

SECTION 6. PHILOLOGY AND LINGUISTICS

6.1 English speaking: the resources for dealing with a foreign accent

English has become indisputably a language of global communication or an international language in the 21st century. As a result of the rapid and unprecedented pace of globalisation, English is now spoken by far more non-native speakers using a variety of different accents than native speakers [167].

There are over 100 different regional and local varieties of English. In addition, the majority of people who use English now come from other countries around the world. English speakers are used to hearing lots of different accents and types of English – it is a really important part of learning the language [168].

Commonly, most English language learners try to lose their foreign accent and talk like a first-language English speaker. Still, it is necessary to keep in mind is that everyone has an accent, even English speakers. Although accents may add personality to English and make a conversation more colourful and interesting, not all accents are easy for the average English speaker to understand. Therefore, it is a good idea to learn how to speak like a native English speaker, or at least like an advanced learner of English.

For effective and successful communication in English, pronunciation skills are key. The major goal which is considered relevant and achievable for pronunciation teaching and learning is to achieve international intelligibility. One way of teaching international intelligibility is to focus on English as International Language approach to pronunciation teaching and learning. Effective pronunciation instruction involves helping learners negotiate the multiple native and non-native accents that they hear and integrating pronunciation alongside other language skills and assessment [167].

Helpful way to improve your English is going abroad and actually practice it in real life. This is the ultimate experience in terms of learning English and getting rid of your foreign accent. If you want to make fast progress with your skills and with your accent, there is no replacement for the dedication and just putting in the hours [169].

Certainly, speaking like a native does not develop overnight. It is going to take a lot of time and practice. Nevertheless, if you work hard and continue to improve your speaking, you will begin to notice that people have an easier time understanding your English in conversations. Nowadays, to achieve this, going abroad is not the only way out, as lots of modern internet resources may be very helpful.

Learning to pronounce English correctly can be tricky because of its unpredictable writing system and its many different sounds that do not always sound like they are written and can make a huge difference when you are speaking. But do not worry, you do not need to move to an English-speaking place to learn correct pronunciation and improve your English accent. You can just improve your English pronunciation online [170].

Great deal of attention has long been paid to various educational issues [171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176], as well as different language aspects [177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182]. However, there is a necessity in a more detailed focus on the concern of a foreign accent in English language learning. Therefore, the purpose of the study is to examine and analyse the main resources for dealing with a foreign accent in speaking English. Due to the monitoring and comparative analysis of the internet sources [167, 168, 169, 170], they appear to be as follows.

BBC Learning English. Offered by the British Broadcasting Corporation, this website focuses on the pronunciation of British English. In fact, the BBC offers complete courses in British pronunciation. The short lessons of the first course break down British English sounds and their IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) symbols. Each video shows the IPA symbol, some examples and a close-up of the mouth for making the sound. The second course of this series, instead of focusing on individual sounds, is more concentrated on how sounds change depending on their position in the word. BBC Learning English offers more than 100 videos dedicated to pronunciation and speaking in a standard British accent.

Accent Training. This app lets you practice your American accent and pronunciation with short scripts. Different scripts talk about different everyday topics. For each script, you can listen to a native speaker read out the text, and follow every

word the speaker says. Once you hear how everything sounds, you can record yourself saying the same script, and then compare your version to the original. It is a quick way to check your pronunciation and show you what your speaking strengths and weaknesses are. There are also a few exercises to help you practice specific English sounds, which can be hard to pronounce.

Pronuncian. This website focuses on American English and may be perfect if you plan speaking English with Americans or Canadians, or you want to travel to one of those countries. The website has an in-depth look at English vowels and uses minimal pairs to differentiate the similar sounds. Pronuncian will help you get your short vowel sounds right. It also looks at consonant sounds and how they change depending on their place in a word. There are many lessons and each one focuses on a specific sound. Every sound is divided into three sections: pronunciation, spelling and practice. In addition, a series of podcasts and videos let you actually hear the differences in action.

Forvo. This app lets you listen to all kinds of words and phrases in over a hundred languages. Real native speakers around the world provide all the pronunciations. You can even upload your own pronunciation of a word in your native language. To use it for English learning, all you have to do is look up an English word or phrase and you will be able to play audio clips of English speakers saying it. Other users rate the pronunciations, so you can figure out which of the audio clips are the most reliable. This app is perfect for hearing the pronunciation of a word you are not sure how to say. Play the audio then repeat it to match the native speaker pronunciation. One of the best parts about Forvo is that you can hear the same English word being spoken by different people. You can listen to male and female voices or hear the unique accents of English speakers from America, Europe and elsewhere. It is definitely interesting to see the little differences in pronunciation and tone.

