

A Study to Test the Understanding of English IPA of Assistant Professors of Professional Colleges in Nanded City

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Abstract: Language learning is a continuous and a lifelong process. Very few people work towards achieving this goal. Especially teachers and professors are the people who strive hard to achieve this mastery of language that they teach in. At graduate or Post-graduate level educationists expect that teachers and professors should maintain a higher level of language proficiency. Assistant professors should remember the fact that a practical approach is needed to be applied in learning and imparting knowledge in English. Assistant professors should hold certain language proficiency. Their pronunciation of English words is going to a major role in the lives of students. A survey has been conducted to realize the competency of phonology and pronunciations of Assistant professors teaching to professional courses in Nanded city. Including all aspect of language, a questionnaire has been administered to them through google form. Around 30 responses have been recorded of Assistant Professors teaching to professional courses like BBA & BCA, MCA, MBA B.Sc. (Hospitality Studies). Attempt has been made to find out the teacher's competence level in English pronunciation and knowledge about the phonology and sounds of English language. The researcher has identified this problem while conducting the survey among the Prost graduate students.

Keywords: Competence, Phonology, Proficiency, Speaking, Accent, Pronunciation

1. Introduction

David Crystal believes 'English rules the world', this statement can be seen from the perspective that English language is the official language of the world and hence one can say English language is ruling the world. In Indian context, English has been the official language since India's Independence. Almost all sectors, be it Higher Education, Politics, Economy or Entertainment etc. it has been the dominating language in India today. Teaching to students of professional courses like B.C.A., B.B.A., M.C.A., M.B.A., M.S., B.Tech. / M. Tech. etc. the teachers should possess a command over English language because English is the language of Science and Technology. Having been the teacher of technical field a teacher ought to have standard pronunciation. It has been witnessed in many parts of the country while teaching teachers use faulty pronunciation of English. Teaching fraternity must be well conscious of their pronunciation while teaching. Students do imitate their teacher's pronunciation so every teacher must take a collective responsibility to create an international surrounding for our students by speaking in correct and standard English.

2. Objectives of Study

The following are the objectives identified by the researcher:

- To study English language competency of Assistant Professors of professional and traditional colleges in Nanded city
- To study Assistant Professors' proficiency in English Phonology and English pronunciation.

3. Research Methodology

Table 1: Research Methodology

Research Design	The nature of Design is descriptive
Sampling Unit	Language Competence of Assistant Professors in Nanded District.
Sampling Size	Sampling size is 30
Sampling method	Random Sampling
Nature of Data	Primary data was collected from respondents and secondary data was collected through various reports.
Method of data collection	Response of the Assistant Professors through google form
Type of Questionnaire	Structure questionnaire with suitable scaling
Statistical Tools Used	Percentage (%) Google Form

3.1. Data Analysis and Interpretation/ Results & Discussion

Well framed questionnaire based on the language skills has been framed and it was circulated using Google Form to the respondents of Nanded city to find out the understanding of phonetic transcription and phonemes of English language of Assistant Professors of professional courses. The primary data was collected and analysed as below:

Table 2: Demographic Profile of the Respondents

Gender	Male	Female	Total
No. of Respondents	27 (90%)	03 (10%)	30 (100%)
Qualification	Post-graduation 18 (60%)	M.Phil. 5 (16.7)	Ph.D. 7 (23.3%)
Age	29-52	29-42	
Government/ Private	83.3 Private and	16.7 Govt.	

The researcher has received the foregoing responses using Google Form (Responses). From the Demographic Profile of the respondents, it is evident that 83.3% of the respondents are working in Private Colleges where as 16.7% respondents are working in Government Colleges. 27% respondents are male and 10% respondents are female. 60% respondents have Post Graduation degree. 16.7% respondents have M.Phil. Degree and 23% respondents are Ph.D. holders. The

information of age shows that almost all respondents are quite experienced in the filed in Teaching.

