetic toolkit within Praat expands on its utility in phonetic research, providing practical guidance for scholars and practitioners (Wells, 2006). Apart from its use in language studies, Praat is also valuable in different areas of research. For example, researchers Cummins and Port used Praat to study speech and control movements. They explored how the ability to hear and interpret speech is linked to the way control muscles are controlled. This shows that Praat is not just for language analysis but has a role in understanding how the brain processes speech and coordinates with the physical movements (Cummins & Port, 2009). This literature review synthesizes a range of studies that showcase the synergy between Praat and Kachru's model, demonstrating their collective utility in advancing our understanding of the phonetic Complexities and sociolinguistic dimensions of English as a global language.

3. Research Methodology

3.1 Research Method

This research follows a qualitative approach, focusing on the in-depth analysis of recorded words using Praat. This methodology allows to study the sounds and how they are spoken by people who are learning English. It is like using a magnifying glass to study the small details in how words are pronounced by understanding the different sounds and patterns that non-native English speakers use. The goal is to

contrast their phonetic characteristics with the standard ways words are pronounced in American and British English.

3.2 Stimuli

The words selected for analysis—Cup, Pumpkin, Tea, Taste, Roar, Rubber, What, Water, Measurement, and Schedule—constitute the foundation for evaluating pronunciation.

3.3 Data Collection Process

Prior to recording, a consent form was provided to the participant. The form outlined the purpose of the research, the specific words to be recorded, and the assurance of full confidentiality. Upon receiving approval, the recording was conducted with respect for the participant's privacy.

3.4 Data Analysis Process

In the process of analysing the data, various features are examined using Praat. The waveform analysis involves closely examining the visual representation of the speech signal, allowing to spot patterns and transitions in how words are spoken. The formant analysis is conducted, investigating frequencies to better understand the articulation and distinctions in vowel sounds. Stress patterns are another aspect under inspection, noticing how the emphasis on syllables varies in the recorded words. Through intonation analysis pitch variations and contours in speech is studied. By employing these diverse analytical approaches, one can aim to comprehensively explore and understand the intricacies of pronunciation in non-native English speakers. These diverse analytical approaches are used to thoroughly explore and comprehend the details of pronunciation in non-native English speakers.

4. Data/Praat Analysis

4.1 Overview

This section primarily focuses on examining the sounds of various words using Praat software.

4.2 Analysis

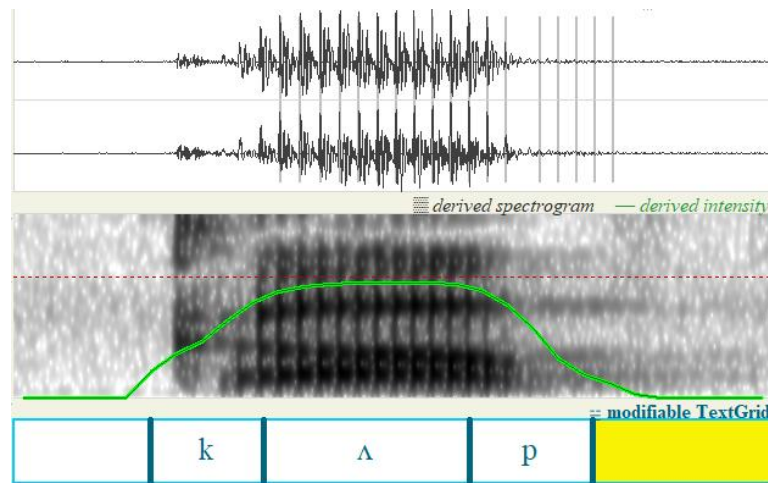
Pronunciation Chart

Sr.No	Word	American Pronunciation	British Pronunciation	Other Pronunciation
1	Cup	—	—	+
2	Pumpkin	—	—	+
3	Tea	—	—	+
4	Taste	—	—	+
5	Roar	—	—	+

