

## ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION BASED ON THE PHONETIC TRANSCRIPTION APPLICATION (STUDY OF TOPHONETICS.APP)

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### ABSTRACT

*The study is to know how English pronunciation based on the phonetics transcription by using tophonetics Application. The researcher used a descriptive qualitative method. The samples of this research are ten students, to look for the phonetics transcription by using tophonetics tools and to read the text of phonetics transcription. The writer used the interview as an instrument in this research was to collect the data. The finding of the research is the students looked for the phonetics transcription by using this tophonetics application. The result of this research that the pronunciation of phonetics transcription in English used tophonetics.app, the students that make them easier than the open dictionary, they could be doing easy and understanding to use the app and could improve pronouncing the words better.*

**Keywords:** *transcription, tophonetics, pronunciation, application, understanding*

### ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini untuk mengetahui bagaimana pelafalan bahasa Inggris berdasarkan transkripsi fonetik dengan menggunakan Aplikasi tophonetics. Peneliti menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Sampel penelitian ini adalah sepuluh siswa, untuk mencari transkripsi fonetik dengan menggunakan alat tophonetics dan membaca teks transkripsi fonetik. Penulis menggunakan wawancara sebagai instrumen dalam penelitian ini adalah untuk mengumpulkan data. Temuan dari penelitian ini adalah para mahasiswa mencari transkripsi fonetik dengan menggunakan aplikasi tophonetics ini. Hasil penelitian ini bahwa pelafalan transkripsi fonetik dalam bahasa Inggris menggunakan tophonetics. App, para mahasiswa yang membuatnya lebih mudah daripada membuka kamus, mereka dapat melakukan dengan mudah dan memahami untuk menggunakan aplikasi dan dapat meningkatkan pengucapan kata-kata yang lebih baik.

**Kata kunci:** transkripsi, tophonetics, pengucapan, aplikasi, pemahaman

### INTRODUCTION

The study of phonology and phonetics transcription are correlated. Phonology is the study of the organization and structure of the sounds of language (Nathan, 2008). Like most areas of grammar, it deals both with universal and language-specific principles. All spoken human languages make all (or virtually all) their words with combinations of consonants and vowels, and all (or virtually all) languages group those sounds into units called syllables, and generally, group the syllables into larger groups called feet. These constitute universal aspects of phonology, although the reader will notice hedges even within these statements.

On the other hand, different languages make to use of different sounds, and different languages choose the structure of their syllables differently. Some

allow very complex syllables (the English word strengths is one of the most complex syllables in the world), while others, such as Hawaiian, only permit syllables consisting of a single consonant followed by a single vowel. (McMahon, 2002) phonetics includes the way of the objective to describe and to analyze the range of sounds humans use in their languages. McMahon said that more specifically, articulatory phonetics identify precisely which speech organs and muscles are involved in producing the different sounds of the world's languages. Those sounds are then transmitted from the speaker to the hearer, and acoustic and auditory phonetics focus on the physics of speech as it travels through the air in the form of sound waves, and the effect those waves have on a hearer's ears and brain. It follows that phonetics has strong associations with anatomy, physiology, physics, and neurology.

There are many ways to students' pronouncing English words. This toponetics application is one of the easy ways for students to use in searching for phonetic letters in English, because using a dictionary is very difficult and take along in the search for words. With this toponetics application, you can download it on the Play Store on your cell phone or use a browser either on your cell phone or on a laptop.

Students in the English language and literature department must understand and use English to be used in everyday conversation. Therefore, English phonology discusses how to pronounce English which includes pronunciation of focused alphabet letters in the IPA (International Phonetics Alphabet) and also in English Phonology learn about intonation and stress (emphasis) words and ways, pronunciation techniques.

The problem is how the pronunciation of English words based on toponetics. Nowadays, students learn English easier than in the past time. Because in the past, the students need to look for the phonetics in the dictionary or references related to phonetics book. In this era, the internet provides tools of toponetics for access it, easy and fast to see their phonetics transcription without open the dictionary.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Learning of pronunciation from the students is also affected, and asking how much English they have a chance to listen in their activity in daily lives. Students who live in an English-speaking country where they are constantly surrounded by the language will be more usually with the sounds they are trying to imitate than those who have little chances to listen spoken English—might be only during English classes for a few hours every week.