Easy World of English. This site focuses on American English. Among its features, there are many pronunciation tools to help you make English sounds. These tools look at the different ways you can pronounce the letters of the alphabet. This is helpful because some letters can make more than one pronunciation, and there are

actually some rules that you can use to figure out when to use which sound. The site also looks at minimal pairs, special plural endings and sound changes in verbs. There are three levels of readings with about a dozen short segments in each. Every reading comes with audio for perfecting your pronunciation of the written words. Try repeating each sentence as it is said in the audio and then reading it on your own. The site also offers more than forty grammar lessons for English with plenty of examples.

FluentU. If you like to learn with audio and video and want to learn to speak English while having fun, then this website is certainly an option to consider. The program uses authentic English videos with expert-created subtitles and a built-in contextual dictionary. This can be a helpful resource when you are focusing on the spoken aspects of English. You can also see the transcript of each video as well as vocabulary words you might not know, so you can learn new words and hear how to say them properly right away. Besides learning how native English speakers use the language, FluentU also has personalized quizzes that let you write or speak your answer into your phone for speaking practice. Its content comes from all different English-speaking areas, so it is a powerful tool for learning English.

SpeakingPal. It is one of the most straightforward English speaking course apps and it is free. The lessons begin with a recording of a person talking to you over video. While they speak, you can read the words as they are saying them. Then, under that text, you will see a response for you to say into your phone. The app then evaluates your speaking ability. It tells you how clearly you are speaking and points out the words that you are having trouble with. Its dialogue focuses on real-life topics and situations that you would encounter. There are also translations for the scripts so that you can learn vocabulary and phrases at the same time. It is great for beginners, and may help you speak English with confidence.

ELSA. It stands for English Language Speech Assistant. This interactive speaking app helps you speak English better by fixing the small errors in your pronunciation. Before you start speaking English, you have to focus on your pronunciation. When you begin learning, ELSA asks what your native language is. Then, it gives you a few common phrases and words and listens to your own

pronunciation of them. Once that is done, ELSA starts teaching the specific syllables and sounds that you are having trouble with. Its program was designed by expert speech and communication coaches.

Flo-Joe. This website focuses on British English. More specifically, it is used for test preparation for the Cambridge English exams. There are practice tests broken up into reading, writing and speaking sections. This is crucial for learners who are attempting to pass English proficiency tests. Each practice test comes with an answer key and a grading scheme. By completing the speaking component in some practice tests, you will be able to improve your British English pronunciation and reduce your accent during the test and in real-world situations.

TalkEnglish. This app is a great way to see and practice English conversation. It comes with dialogues on many topics, like fishing, food, kids, friends and more. Each lesson lets you read and listen to a conversation. You then have to answer some multiple-choice questions about what you just read. Most importantly, you get to practice speaking by playing the part of one of the characters in the dialogue. This is a great way to practice having a conversation when you do not have a partner. You can also record your conversation practice so you can listen to it and compare your speaking with the app's version.

English Talk. It takes a hands-on approach to English language learning. You actually speak to other real people in live audio chatrooms to improve your conversation skills. You can easily find a random speaking partner and practice talking. For privacy, the app only has audio chat, no video. If you are worried about the conversation not being advanced enough, you can participate in a live English debate and discussion section. There is also a vocabulary and grammar course where you can apply your knowledge. You get the best of both worlds – English speaking practice and a new friend.

HelloTalk. If you do not have a language partner around, then HelloTalk can get you one for free. A language exchange is when you teach someone your native language, and they teach you English. It is one of the most popular language exchange apps with over 30 million users from all over the world. You will definitely find a few

great speaking partners who are just like you and want to improve their language skills. You can choose who to chat with based on where they are from and what languages they can speak. Once you find a partner, you can send text, audio or video messages or have live audio and video calls. To help you out, the app has a grammar correction option that can catch mistakes in your message before you send it.

