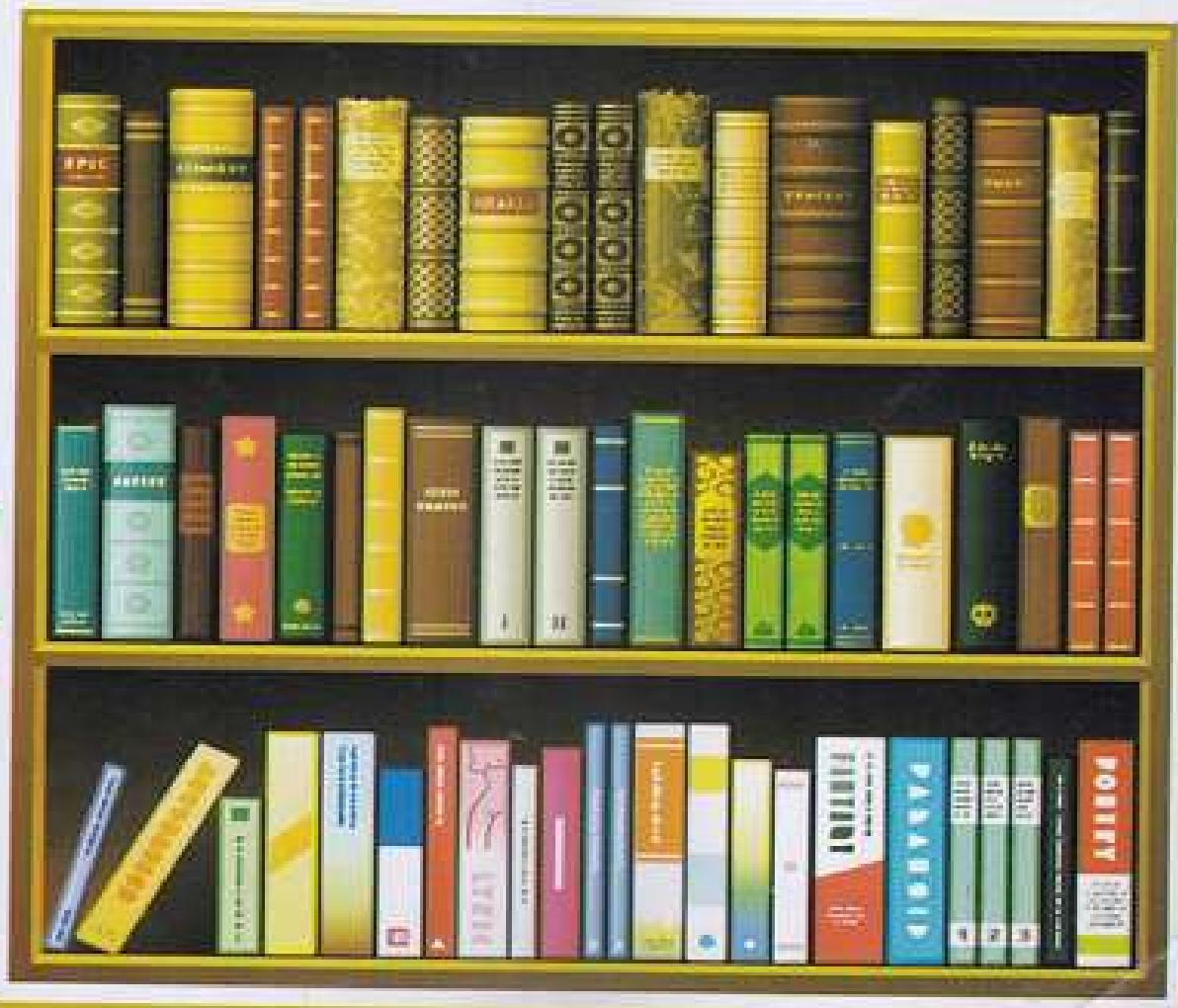


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JOURNAL OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