(Yoshida, 2015) the influence of the learner's language a learner's first language (often referred to as L1) has a strong influence on the way he/she learns the pronunciation of a second language (referred to as L2). Often this influence is helpful, for example, when some sounds are very similar in the two languages.

Knowing how to pronounce /m/ in one language makes it easy for a learner to pronounce /m/ in another language. It could be concluded that the first language is quite an effect on the utterance of the second language.

Therefore, the habits of students' pronunciation in their first language could also make it not easy for them to pronounce sounds in the new language that don't exist in their first language or that are used differently. This influence is called interference of native language or transfer of language. What happens when students listen and try to pronounce strange, new sounds in the new language? These two types of problems often occur:

**Merging:** When students hear unfamiliar sounds in a new language, they try to interpret the sounds of the new language in terms of the categories of their original language. The brain of learners may listen in two sounds as being the same when they're considered separate sounds in the new language. This leads to pronunciation errors. When our brains can't tell the difference between two similar sounds, we tend to pronounce both of them in the same way. For example, many languages don't have separate vowel sounds like the ones in reach and rich. Speakers of these languages may merge the two sounds and pronounce them both the same.

**Substitution:** When students hear a new sound that doesn't match any of the sounds they know, they often substitute a familiar sound that is somewhat similar and easier for them to produce. For example, the first sound in think and three is found in relatively few languages in the world. Speakers of languages that don't have this sound often substitute /s/, /f/, or /t/ so that think sounds like a sink, fink, or tink. The processes of substitution and merging can cause serious problems for learners' intelligibility. When listeners expect to hear one sound but hear a different one, communication can break down. Even when teachers make learners aware of what's happening, it's difficult not to fall into one of these traps.

**Borrowed words:** Many languages have borrowed English words, adapting their pronunciation to the sound system of the borrowing language. (Sometimes the meanings of the words have also changed, but that's a separate issue.) For example, here are some Japanese words borrowed from English. (A double vowel letter in the Japanese version represents a vowel that is longer in duration than a single vowel letter.)

(Joanne Kenworthy, 1987) the role of the teacher in making students aware of pronunciation. To pronounce the sounds divides both our brains and our bodies. When we study about new sounds, we need to study to move the muscles of our mouths in new ways and change the pronunciation habits we have made up all through our lives. This is difficult and like study any other muscular activity, it takes a long time. Most people can't learn to dance or to play a new sport immediately; they have to start slowly, practice a lot, and gradually build up speed and skill. Our mouths also need to build up muscle memory—the ability to do something more easily after practicing it many times. Our muscles begin to "remember" how to move in a certain way because they've done it so often.

## 2. Phonetics Transcription

(Forel & Puskás, 2005) Phonetics is concerned with how sounds are produced, transmitted and perceived (we will only look at the production of sounds). Phonology is concerned with how the function of sounds about each other in a language. In other words, phonetics is about sounds of language, phonology about sound systems of language. Phonetics is a descriptive tool necessary for the study of the phonological aspects of a language. Phonetics and phonology are worth studying for several reasons. One is that as all study of language, the study of phonology gives us insight into how the human mind works. Two more reasons are that the study of the phonetics of a foreign language gives us a much better ability both to hear and to correct mistakes that we make, and also to teach pronunciation of the foreign language (in this case English) to others.

(Roach, 1998) all the sounds when we speak are the result of muscles contracting. And (Coleman, 1998) in transcribing an utterance, the phonetician maps the sound-tokens of the utterance to the letter-tokens of their written record, via the categories or types of sounds and letters in their notation-system. Segmental phonetic transcription, therefore, is a composed, one-to-one sequence-preserving mapping from sound-tokens to sound-types, from sound-types to letter-types, and from letter-types to letter-tokens. The product of the phonetic transcription activity/mapping is also customarily called a phonetic transcription. Segmental phonetic transcription thus involves four kinds of objects: sound-tokens (phones), sound-types (phonic categories), letter-types (symbols) and letter-tokens (inscriptions); two ordering relations: one temporal 'precedes' <T (over phones), the other spatial 'left (or right) of <L (over inscriptions); two many-to-one mappings 'instance of; a one-to-one mapping 'represents'; and a one-to-one mapping 'transcribes'.