6	Rubber	—	—	+
7	What	—	—	+
8	Water	—	—	+
9	Measurement	—	—	+
10	Schedule	—	—	+
		0%	0%	100%

4.2 Analysis of Words On Praat

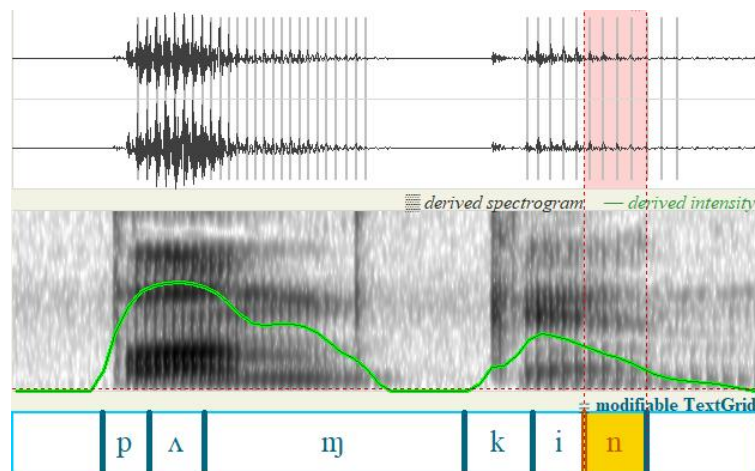
Cup:



By doing the sound analysis of word cup, we can see the first sound produced by the speaker is unaspirated voiceless plosive /k/ followed by a wedge sound /ʌ/, which is a stressed open-mid back short vowel. Then, the last pronunciation is again a non-aspirated voiceless bilabial plosive /p/. The voiceless plosives (k and p) have the transient waveforms, so, both k and p are non-aspirated plosives.

There is a VOT in the production of unaspirated voiceless velar plosive /k/ sound in the beginning but no VOT is found in the production of second bilabial voiceless plosive /p/. As British and American accent have aspirated voiceless plosives k while British produce aspirated bilabial voiceless stop in the end of cup. Hence, we can say that the speaker employed a different English accent, diverging from both American and British accents, possibly indicative of the speaker's idiolect.

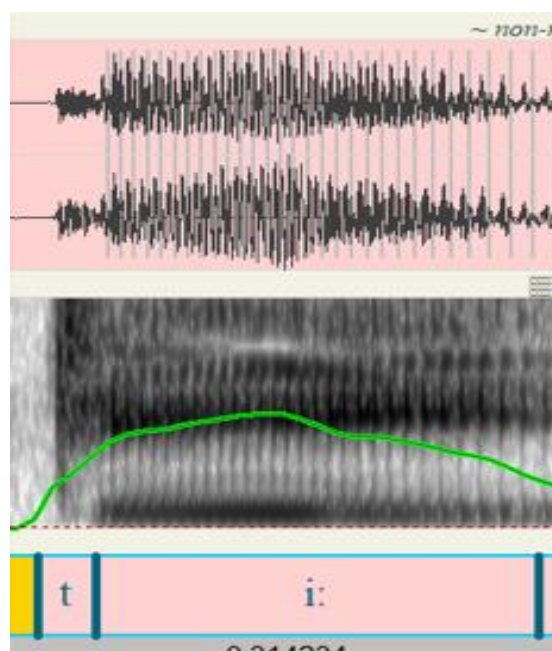
Pumpkin:



By doing the acoustic analysis of word Pumpkin, we can see the first sound produced by the speaker is non-aspirated voiceless bilabial plosive /p/ followed by a wedge /ʌ/ sound which is a stressed open-mid back short vowel. The next is a nasalized voiced bilabial sound /m/, followed by a non-aspirated voiceless velar sound /k/ which is followed by a monophthong and a voiced dental nasalized sound /n/. On spectrograms, we can see the waveforms of /p/ and /k/ are a-periodic transient waves.

There is a negative VOT in pronunciation of voiceless velar sound 'k'. The (ʌ) having periodic wave forms with high amplitude characterize the carrying of sound, whereas nasalized sounds have usually periodicity but with low amplitude. The second 'p' of pumpkin is not pronounced by the speaker, it's because the p, voiceless bilabial plosive has been nasalized by m. By examining this analysis, it can be concluded that the speaker pronounced this word in a different English accent, diverging from both American and British accents, as variations in pronunciation exist among speakers.