3.2. Factors Affecting English Proficiency

Besides finding out the knowledge and application of English Phonetic Alphabets (IPA), there are other important factors which affect in English Proficiency of the respondents. This is discussed in detail as below:

Table 3: Factors Affecting English Proficiency

Sr. No.	Particulars	Results			
		Urban	Semi Urban	Rural	Total
1	Location of the college				
	Number of Respondents	24 (80%)	4 (13.3%)	2 (6.7%)	30 (100%)
2	Nature of college	Private (Unaided)	Govt. (Aided)	---	---
	Number of Respondents	25 (83.3%)	05 (16.7%)	---	30 (100%)
3	Medium of instructions	English	Marathi	Hindi	---
	Number of Respondents	25 (83.3%)	4(13.3%)	1(3.3%)	30 (100%)
4	Mother tongue	Marathi	Urdu	Other	---
	Number of Respondents	24 (80%)	5 (16.7%)	1(3.3%)	30 (100%)
5	Medium of school education	Marathi	English	Others	---
	Number of Respondents	22 (73.3%)	4 (13.3%)	4 (13.3%)	30 (100%)
6	Communicative ability	Good	Average	Poor	---
	Number of Respondents	14 (46.7%)	15 (50%)	1 (3.3%)	30 (100%)
7	Reading English Newspaper	Daily	Sometimes	Never	---
	Number of Respondents	7 (23.3%)	22 (73.3%)	1(3.3%)	30 (100%)

3.2.1 Location of College

From the foregoing table it is observed that majority of the respondents lives in the Urban areas. Total 24 respondents are from urban areas. The percentage is 80% of the total respondents. 6 respondents are from semi urban and rural areas that comes to a total percentage is 20%.

3.2.2 Belongs to Government or Private Colleges

From the table the researcher observes that 25(83.3%) respondents are teaching in Private college/institute whereas respondents teaching in Government college are 5 (16.7%). It brings to notice that most of the respondents are teaching and imparting knowledge in Private Colleges/institutes.

3.2.3 Medium of instruction in college

From the table the researcher observes that 25 (83.3%) respondents have English as their medium of instruction. Only 4 (13.3%) have Marathi as their medium of instruction and 1 (3.3%) have Hindi as their medium of instruction.

3.2.4 Mother-tongue

From the above table the researcher observes that there are respondents having Marathi, Urdu, and other as their mother tongue. Out of which 24 (i. e. 80.7%) respondents have Marathi as their Mother tongue. Urdu speaking student are 5 (16.7%) and others only 1 (3.3%) the lowest from the respondents.

3.2.5 Medium of School Education

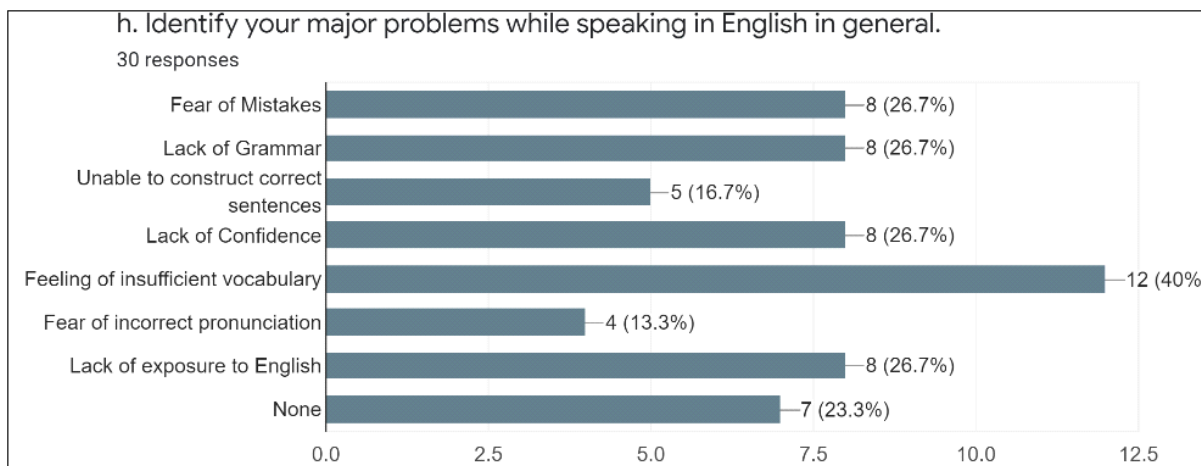
From the above table the researcher observes that there are respondents having schooling from Marathi medium, English medium and other medium. Out of which majority of the respondents 22 (i.e. 73.3%) have schooling from Marathi medium. Respondents from English medium are 4 (i.e. 13.3%) the second largest from the respondents whereas 4 (i.e. 13.3%) respondents are from other medium.