(Rachel, 2012) sound-based or alphabetic writing systems do try to represent the pronunciation of each word. However, some languages represent sounds more consistently in their spelling systems than others. In some languages, like Italian, a word's spelling corresponds more or less exactly to its pronunciation. In Italian, the word for book is *libro*, and leg is *gamba*, where all the letters are pronounced with a fairly consistent value.

(Ogden, 2009) stated language is one of the different characteristics of human beings. In acquiring language, we learn words, and how to put them together; we learn to link words and sentences to meaning; we learn how to use these structures to get what we want, to say how we feel, and to form social bonds with others; and we also learn how to sound like members of the community around us – or perhaps choose to sound different from them.

Produced by the organs or articulators, according to (László, 2014) articulators transfer the sound into intelligible speech. They could be either active or passive. They divided into the pharynx, the teeth, the alveolar ridge behind

them, the hard palate, the softer velum behind it, the lips, the tongue, and the nose and its cavity. Therefore, stated by (Forel & Puskás, 2005) that phonetics is concerned with how voice or sounds are produced, transmitted and perceived (we will only look at the production of sounds). Phonology is concerned with how the function of sounds to each other in a language. In other words, phonetics is the sounds of language, phonology about sound systems of language. Phonetics is a descriptive tool necessary for the study of the phonological aspects of a language.

In the English sound system, there are many styles of speech for each which is influenced by a variety of causes such as locality, early influences, and social surroundings. The pronunciation of English involves the production of individual or isolated sounds and the utterance of words, phrases, and sentences with correct spelling and stressing and/or rhythm intonation.

### **3. Tophonetics Application**

This application in the browser of the internet, or the play store from the handphone and everybody who learn English and who want to know the good pronunciation, could choose it. This application is easier to use and to look for phonetics transcription, the instruction has just inputted the text and choose the menu, and click show transcription, without open the dictionary book. The app is put in appendices. We need the phonetic transcription to avoid pronunciation errors caused by learners' attitudes that are only based on ordinary spelling.

The purpose of phonetic transcripts is to provide clear and unambiguous information to language learners, for example, which sounds should be used in a word or phrase, and in what order to use the sound. The value of a letter is very diverse and depends on (i) the phonetic context, and (ii) the language or dialect that is being written.

### **RESEARCH METHOD**

This research used a descriptive qualitative method. Based on (Endraswara, 2006) that the descriptive qualitative method is the method that is described in words form of the picture if necessary, not the numerals. This research used a descriptive qualitative method because the purpose of this study is to describe the pronunciation especially the pronunciation of phonetics transcription which is used in the text. The data of this research are taken from the students of the English Department as the sample, the number of the sample of ten students by using random sampling. The data of this study are the students look for the phonetics transcription by using tophonetics tools and read the text of phonetics transcription. The researcher used an interview as an instrument in this research was to collect the data. For the instrument of development, the researcher used questions for interview getting the data.

For analyzing the data, the researcher used sound-based or alphabetic writing systems do try to represent the pronunciation of each word and the International Phonetics Alphabet (Roach, 1998).

## FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The students look for the phonetics transcription by using this tophonetics application that makes them easier than an open dictionary. The researcher instructs each student to look for abstract and practice in phonetics transcription, and the researcher gave in the text of the example of abstract/words below:

ðɪs rɪ'sɜ:ʃ 'ænləɪzd ðə pə'seɪʃən ɒv Makassar 'ti:n eɪdʒəz tə'wɔ:d kə'ri:ən  
'drɑ:mə ænd 'mju:zɪk ænd ðeər 'ɪnflʊənsɪz tu: ðem. 'ɪntəvju:z ænd 'dɪdʒɪtl  
rɪ'kɔ:də wɜ: prə'vaɪdɪd æz 'ɪnstrʊmənts ɒv ðə rɪ'sɜ:ʃ tu: ten rɪs'pɒndənts hu:  
ɑ: 'mɛmbəz ɒv Makassar kə'ri:ən 'lʌvə kə'mju:nɪti. ðen, ɪn 'ænləɪzɪŋ 'deɪtə  
ðə rɪ'sɜ:ʃəz ju:zd  
dɪs'krɪptɪv 'kwɒlɪtətɪv 'mɛθəd ðæt eɪm d tu: get dɪ:p 'ɪnfə'meɪʃən ə'baʊt  
kə'ri:ən weɪv ɪn Makassar. ðə rɪ'zʌlts ɒv ðə 'stʌdɪ faʊnd ðæt Makassar  
'ti:n eɪdʒəz pʊt ɪ'nɔ:məs 'ɪntrɪst ɪn kə'ri:ən 'kʌltʃər ɪs 'pɛʃəli kə'ri:ən 'drɑ:mə  
ænd 'mju:zɪk. hɑʊ'evə, məʊst rɪs'pɒndənts 'ɔ:lsəʊ 'rɪəlaɪz ðæt ðə 'prɛzns ɒv  
kə'ri:ən 'kʌltʃə hæz ə greɪt 'nɛgətɪv 'ɪmpækt tu: ðem ænd ðeər  
ɪn'vaɪərənmənts. kə'ri:ən 'kʌltʃər ɪt'self gɪvz ɪ'fɛkt ɪn 'sevrəl 'æspɛkts sʌʃ  
æz ði 'ɪnflʊəns ɒn bɪ'heɪvjə, 'ɪnflʊəns ɒn ðə teɪst ænd 'ɪnflʊəns ɒn ði  
ɪn'vaɪərənment æz wel.

Explanation of the result used code D (datum), and S (student), therefore the researcher explained the result below:

D1. S1: Well, the comment about this material is rather great and surely will be a precious knowledge for him, because when he first learned about phonetics and begun to actually read and write this kind of unknown letters, it feels really satisfying, it is like he learned some new language even though that is just literally English. Phonetics letter is there so that we can know how to pronounce certain word, so to us, the student of English and Literature department learning this type of material is really important and can be a benefit for us.

It could be said that phonetics transcription is really important because it is there to inform us about how a certain word is pronounced. (Coleman, 1998) said that sound-based or alphabetic writing systems do try to represent the pronunciation of each word. Therefore, sometimes the student used the website to convert it to the transcript and sometimes if he is feeling a little bit energized he will convert it manually by using the dictionary.

D2. S2: Her opinion about this learning greatly influences our development in reading phonetics; this material is also better studied further so we can master it in full. This learning greatly improves pronunciation in English and can get used to reading especially in reading using phonetics symbols.

It could be explained that phonetics symbol lessons are that the student can know and be able to read letters, and can also distinguish between pronoun British

and American accent. Honestly, he used the tophonetics application because it's easier and faster and also she still can't find it manually and it's still not taught.

D3. S3: Learning about phonetic transcription from abstracts and words/phrases is very good learning to apply. This learning can improve pronunciation in English for students through practice every day. This phonetic transcription learning can improve the fluency of pronunciation in English. The advantage is easier for us to know how to pronounce each word/sentence in English and know the symbols of each word. In studying phonetic transcription, we use applications (tophonetics). This application makes it very easy for us to know the phonetic transcription of each word in English and there are options for British and American accents.

It could be explained that the student knows to search the phonetic transcription by using tophonetic.app and could improve their fluency of pronunciation.

D4. S4: Studying phonetics transcription from abstracts and word/phrases very good to train ourselves because we can sharpen and also enhance our ability to master the International Phonetics Alphabet (IPA) used in phonetics transcription. So later when we have difficulty understanding how a word should be said, phonetics transcription can be an alternative that can help us. Because it suits the main function of phonetics transcription which is a visual representation of how a word is pronounced properly and correctly. So that when we doubt or don't even know how to say a word in a language English, phonetics transcription serves as an alternative that helps us to find out. This, of course, can help, improve, and improve our pronunciation in English. The advantage of studying phonetics transcription, in general, is giving clear information about a sound that must be used on a word or phrase. In other words, the advantage of learning is more makes it easier for us to know how to read a word correctly. Using the tophonetic.com application or website in learning phonetics transcription is the most effective step in finding or knows the International Phonetics Alphabet (IPA) of a word. Because even if there is another way that is by using an English dictionary, we will be overwhelmed in searching one by one phonetics transcription from a word.