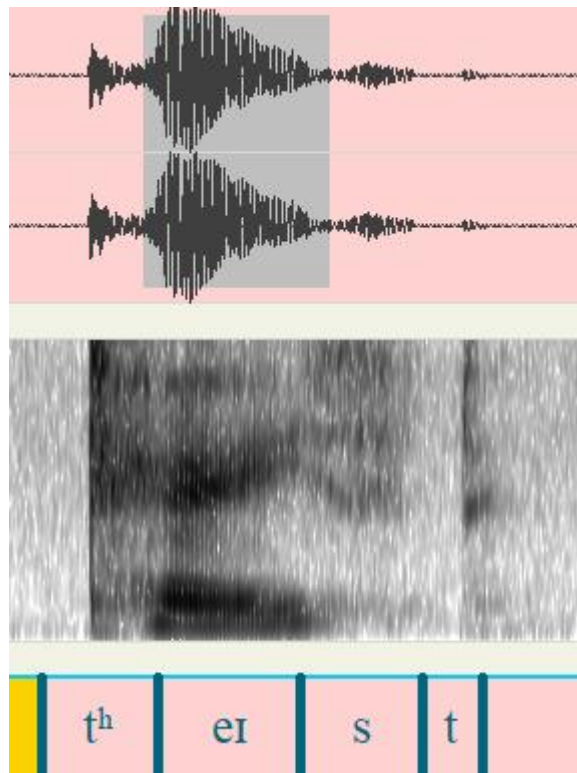
Tea:



By doing the acoustic analysis of word tea, we can see the first sound produced by the speaker is non-aspirated voiceless alveolar plosive /t/ followed by a long vowel, which is a monophthong too. The waveforms of /t/ is a- transient in nature and has a VOT with low amplitude while that of /i:/ is periodic with high amplitude.

While both the British and American accents articulate the aspirated voiceless alveolar plosive 't', the speaker, in this case, departs from both accents and aligns with a distinct variety of English accent.

Taste:



By doing the sound analysis of word taste, we can see the first sound produced by the speaker is aspirated voiceless alveolar plosive /t/, followed by a diphthong /ei/. Then, there is a voiceless alveolar fricative /s/ followed by aspirated voiceless alveolar t. The first /t/ is unaspirated voiceless alveolar plosive while the second /t/ in taste is unaspirated voiceless alveolar plosive. As visible on spectrogram, there is a VOT in unaspirated voiceless alveolar plosive t, but a negative VOT is present in pronouncing aspirated voiceless alveolar plosive th. The acoustic analysis reveals that the speaker used a different English accent, distinct from both the American and British accents. This distinction is evident in the aspirated 't' in the word "taste" in the British accent and the replacement of the 'a' sound with a diphthong 'ei' in the American accent. Therefore, the speaker's pronunciation aligns with another variety of