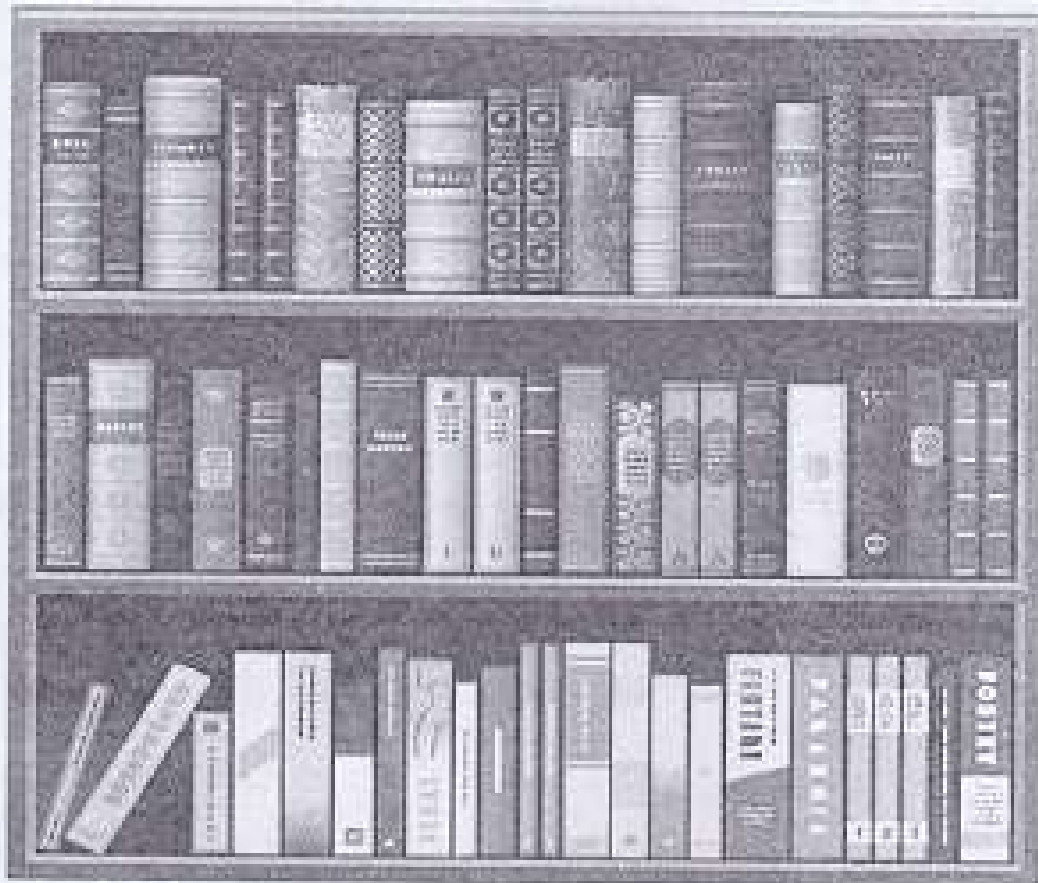


**DECEMBER 2021**

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NNAMDI AZIKIWE EXPRESSWAY, AIRPORT ROAD,  
JABI, FCT, ABUJA.