It could be explained that the student can improve their pronunciation in English by using tophonetic.app and make it clear the sound of the word. So, the student can be easier and faster to search and to know the phonetic transcription.

D5. S5: She realized that many words or phrases in English she pronounced in the wrong way so after read and listen to the phonetics, make me sure to speak clearly and more natural. Learn the phonetics transcription to be sure about improving the speaking skills and make right the pronunciation. The advantages of learning the phonetics transcription are a). The IPA Correcting the wrong spelling, so that the no more wrong spelling and everyone feeling, confidence to speak. b). The IPA improving an objective pronunciation. The IPA provided the key to pronunciation, as the result if we follow it the pronunciation that we are made surely more sound

like native and natural. c). The IPA showing the difference between American and British pronunciation, so that makes us easy to know the difference between the languages.

It could be said that the student used some learning media to learn about the phonetics. Oxford dictionary, toponetics and another free application that easy to find.

D6. S6: She realized that before she studied phonetics transcription, she often said words or phrases in English incorrectly after reading and listening to phonetics made her better at talking with clear and correct. Because phonetic transcription is a lesson that helps us improve speaking skills and make pronunciation correctly. She found it very useful when we study phonetic transcription, like fixing our spelling wrong, so that other people can understand what is we talk about and we are more confident in speaking in public.

It could be said that the student used the toponetic application in studying phonetic transcription. Besides that, she also used several other media such as dictionaries and applications other phonetics.

D7. S7: Phonetics transcription learning is very useful and very helpful in pronouncing English words correctly, so that makes it easy for us to understand every word spoken in talking to each other. Because when we said a word based on phonetics, of course, we will read it according to the phonetics symbol. This phonetics transcription trains us how to say a word appropriately and can be understood by both native speakers and audiences general who can speak English.

It could be explained that studying phonetics transcription is that the student can distinguish between pronounce accent American and British, and also make it easier for us how to recognize or know the pronunciation of each accent. So far the toponetics application is a very appropriate application in accessing or studying how the phonetics transcription is besides accessing it is easy and of course it is very functional.

D8. S8: From phonetics transcription learning from abstracts and word/phrases so he knew more about how to read phonetics symbols, different phonetics American and British pronunciation. Even from the abstract that was read, he made it know a little about the abstract example of a language and literature student thesis English. Learning phonetics transcription can help improving pronunciation when speaking English. Although initially, he had to look at the original text of the reading so he could read it in phonetics transcription.

It could be said that the student could tell by the symbol how word stress, intonation, and pronunciation can be more increasing again. The advantages of studying phonetics transcription besides to know and to memorize the types of symbols, he could also know how word stress, intonation in reading because of seeing the phonetics symbol.



D9.S9: Learning phonetics transcription from abstracts and words/phrases make him understand more about the correct way to read and to pronounce English words in both English accents and American accents. If he learned more about phonetics transcription, of course, things such as fixes can even improve his pronunciation in English.

It could be explained that studying phonetics transcription is that we can easily understand how a word is read correctly, that is, using the phonetics symbol. In studying phonetics transcription he used the help of toponetics. The method is very easy to use and has also been equipped with two accents, namely American accents and British accents.

D10. S10: The phonetics transcription learning from abstract and words or phrases make it easy for her to pronounce words correctly and know the differences between American and British accents. It was very clear that this learning made her able to improve and improving pronunciation and one more can she distinguished the pronunciation between British and American accents.

It could be explained that studying phonetics transcription including: Improve pronunciation, facilitate the pronunciation of new words, and know the difference in pronunciation in British and American accents, knowing the pronunciation of words. She used the toponetics application. She thinks this application is very useful besides displaying phonetics transcription of words or sentences that we wanted this application also provided audio pronunciation from phonetics transcription and provided two accents so it makes it more efficient to use.

## CONCLUSION

The students have good English Pronunciation when they used toponetics application. They searched phonetics transcription through it. The phonetics transcription is improved their pronunciation in English. Searching abstract text and words or phrases make it easy to pronounce words correctly. The samples are ten students indicated that using toponetics.app for searching phonetics transcription could be better in pronouncing than before.

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