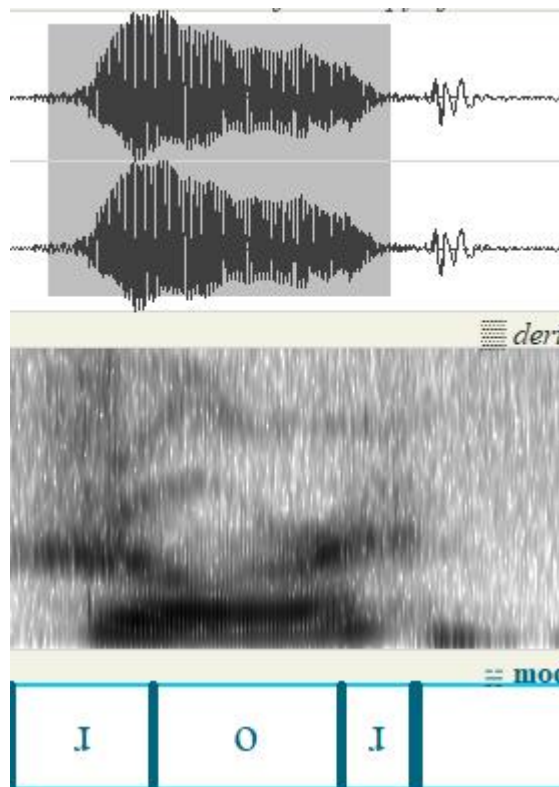
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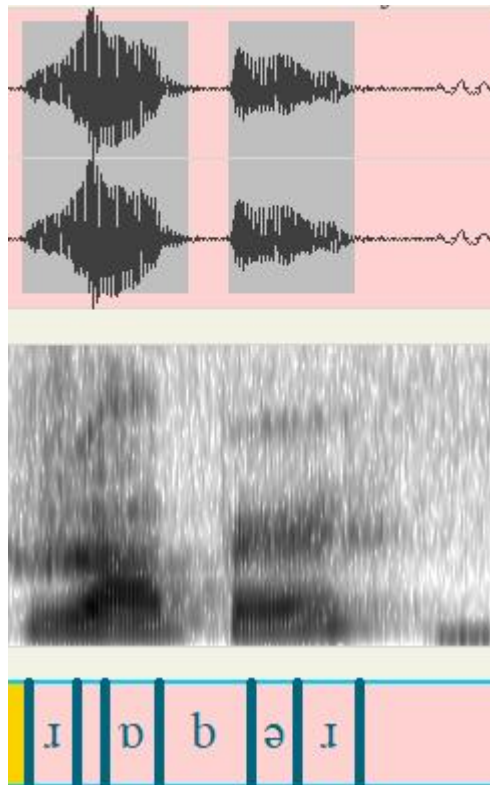
English accent.

Roar:



The analysis of word roar, shows that the first sound produced by the speaker is voiced alveolar thrill followed by an open-low back vowel /o/ it follows the same voiced alveolar thrill /ɹ/. The transient release and periodic waves on spectrogram are the characteristics of thrill(r). So, both r of roar are voiced alveolar thrill /ɹ/. Knowing that Americans typically employ the rhotic 'r' in their pronunciation, and considering that in British accents, the final 'r' may or may not be pronounced (rɔ:(r)), it can be inferred that the speaker pronounced this word in a different English accent. It is possible that the speaker has their unique accent, indicative of their idiolect.

Rubber:



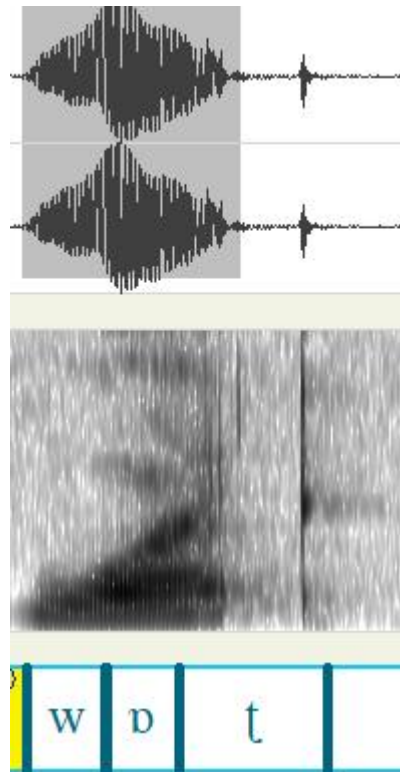
By doing the analysis of word rubber, we see that the first sound produced by the speaker is voiced alveolar trill followed by a stressed short vowel wedge (ʊ). There is a voiced bilabial plosive /b/. Then, there is a Shaw (ə) sound followed by a voiced alveolar trill /ɹ/. There are transient release and periodic waves have been seen on spectrogram which are the characteristics of trill (ɹ). The voiced bilabial plosive b holds (period waves during hold phase) with a VOT, and vowels have period waves with high amplitude. Americans use rhotic r in their pronunciation and in British pronunciation, the end r may sometimes be produced or removed completely. This analysis indicates that the speaker utilized a distinct English accent, deviating from both American and British accents.

