

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO TEACHING ENGLISH PHONETICS AND PRONUNCIATION

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Introduction

Phonetics and pronunciation are among the most persistent challenges faced by learners of English as a foreign language. Learners often struggle with vowel length, stress patterns, intonation, and consonant clusters that differ significantly from their native language. Traditional teaching methods, while useful, frequently fail to provide sufficient practice in distinguishing and reproducing sounds. Translation, however, offers a unique pedagogical opportunity: by comparing native and target language phonetic systems, learners can develop awareness of sound differences and improve their pronunciation accuracy.

The relevance of this study lies in the growing demand for innovative approaches that integrate translation with modern digital tools. By combining traditional translation exercises with multimedia, AI, and mobile applications, teachers can create a dynamic learning environment that enhances phonetic competence and motivates learners.

The purpose of this research is to evaluate the effectiveness of translation-based methods in teaching English phonetics and pronunciation. The objectives include: Designing a system of phonetic exercises grounded in translation. Integrating audio-visual and digital tools into pronunciation practice. Assessing the impact of innovative methods such as multimedia, AI, and mobile applications on learners' phonetic competence.

Previous studies have emphasized the importance of phonetic awareness in language acquisition. Celce-Murcia, Brinton, and Goodwin (1996) highlight the role of explicit pronunciation instruction in achieving communicative competence. Kelly (2001) provides practical strategies for teaching vowels, consonants, stress, and intonation, underscoring the need for systematic phonetic trainingGoogle Books.

Recent scholarship revisits translation as a method in language teaching, showing its potential to foster deeper understanding of linguistic structures and pronunciation. Liu, Jones, and Reed (2022) argue that phonetics must be integrated into language teaching to improve learners' communicative effectivenessCambridge University Press & Assessment. Sarkar (2023) demonstrates that translanguaging and translation can enhance phonetic competence by bridging native and target language sound systems.

Despite these contributions, gaps remain in integrating translation with modern technologies, particularly in phonetic training. This study addresses these gaps by proposing innovative approaches that combine translation with digital resources.

The research employs an experimental design involving learners of English at intermediate level. Participants engage in translation-based phonetic exercises, minimal pair drills, and audio pronunciation comparisons. Innovative tools such as multimedia presentations, AI-based pronunciation apps, and mobile applications are incorporated to reinforce learning.

Data are collected through pre- and post-tests, measuring improvements in phonetic accuracy, and analyzed statistically to determine the effectiveness of the methods.

Findings indicate that translation-based phonetic exercises significantly improve learners' ability to recognize and reproduce English sounds. Learners demonstrated measurable improvement in distinguishing minimal pairs after engaging in translation exercises.

The integration of multimedia and mobile applications further enhanced motivation and engagement, with learners reporting increased confidence in their pronunciation. Compared to traditional methods, innovative translation-based approaches proved more effective in developing phonetic competence, particularly when supported by digital tools.

The discussion highlights that translation not only aids in semantic understanding but also fosters phonetic awareness. By comparing native and target language sounds, learners become more conscious of subtle differences in pronunciation. The use of AI and mobile applications provides immediate feedback, allowing learners to self-correct and refine their skills.

This study confirms the pedagogical value of translation in teaching English phonetics and pronunciation. Innovative methods, especially those involving digital and audio-visual tools, offer practical solutions for overcoming phonetic challenges. The research provides methodological recommendations for teachers, emphasizing the integration of translation exercises with modern technologies.

The findings underscore the scientific novelty of combining translation with digital phonetic training, offering a new perspective on language teaching. While limitations include the relatively small sample size and short duration of the experiment, the study opens avenues for future research on the long-term impact of translation-based phonetic instruction.

References

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