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GRT PROBING IN TO THE DIFFICULTIES WITH INDIAN SPEAKERS OF ENGLISH

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Abstract:-The interference and impact of mother language alongwith other regional languages gives English the form of a Pidgin and a Creole in India. It becomes a strange mixture of linguistic features of many languages being in a close contact with multiple languages for a longer time. Indian English many a times becomes unintelligible to the world or the native listeners of English. The Indian speakers of English mostly fail to acquire RP model of English in spite of the fact that we the Indians are taught and practiced the RP model of English in our schools, colleges and the universities for years.. English, at present, after over the years, we see being converted into an unphonetic language.. Along with this it is often seen that there is the breakage of the link between the speech sounds and the spellings. The fact that most of the Indian languages are generally phonetic creates a hurdle in the learning and usage of proper pronunciations in English for the Indian speakers of English. The Indian speakers of English tend to replace English sounds by the sounds of Indian regional languages associated with. The same goes with the acceptance of accentual patterns of the mother tongue replacing the English accentual pattern. The use of weak forms is absent in the usage of Indian speakers of English that results in making the speech slower. The Indian speakers of English tend to use the intonation pattern wrongly or rather in an Indianised way creating unintelligibility.

Keywords:Dialect, Connected Speech, Vowels, Diphthongs, Plosives, Fricatives, Syllabic Consonants, Stress, Weak Forms, Rhythm, Intonation, Aspiration, Allomorphs .

I. INTRODUCTION :-

Indian English as a geographical dialect of English is spoken on the geographical area called India showing sufficient deviations to the standard norms of English in regard to the levels of Linguistic analysis.

To the question whether Indian learners of English as a second language should have a distinct model of English pronunciation or a variety of models at various stages of their learning, three varieties of English pronunciation have been recommended from time to time as pedagogic models for Indian learners - the Received Pronunciation (RP) of England, the Anglo-Indian Pronunciation, and the General Indian English (GIE) The scholars and teachers of English have a say that pedagogically RP is an inapt model in the Indian context. On the contrary, GIE is considered as an apt model to the Indian speakers of English for its Indian pronunciation features. Both GIE and RP are non-regional accents and are spoken by educated persons. But RP is considered to be a standard model of English, and GIE has no such recognition yet all over the world.

It was during 1830s in British India English language became the medium of instruction in schools. By 1857 in colleges and universities like Bombay, Calcutta and Madras also English language became the medium of instruction. English was the only serviceable lingua franca in India by 1947. Afterwards English remained as the secondary official language in India in spite of the fact that the Constitution of India declared Hindi to be the official language in 1951. Presently English is used not only as medium of instruction but also as a means of spoken and written communication in almost all the spheres of life to a great extent. Due to the pull of mother tongue and various regional languages English is used variably and differently in different regions and states in India. The Idiomatic forms resulting from different literary languages and dialects have been the constituents of the present day Indian English.

The interference and impact of mother language and other regional languages gives English the form of a Pidgin and a Creole. It becomes a strange mixture of linguistic features of many languages being in a close contact with multiple languages

for a longer time. Due to this the element of inintelligibility occurs frequently for an Indian speaker of English. Indian English many a times becomes inintelligible to the world or the natielisteners of English. The Indian speakers of English mostly fail to acquire RP model of English in spite of the fact that we the Indians are taught and practiced the RP model of English in our schools, colleges and the universities for years.. English,at present, after over the years, we see beingconverted into an unphonetic language. We can see at present that so many various languages have beenmerged into English and also so many varities of English have come to existence and have been developed resultantly. Along with this it is often seen that there is the breakage of the link between the speech sounds and the spellings. The fact that most of the Indian languages are generally phonetic creates a hurdle in the learning and usage of proper pronunciations in English for the Indian speakers of English .The pull of mother tongue also plays the hurdle while using English in connected speech. Indian speakers of English tend to replace English sounds by the sounds of Indian regional languages associated with. The same goes with the acceptance of accentual patterns of the mother tongue replacing the English accentual pattern.The use of weak forms is absent in the usage of Indian speakers of English that results in making the speech slower. The Indian speakers of English tend to use the intonation pattern wrongly or rather in an Indinised way creating inintelligibility.

1)The Vowel Sounds – English has a system of 20 vowel sounds, where as Indian languages have different number of vowel sounds. Moreover unlike Indian languages the relation between the alphabets and the sounds that they stand for is arbitrary in English. In Indian languages the the number of alphabetsand the number of sounds that they stand for is the same. Hence The Indian speakers of English face problems in using the vowel sounds.

A)Monophthongs – Genersl Indian English has fewer difficulties in regard with its vowel sounds than the consonants, especially with the native speakers of languages like Hindi,Marathi.Some other languages have the system of vowel sounds showing much more similarities with that of English, RP English has a system of 12 Monophthongs consisting five long vowels /i: ɜ: u: ɔ: ɑ:/ and seven short vowels /i e æ ə ʌ u ʊ/. The difficulty with the Indian speakers of English is that they do not tend to differentiate between a long and a short vowel, rather they tend to use the long vowels all the time generally.