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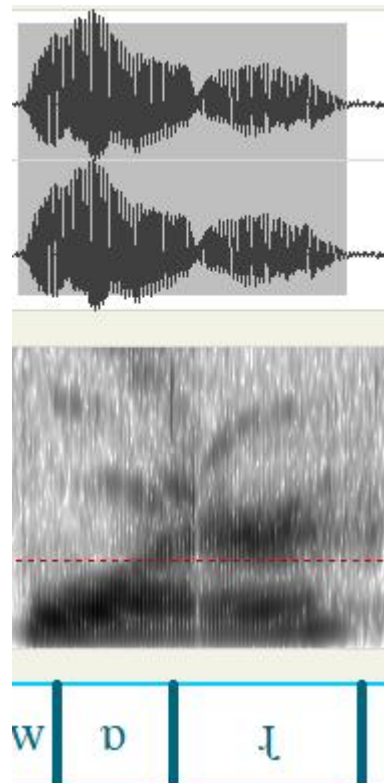
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What:



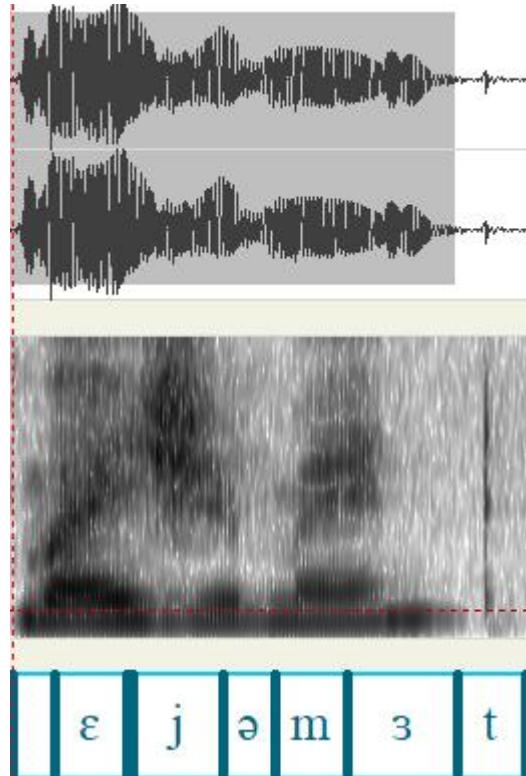
The analysis of word what, shows the first sound produced by the speaker is /w/ which a voiced velar approximant, followed by a short vowel followed by unaspirated voiceless alveolar stop /t/. The waveforms of w are periodic but there are no four formants and high amplitude like vowels. /t/, has a transient waveform and VOT is present before its production. In American pronunciation, the 'h' is silent, and a short vowel 'u' is used instead of the wedge sound pronounced by the speaker. In British pronunciation, there is a long vowel 'o:' and an aspirated voiceless alveolar stop 't'. From this analysis, it can be concluded that the speaker has departed from both American and British accents, opting for a different variety of English accent in the pronunciation of this word.

Water:



By doing the acoustic analysis of word water, we can see the first sound produced by the speaker is a voiced velar approximant /w/ followed by a front open vowel /ɒ/. Then at the end voiced alveolar trill r is pronounced by the speaker. The waveforms of w are periodic but there are no four formants like vowels. The wave forms of vowel /ɒ/ are periodic with high amplitude. In British pronunciation r is not spoken and long vowel o: replace a, stress is on the first syllable of water. In American accent, the t is replaced by d sound. Through this analysis, we can say that the speaker has pronounced this word in other variety of English accent.

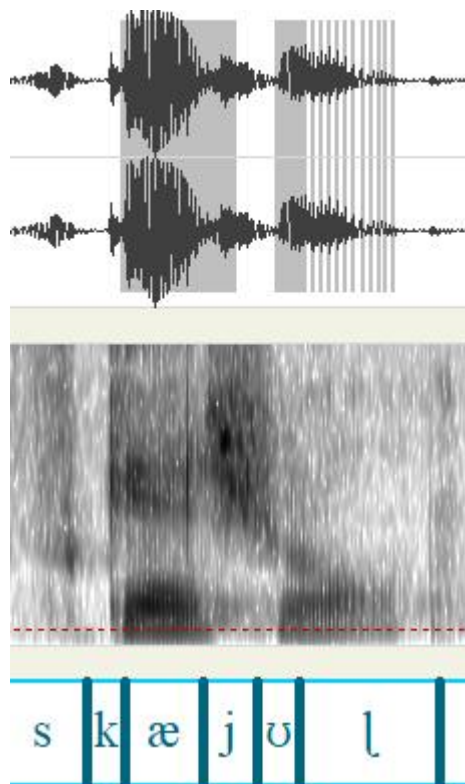
Measurement:



By doing the acoustic analysis of word measurement, we can see the first sound produced by the speaker is a voiced bilabial nasal /m/ sound followed by a vowel which is again followed by nasalized sound m followed by an aspirated voiceless alveolar plosive /t/. Where, m is a voiced alveolar nasal sound. The 'easure' of measurement has been replaced by the short vowel. t is pronounced as an unaspirated voiceless alveolar plosive /t/.

In British English, the stress falls not on the first syllable 'me' (meʒəmənt), whereas in the American accent, the emphasis is on the second syllable 'sure'. An acoustic analysis leads to the inference that the speaker pronounced this word in a different variety of English accent.

Schedule:



By doing the acoustic analysis of word schedule, we can see the first sound produced by the speaker is a voiceless alveolar fricative /s/, followed by an unaspirated voiceless velar stop /k/, followed by a front open vowel /æ/, which is followed by a voiced palatal approximant j, followed by a monophthong /ʊ/ and voiced lateral approximant /l/ ends the word pronunciation.

The waveforms of voiceless fricative are a-periodic as of /s/, an unaspirated voiceless stop /k/ has transient waveform with a negative VOT, vowels /æ/and/ʊ/ have periodic waveform with high amplitude. Voiced lateral approximant l, has periodic waveform with low amplitude. Through the above analysis of this word, we can say that the speaker has pronounced this word in a different accent than American or British accent.

5. Discussion

The acoustic analysis of the selected words demonstrates considerable variation in the pronunciation of the non-native English speaker and provides evidence that the speaker's accent cannot be consistently categorized according to either conventional American or British English pronunciation patterns. The analysis was conducted through Praat, with attention to waveform characteristics, formant information, stress, intonation, and the acoustic realization of individual speech sounds. Such analysis makes it possible to identify differences in aspiration, voice onset time (VOT), vowel quality, nasalization, rhoticity, and the realization of consonants and vowels.

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One of the most significant findings concerns the realization of aspiration and VOT. In the pronunciation of *cup*, both /k/ and /p/ were identified as non-aspirated voiceless plosives. The analysis indicated the presence of VOT in the initial /k/ but its absence in the final /p/, leading the analysis to characterize the pronunciation as different from the expected American and British patterns. This finding is important because aspiration is an acoustically observable feature that can distinguish pronunciation patterns across varieties of English. The speaker's realization therefore suggests that the pronunciation cannot simply be interpreted as an imitation of either of the two traditional reference accents.

A similar pattern of variation is observed in *pumpkin*. The speaker produced a non-aspirated /p/, followed by the vowel /ʌ/ and a nasalized /m/. The analysis further identifies the absence of the second /p/, which is interpreted as resulting from nasalization associated with the following /m/. The acoustic description of the word therefore indicates interaction between neighboring sounds and demonstrates that pronunciation is not necessarily realized as a straightforward sequence of discrete phonemes. Instead, articulatory and acoustic transitions between sounds may influence the surface realization of a word. The observed pattern was again interpreted as divergent from both American and British pronunciation and as potentially reflecting individual variation.

The pronunciation of *tea* provides another clear example of divergence. The speaker produced a non-aspirated /t/ followed by a long monophthongal vowel. The waveform analysis identified the /t/ as transient and the vowel as periodic with relatively high amplitude. Since the analysis identifies aspirated /t/ in the corresponding British and American pronunciations, the speaker's unaspirated realization represents another feature distinguishing the speaker's pronunciation from those reference varieties. This finding strengthens the general pattern emerging from the dataset: the speaker does not consistently reproduce the pronunciation characteristics associated with either British or American English.