3.2.6 Communicative ability from respondent's perspective

From the above table the researcher observes that 15 (i.e. 50%) respondents replies that they are less confident and 14 (i.e. 46.7%) respondents replies that they are very confident in having communication in English in general. 1 (3.3%) respondent replies that they are not at all confident in communication in English.

3.2.7 Reading English Newspaper regularly

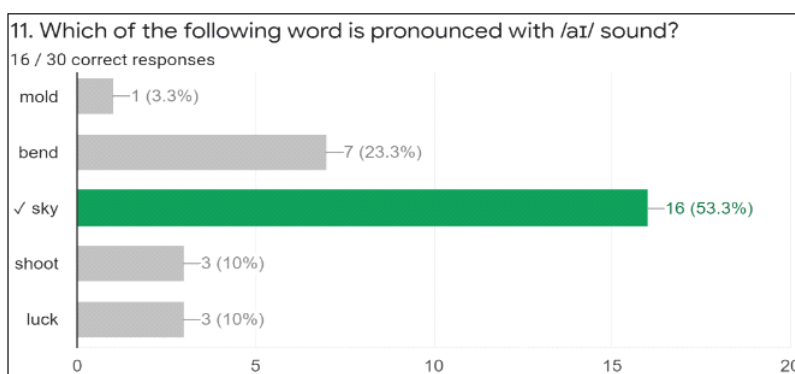
From the above table the researcher observes that 22 (i.e. 73.3%) respondents reads English newspaper sometimes and not regularly. Whereas 7(i.e. 23.3%) respondents replies that they read English newspaper very regularly. 1(3.3%) respondent candidly agrees that s/he does not read English newspaper at all.



Graph 1: Major problems while speaking in English

From the above graph no 1 the researcher observes that 12 (i.e. 40%) respondents agree that they have got insufficient vocabulary. 8 (26.7%) respondents agree that they lack in Grammar. 8 (26.7%) agree to Fear of Mistake while communicating in English. 8 (26.7%) respondents state that they lack in Confidence in communicating in English. 8 (26.7%) respondents state that they do not have enough

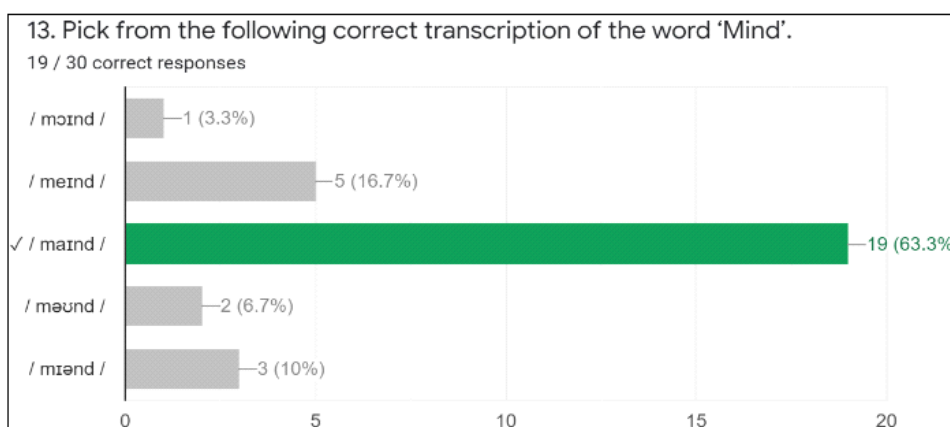
exposure to English language. 7 (23.3%) of respondents have no major problems in communicating in English language. 5 (16.7%) respondents agree to this fact that they are unable to construct correct sentences. The least problem faced by respondents is fear of incorrect pronunciation which is counted in number as 4 (13.3%).