	RP	GIE
Seat	/si:t/	/si:t/
Sit	/sit/	/si:t/
Caught	/kɔ:t/	/kɔ:t/
Cot	/kɔt/	/kɔ:t/

B)Diphthongs – Diphthongs are Considered as vowel-glides. In RP English we have a system of eight Diphthongs / eɪ aɪ ɔɪ ɪə eə ʊə əʊ aʊ / dian speskers of English do not tend to use all these diphthongs. Out of these /eɪ / and / ɔɪ / problematic for Indian speakers of English. These two diphthongs are replaced by the Indian equiavallents.

a)The RP diphthong /eɪ/ is absent in G I E and is replaced the Indian equavivallen /e:/

	RP	GIE
gate	/geɪt/	/ge:t/
get	/get/	/get/
late	/leɪt/	/le:t/
let	/let/	/let/
hate	/heɪt/	/he:t/
said	/seɪd/	/se:d/

b)The RP diphthong / ɔɪ / is absent in G I E and is replaced the Indian equavivallen /o:/

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	RP	GIE
go	/gəʊ/	/go:/
so	/səʊ/	/so:/
no	/nəʊ/	/no:/
goat	/gəʊt/	/go:t/
boat	/bəʊt/	/bo:t/

2) Consonants – RP has a system of 24 consonants classified as six plosives, nine fricatives, two affricates, three nasals, two semi vowels, one flap tap and a lateral.

A) Plosives – The aspirated variety of the voiceless plosives /p t k/ remains absent in GIE. Aspiration is a problematic area for Indian speakers of English.

	RP	GIE
pin	/p ^h m/	/pɪn/
tall	/t ^h ɑ:l/	/tɑ:l/
cool	/k ^h u:l/	/ku:l/

a) The alveolar plosives /t,d/ are generally replaced by the retroflex /t d/.

B) Fricatives – From among the nine fricatives of RP English /f v θ ð ʒ/ are uttered in a different variety, rather these are replaced by the Indian equivalents.

- a) The voiceless labiodental fricative /f/ is articulated as a bilabial plosive
- b) The voiced labiodental fricative /v/ is articulated as a bilabial plosive.
- c) The voiceless dental fricative /θ/ is articulated as a dental plosive.
- d) The voiced dental fricative /ð/ is articulated as a dental plosive.
- e) The voiced post alveolar fricative /ʒ/ is variously replaced by /s/ or /z/ as in words such as measure and garage.

C) The palato alveolar affricates /tʃ/ and /dʒ/ are articulated more with the blade than with the tip of the tongue in GIE and are replaced by native Indian /ʈʂ/

D) Nasals - When /ŋ/ occurs finally in a syllable, the Indian speakers of English tend to add the /g/ sound after it

	RP	GIE
ring	/rɪŋ/	/rɪŋg/
king	/kɪŋ/	/kɪŋg/
sing	/sɪŋ/	/sɪŋg/

3) The syllabic consonants - /m n l/ are not used as syllabic consonants in GIE. /m n l/ do not construct syllables on their own, without the assistance of vowel sounds in GIE. Syllabic /m n l/ are usually replaced by the VC clusters /?l/, /?m/ and /?n/ by Indian speakers of English

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	RP	GIE
Bottom	/bɒtm/	/bɒtəm/
Button	/bʌtn/	/bʌtən/
Bottle	/bɒtl/	/bɒtəl/

4)Allophones – English for most of the Indians is either a foreign or a second language;allophones is the property of native speakers,hence allophones is another problematic area for Indian speakers of English.allophones are either absent or replaced by Indian sounds belonging to mother tongue.

a)The variants of voiceless plosives / p t k / such as aspirated variety, nasal exploded variety, are absent; where as the unaspirated and unexploded varieties of voiceless plosives are used in GIE.

b)The variants of consonant / r / are not used in GIE. / r / occring at final posotions is not silent in GIE. / r / occurring before a consonant is also not silent; it is articulated before a vowel as well as before a consonant and at all positions in a syllable as well.

c)The Indian speakers of English do not differentiate between a dark and a clear variety of lateral l /

5)Allomorphs – English being either a foreign or a second languagefor most of the Indians; allophones is another problematic area for Indian speakers of English;allophones are either absent or replaced by Indian sounds belonging to mother tongue due to the pull of mother tongue..

a)The allomorphs of present tense morpheme, and the plural morpheme -s is confusing for the Indian speakers of English. Use of /s/ instead of /z/ for the "-s" ending of the plural after voiced consonants

	RP	GIE
Dogs	/dɒgz/	/dɒ:gs/
Eyes	/aɪz/	/aɪs/

b)The variants of the past tense morpheme -ed also are confusing to the the Indian speakers of English. The variants of the past tense morpheme- / t / and / id / are not used by the Indian speakers of English.

	RP	GIE
rounded	/raundɪd/	/rounded/
walked	/wɔ:kt/	/wɔ:kd/

6)Weak Forms - Weak forms, a very important feature of connected speech remains absent in GIE. The weak forms generally are not used by Indian speakers of English. As a result of this the connected speech gets slower in speed.

	RP	GIE
And	/ən/ / n/	/ænd/
Of	/əv/	/ɒf/

7)Stress – Stress is a very important feature of connected speech in a language. It is stress that determines the meaning in different contexts. The incorrect use of stress creates inintelligibility and thus wrong messeges are possible to be understood by tge listener. The Indian speakers of English face problems in using the stress properlyl It is due to the influence of the mother tongue and regional languages the speakers is associated with.In RP English The content words are stressed and the structure words are not stressed generally. For Indian speakers of English stress is a difficult area.

8)Rhythm - The stressed and unstressed words follow one another periodically in a connected speech which ceates a type of musicality in speech. The regular periodic beat is called rhythm. The indian speakers of English do not follow the proper accentual pattern of English, hence the regular periodic beat that occurs due to the recurrence of stressed and unstressed words remains absent resulting in the loss of proper rhythm.

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9)Intonation – The type of pitch change that takes on the nucleus is called the tone. The problems with the Indian speakers of English are due to the influence and the interference of the mother tongue and the regional languages the speakers is associated with. The linguistic habits and behavior are shifted to the use of second language. Most of the Indian languages use falling tone to express politeness, whereas in RP the falling tone is used in command, threats, warnings etc. On the contrary RP English uses rising tone to express politeness, requests, greetings, apologies etc. These sociolinguistic differences create problems for the Indian speakers of English.

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