The findings for *taste* are particularly interesting because they demonstrate variation within the realization of consonants and vowels in a single lexical item. The analysis identifies /t/, /eɪ/, /s/, and another /t/, while also reporting differences in aspiration and VOT. The discussion of this word indicates that the speaker's pronunciation does not correspond straightforwardly to either of the two reference accents. This suggests that accent variation may operate at several phonetic levels simultaneously rather than being represented by a single defining feature. The realization of individual segments, their transitions, and their acoustic properties collectively contribute to the perception of a speaker's accent.

Rhoticity represents another important dimension of the findings. In *roar*, both occurrences of /r/ were realized as voiced alveolar trills. The presence of a pronounced /r/ is particularly significant because the analysis associates rhoticity with

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American English while noting variation in the treatment of final /r/ in British English. The speaker's realization therefore adds another dimension to the emerging accent profile. Rather than conforming completely to one reference variety, the speaker displays a rhotic pronunciation that, within the framework adopted in the study, contributes to the characterization of an individual or alternative accent.

The word *rubber* provides further evidence of this rhotic tendency. The speaker produced a voiced alveolar trill, followed by the vowel and bilabial plosive /b/, with another /r/ occurring later in the word. The spectrographic evidence is described in terms of transient release and periodic waveforms associated with the trill. The analysis consequently interprets the pronunciation as distinct from the American and British reference patterns. Considered together with *roar*, the repeated occurrence of the rhotic feature suggests that the observation is not restricted to a single lexical item but forms part of a broader characteristic of the speaker's pronunciation.

The pronunciation of *what* further demonstrates the complexity of the speaker's vowel and consonant system. The analysis identifies /w/, a short vowel, and an unaspirated /t/. The speaker's vowel realization differs from the forms identified in the American and British comparison, while the realization of /t/ also contributes to the distinction. The combination of these segmental features suggests that the speaker's pronunciation cannot be adequately described simply by assigning it to one of the two established varieties. Rather, the word illustrates how differences in both vowel quality and consonantal realization may work together to produce an identifiable accent pattern.

The analysis of *water* reinforces this observation. The speaker produced /w/, a front open vowel, and a pronounced /r/. The acoustic description identifies periodicity in the vowel and a distinctive realization of the consonantal elements. The analysis contrasts this pronunciation with the British treatment of /r/ and the American realization of the medial consonant. The resulting pronunciation was consequently classified as belonging to another variety rather than conforming to either reference accent. This finding is especially relevant to the broader argument of the study because *water* is a commonly used lexical item in discussions of English accent variation, and its pronunciation can reveal differences in both vowel and consonant realization.

The word *measurement* introduces variation involving both vowel realization and stress. The analysis identifies a sequence beginning with /m/, followed by a vowel and nasalized material, and reports changes in the realization of the medial portion of the word. It also compares stress placement in British and American pronunciation with the speaker's realization. These observations indicate that accent variation is not limited to individual consonants or vowels; prosodic properties such as stress can also contribute to differences between pronunciation varieties. Thus, the analysis of *measurement* broadens the study from segmental phonetics to the interaction between

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segmental and suprasegmental features.

Finally, *schedule* demonstrates that the speaker's pronunciation contains features that do not necessarily form a coherent British or American pattern. The analysis identifies /s/, /k/, vowels, /j/, and /l/, with waveform characteristics including an aperiodic realization for /s/, a transient waveform for /k/, periodic waveforms for the vowels, and lower-amplitude periodicity for /l/. Although individual features may resemble forms associated with particular English varieties, the overall analysis again categorizes the speaker's realization as different from both American and British English.

Taken collectively, the findings reveal that the speaker's accent is multidimensional rather than uniform. Across the ten analyzed words, variation is evident in aspiration, VOT, vowel realization, nasalization, rhoticity, consonant production, and stress. The pronunciation chart itself records all ten analyzed items as belonging to an "Other" pronunciation category rather than to the American or British categories. This overall pattern provides support for interpreting the speaker's pronunciation as a distinctive variety rather than as a straightforward instance of either traditional native-speaker model.