Graph 2: Which of the following word is pronounced with /aɪ/

From the above graph no 2 the researcher observes that the correct answer for the question 'Which of the following word is pronounced with /aɪ/sound?' is 'sky'. The correct

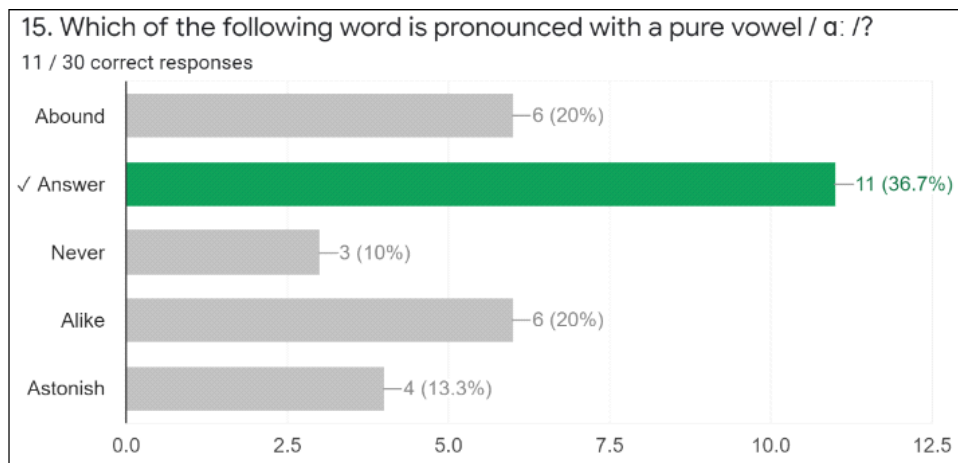
option 'sky' has been answered by 16 (i.e. 53.3%) respondents whereas 14 (46.7%) respondents have attempted the question incorrectly.



Graph 3: Pick from the following correct transcription of the word 'Mind'.

From the above graph no 3 the researcher observes that the correct answer for the question 'Pick from the following correct transcription of the word 'Mind' is '/maɪnd/'. 19

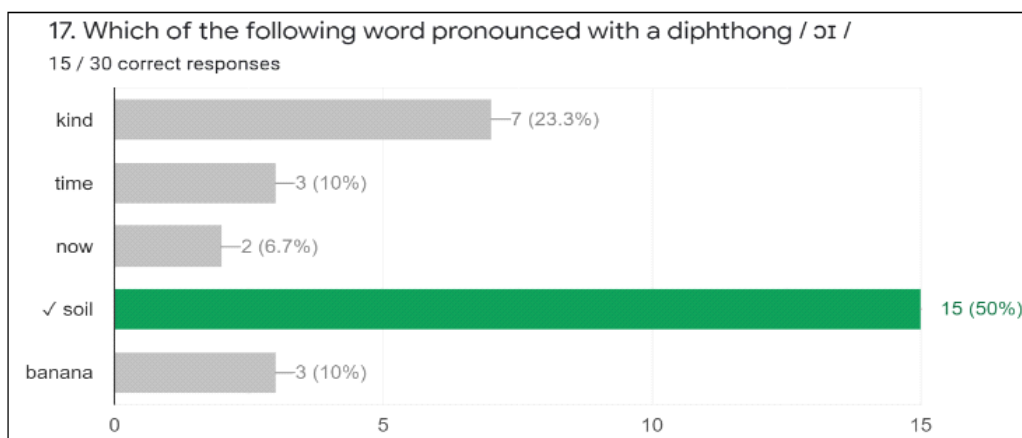
(63.3%) have answered it correctly whereas 11 (36.7%) respondents have attempted the question incorrectly.



Graph 4: Which of the following word is pronounced with a pure vowel /ɑ:/?

From the above graph no 4 the researcher observes that the correct answer for the question ‘Which of the following word is pronounced with a pure vowel /ɑ:/?’ is ‘Answer’. The correct option ‘Answer’ is correctly

