

CLE SEMINAR SERIES

Topic: An Acoustic Phonetic Analysis of Six Major Accents of Urdu in Pakistan

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Time: 11:30 am-12:00 pm

Abstract:

The present work is based on an acoustic phonetic analysis for finding out the accent variations of Urdu language in Pakistan. Accent variation is an acoustic manifestation of difference in duration, intonation and linguistic transcription as well [3]. Urdu is a lingua franca and an official language [1] but is not the mother tongue of majority of population [4] in Pakistan. The reason is that different native languages are being used in 139 districts of Pakistan. These different languages and their accents may affect the accent of Urdu language. Therefore, in this study, six majorly spoken languages; Urdu, Sindhi, Punjabi, Balochi, Pashto and Saraiki have been analyzed perceptually and acoustically for finding out the accent variations. Data (speech corpus) has been collected by using mobile/telephone calls with the help of volunteers from different universities of Pakistan. The list of the district names has been selected as a speech corpus because these nouns are language independent and the population is well familiar with their pronunciations. From speech corpus, the corner vowels of all the six languages have been acoustically analyzed by measuring spectral values of formants and also verified statistically by applying ANOVA test. Formant frequencies have shown the difference among vowels which have been confirmed by taking pair wise and group wise comparison. The frequency domain properties of vowels varied but not varied drastically. The reason is the fact that Urdu is the second or third language to almost all Pakistanis [2]. Moreover, Urdu and Punjabi accents are

significantly similar¹ to each other still not identical. After analyzing the data, it is confirmed that all these six languages are different from each other therefore, Pakistani Urdu language has six major accents; Urdu, Sindhi, Punjabi, Balochi, Pashto and Saraiki. The reason of variations among these accents is the affect and influence of the native languages on Urdu.

References

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- [3] Yan Q. and Vaseghi S., 2005. A Comparative Analysis of UK and US English Accents in Recognition and Synthesis. Dept. of Electronic and Computer engineering Brunel University, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UK UB83PH. Retrieved from <http://www.qin.yan@brunel.ac.uk> , <http://www.saeed.vaseghi@brunel.ac.uk>
- [4] Zia Wahid, 2011. *Pakistan 6th Population and Housing Census-Pakistan*. Retrieved from <http://www.paknetmag.blogspot.com/2011/.../2011-pakistan-6th-population>

¹ <http://defence.pk/threads/punjabi-and-urdu-are-they-two-different-languages.250264/>