The findings are particularly relevant to the concept of World Englishes because they illustrate how English pronunciation can move beyond the binary framework of British versus American English. The speaker appears to draw on—or produce features that resemble—different pronunciation patterns while simultaneously demonstrating features that the analysis treats as distinctive. This supports the broader understanding of English as a pluricentric and dynamic language whose users may develop pronunciation systems shaped by their linguistic experiences. The data therefore demonstrate that non-native English pronunciation should not automatically be understood only in terms of deviation from an idealized native-speaker norm.

Another important implication concerns the notion of idiolect. Several pronunciation characteristics recur across different lexical items, while other features occur in specific words. The combination creates a pronunciation profile that appears individual and internally complex. The analyses of *cup*, *roar*, *rubber*, and other words explicitly suggest the possibility of an idiolect, particularly because the observed forms do not consistently correspond to either American or British English.

Overall, the discussion of the acoustic data suggests that accent should be viewed as a continuum of phonetic possibilities rather than as a rigid classification into a small number of standard categories. The speaker's pronunciation exhibits a mixture of segmental and suprasegmental characteristics, demonstrating the complexity of individual English speech. The findings consequently contribute to the study's central argument that global English includes diverse pronunciation patterns extending beyond conventional American and British models. They also emphasize

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the value of acoustic analysis through tools such as Praat for identifying subtle pronunciation characteristics that may not be sufficiently captured through auditory judgment alone. In pedagogical terms, these findings can encourage a more inclusive understanding of English pronunciation. Rather than evaluating every departure from British or American pronunciation as an error, researchers and teachers can examine whether such forms represent systematic patterns associated with the speaker's linguistic identity and experience. The present analysis does not establish a named regional English variety on the basis of the ten words alone; rather, it provides evidence of a distinctive pronunciation profile that merits consideration within the wider diversity of World Englishes. Further research involving additional speakers, a larger lexical dataset, and more extensive acoustic measurements would be necessary to determine whether similar features occur systematically within a broader speech community.

6. Conclusion

The findings revealed a diversity of accents, with the speaker exhibiting variations not confined to American or British norms. Each word had unique characteristics, adding to a detailed understanding of how the speaker pronounced them. The deviations from standard American and British English pronunciation suggested the presence of a unique English accent, possibly the speaker's idiolect.

In the word "Cup," the absence of aspirated plosives aligned with neither American nor British norms, suggesting a distinct accent. The pronunciation of "Pumpkin" indicated a nasalized transition, deviating from both American and British pronunciations. "Tea" showcased a replacement of the expected diphthong with a long vowel, further emphasizing the unique pronunciation style. "Taste" exhibited a mix of unaspirated and aspirated alveolar plosives, contributing to a pronunciation distinct from both American and British standards. The presence of voiced alveolar trills in both occurrences of "Roar" indicated a shift from the typical British accent that often doesn't pronounce the "r." This suggested that there might be an influence of the rhotic accent. In "Rubber," the replacement of the vowel sound contributed to a unique pronunciation pattern. "What" showcased deviations in vowel sounds and the pronunciation of the voiceless alveolar stop, reinforcing the presence of a distinct accent. The pronunciation of "Water" displayed a unique combination of sounds, including a voiced labio-velar approximant and a front open vowel, indicative of a variety not aligned with typical American or British norms. "Measurement" demonstrated significant changes, including triphthong replacement and alterations in nasalized sounds, contributing to a distinctive accent. The analysis of "Schedule" revealed features consistent with American English, such as the pronunciation of the voiceless alveolar fricative "s" and the monophthong "u." This suggested a potential American influence in the speaker's pronunciation.

In conclusion, the research identified a varied range of accents in the non-

native speaker's pronunciation, highlighting the rich diversity within World Englishes. The deviations from standard American and British English underscored the impact of individual linguistic backgrounds and cultural influences on pronunciation. The research adds to the overall discussion on World Englishes, highlighting the importance of recognizing diverse English pronunciations beyond the usual American and British norms. This investigation not only helps us understand and appreciate the variety in how people speak English but also gives us valuable insights into the different accents found in the global English-speaking community.

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