Speak English Fluently. This app lets you work on your beginner and intermediate English conversation skills. It offers many quick sample dialogues that you can expect to hear or have in everyday life. Everything is narrated by native American speakers, and the scripts sound natural and casual. Besides the dialogues, you also get a list of common sentences and vocabulary that you will probably use frequently. To practice your speaking, you can record your voice as you read the transcripts or sentences, and the app will compare your version to the original. To help you become more confident in your English, the app also has mini-lessons about idioms, common phrasal verbs and irregular verbs. These are all things that learners can find confusing, so these extra lessons are great additions.

News in Levels. This website has current news stories from around the world, so it is not just for American English learners. The website gives you the option of seeing each news story in three different levels of English: for beginners, for intermediate learners and for advanced learners. The texts are fairly short, and they have matching audio. These lessons are great for listening to English in a natural setting and practicing English speech at a normal speed. It is suggested repeating each sentence as it is said in the audio and then reading it out loud on your own. Other resources on the website include grammar tutorials and videos.

Speaklar. This is another convenient app for live speaking practice with a partner. You can do an audio call with someone else to practice your speaking. For bonus learning, there is a text message feature for writing and audio clips for listening practice. Another cool feature is that you can choose speaking partners based on their level, including verified English speakers. You can keep your identity completely hidden while you practice your English. Speaklar has a feature where if you are ever uncomfortable with your speaking partner, you can report them.

ManyThings. It teaches American English, and it is specifically made for ESL learners. The website has exactly what its name suggests: many things. It uses a variety of games, puzzles, readings and other tools for teaching English. Topics for the readings and sentences include science, history, animals and daily life. For pronunciation practice, there are many audio lessons focused on minimal pairs, the tricky sounds as well as syllable stress within words and sentences. ManyThings also features readings and sentences with audio that can be listened to at normal or slowed-down speeds. This is great for practicing the pronunciation of words within the context of a sentence.

Supiki. Here you can have a conversation at any time without having to speak to strangers. Instead, you can chat with the app itself. The app suggests a topic for you and when you are ready, it starts a conversation based on that topic. Supiki has the amazing ability to listen to what you say and to ask follow-up questions. It is just like having a real conversation with a friend. It also comes with easy-to-understand animated videos where you follow some characters' daily adventures and learn new language along the way.

Cambly. If you want to get more private English speaking practice, then you might enjoy Cambly. This app connects you with a native English tutor who will be happy to chat with you. Here you can also choose your English teacher based on when they are available and what their English specialties are. Once you plan a lesson, you can talk directly with your tutor for up to an hour at a scheduled time. He or she will help you with what you want to practice, whether that is grammar or pronunciation, or just speaking practice to build confidence. Besides private lessons, Cambly also has guided courses that focus on specific English skills, such as business English or academic English.

VOA Learning English. Although this app is designed for listening practice, it is great for practicing natural English speech, too. VOA Learning English provides stories, lessons and news in English for non-native speakers. The app uses easy vocabulary, and the speakers talk slowly so you can understand everything. For speaking practice, there are two important features: you can adjust the speed of the

audio and easily repeat difficult sections. Use those to listen carefully and imitate what you are hearing. Try to get your pronunciation to match the audio. The app covers business, news, history, the environment and much more. You will be learning your English while becoming informed about what is happening in the United States.

Converse. This is not really an English learning app. But it does give you a chance to hear and repeat correct English pronunciations of any words or phrases you want. Converse turns your iPhone into a speech translation device. Just tap the screen while speaking and then let it go to hear the translation. You can prevent plenty of embarrassing and frustrating moments with Converse. Whenever you are not sure how to pronounce something, you can just translate, listen and then imitate Converse's pronunciation. Along with some other tips to improve your pronunciation, it will help you become more comfortable speaking English. Practicing on your own will give you the confidence you need to speak with natives and sound more natural.

On the bases of the above outcomes, the following conclusions can be made. Modern approaches to pronunciation teaching aim to provide students with the ability to interact successfully with English speakers from a variety of linguistic backgrounds. With global communication, the different types of English will continue to influence each other. Learning how to speak English like a native will take a lot of time and practice. The more you listen to native speakers talk and imitate their pronunciation and intonation, the easier it will be for you to speak English like a native. The only way you are going to speak English without an accent is by practicing. Learn anywhere you are, anytime you want: You can learn on your own time and create a program that fits your needs. Some of the biggest benefits of the resources mentioned above are that they are affordable and, sometimes, even free. They are easily accessible, convenient, enjoyable and motivating. Many of them will also track your learning progress, which can further boost motivation to develop a native English accent and get you confidently speaking in no time.