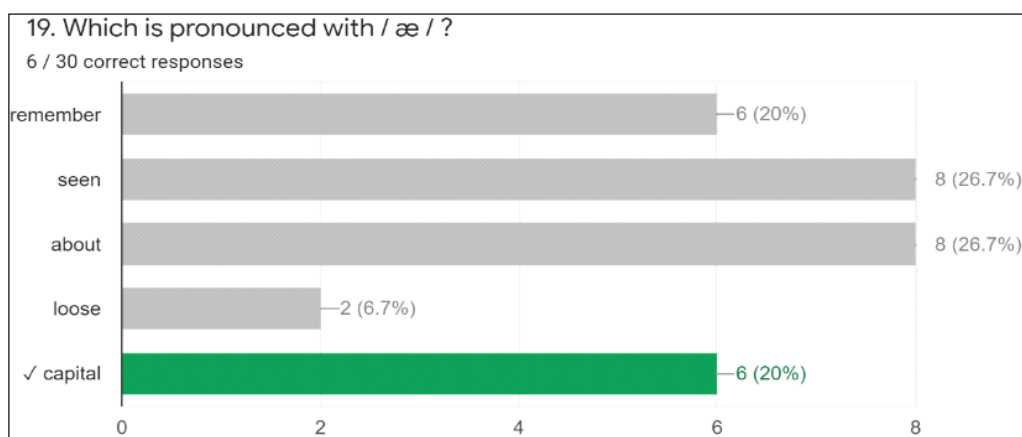
answered by 11 (i.e. 36%) respondents whereas 19(64%) respondents have attempted the question incorrectly.



Graph 5: Which of the following word pronounced with a diphthongs /ɔɪ/?

From the above graph no 5 the researcher observes that the correct answer for the question ‘Which of the following word pronounced with a diphthongs /ɔɪ/?’ is ‘soil’. The correct option ‘leaving’ is correctly answered by 15 (50%)

respondents whereas 15(50%) respondents have attempted the question incorrectly.



Graph 6: Which is pronounced with /æ/?

From the above graph no 6 the researcher observes that the correct answer for the question ‘Which is pronounced with /æ/?’ is ‘capital’. The correct option ‘capital’ is answered by

6(20%) respondents whereas 24 (80%) respondents have attempted the question incorrectly.

3.3. Findings

The researcher had intended to undertake this research to examine the English language proficiency in pronunciation of Assistance Professors teaching at Senior college level in Nanded City. Having been gone through the data received from the questionnaire it was quite evident that most of the teacher do not read English newspaper and it is also found that their passivity towards reading English books. From this research it is found that almost all respondents do not listen to English regularly. Respondents have clearly stated that they do not listen to English regularly neither they listen English news nor any programme which is English language. The researcher has got the following findings:

- 1) Majorly the schooling of Assistant Professors' was done from Marathi medium.
- 2) The researcher also finds that while speaking English in general most of the Assistant Professors are not comfortable.
- 3) The researcher also discovers that they are average at English pronunciation. They are unaware of most of the diphthongs. When asked personally they have clearly stated that they have never been introduced to 44 sounds of English and hence they do not practise standard accent.

3.4. The Researcher suggests the following measures

- Reading English newspaper or other general books or magazines ought to be read by the teacher. The activity of reading regularly keeps the language user to think in line with English structure. The user gets familiar with unfamiliar words. Hence, it is suggested that Assistant Professors should read the English newspapers, journals, magazines, story books etc. regularly.
- Teachers should make it a habit of communicating in English as long as they are in the campus and they should keep forming day today expressions and simple sentences.
- English pronunciation is the most essential but a neglected part of Indian speakers of English. From the study it is found that in Nanded city Assistant Professors of professional courses have not learnt phonology and phonetics formally and hence neglect this part of pronunciation. Assistant Professors must be introduced with basic 44 sounds of English language, especially Diphthongs.
- The respondents should refer to online dictionaries for getting the correct pronunciation. For that matter is easy to use online dictionaries. They provide Oral Pronunciation Tab (Sign of a Speaker) when searched a particular word on mobile, laptop or other gadgets.

4. Conclusion

Teacher is known for his teaching skills. The basic skill like Speaking and writing are a must. Speaking with correct accent or standard pronunciation is essential. Learners do expect and follow their teacher's pronunciation. So, the teacher must be cautious about their pronunciation of English sounds. They must be expressive through speaking. This is an effort reflect the current picture about accent or pronunciation of English by Assistant professors of

professional courses at Nanded city. Hence, there is a greater sense responsibility on the shoulder of teachers to acquire the knowledge of English Phonology. Another responsibility of all teachers is to foster and promote awareness of Standard English Pronunciation among the students and build up confidence in them.

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Author Profile



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