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*The NOUN Scholar*, Faculty of Arts Journal of Humanities, is an international peer reviewed Journal of Faculty of Arts, National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), Jabi-Abuja. *The NOUN Scholar* is set out from frontiers of humanities to publish well researched, scholarly, peer-reviewed articles and book reviews on topics and subject matters relating to religious motifs, Biblical Studies, Ethics, Systematic Theology, Church History, Islamic Theology, Philosophy and Sharia, Islamic Heritage, Quran and Hadith, Comparative Religion, Philosophy, Ancestral worship, The Living Dead, Reincarnation, Witchcraft, Archaeology, Anthropology. It also encourages works in Fine Arts, Visual and Performing Arts such as Music and Theatre, Gender Studies, Linguistics, Culture, Humanistically oriented 'Social Sciences', Philology, Musicology, Art History, Literary Studies, Poetry, Ethnomethodology, Folk Culture, General/Applied Linguistics and Interface Areas: Phonetics, Phonology, Morphology, Syntax and Semantics, Morphophonology, Morphosyntax, Glottochronology and Lexicography; Sociolinguistics, Multilingualism and Intercultural Communication, Linguistics and Translation, Discourse Analysis and Pragmatics; New Media and Society, Linguistics and Communication Studies/ ICT; Linguistics and Pedagogy - Mother Tongue Education; Topics in African Linguistics and their Interfaces and any other topic related to the field of Arts and Humanity Studies.

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- Where the paper is found publishable with or without corrections, an unsoiled copy shall be a prerequisite for publication as well as N20, 000 (twenty thousand Naira) for the print copy.
- Papers will go through blind peer-review/assessment. Those found publishable shall appear in *THE NOUN SCHOLAR*

### *Words from the Editor's Desk*

Welcome onboard this Volume 1 Number 2 of *THE NOUN SCHOLAR* of the National Open University of Nigeria.

We welcome you onboard again to yet another edition of *THE NOUN SCHOLAR* Volume 1 Number 2 of the National Open University of Nigeria. Yet again a multi-disciplinary read in the Arts has come again. It features researchers of repute like:

Philip Asura Nggada, Theodore Iyere, Abraham Adeiza Obakachi, Azeez Oricha, Ismaila Bolajoko Aliyu, Doris Obieje, David O. Fiki-George, Sani Allyu Gusau, Amadi E. Ahlamadu, Chukwu Nkechinyere, Iorvaa Peverga Sai, Patricia Nneka Ogbuehi, Samuel Edem, Happy D. Omenogor, Ibrahim Garba Gwammaja, Jummai Lucy Jibrin, Clement Gowon Omachonu, Ezekiel Augustine Hammangabdo, Oyebode Paul Jegede, Adaobi Muo, Sharafudeen Kareem, Lucas Saba, Ali Diko Joshua, Usman Mohammed Goro and Ahmad Abubakar Abdullahi.

Of course, the reading list extends to various topics of interest in Arts and caters for almost everybody's reading needs in Religious Studies, English Language, Literature, Discourse Analysis, French Studies, Philosophy and Others.

Thank you and I invite you to enjoy this academy journey.

*Doris L. Obieje*

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# A CONTRASTIVE SPECTROGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF SOME ENGLISH AND UKWUANI MONOPHTHONGS

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## Abstract

Acoustic phonetics is the branch of phonetics that studies speech sounds in transit. It deals with the physical properties of speech sounds as transmitted in the air from when it leaves the speaker's mouth within the moment before it gets to the listener's ears. In this study, the spoken expressions of the native English speaker (Peter Roach) are contrasted with those of Ukwuani speakers of English as a second language. Both Peter Roach and Ukwuani speakers of English as a second language articulated the same expressions. The native speakers which is also referred to as the model in the study is Peter Roach (2000), while the Ukwuani L<sub>1</sub> speakers of English as a second language represented the Ukwuani language group. The C.D run containing Peter Roach's voice which is also written in his textbook was played and our respondents are made to repeat all the expressions of Peter Roach. The spectrographic records were taken at the university of Ibadan, phonetics laboratory where the spectrographic analysis was carried out. It was found out that the tempo of the native speaker is higher than those of the Ukwuani L<sub>1</sub> speakers of English as L<sub>2</sub>. This is as a result of the many phonological rules such as elision which the native speakers observe. The said rules are alien to the Ukwuani L<sub>1</sub> speakers of English as a second language. The main objectives of this study is to contrast the spoken utterance of the native speaker with those of the Ukwuani speakers of English as a second language. The voices of Ukwuani speakers of English as L<sub>2</sub> were recorded and taken to university of Ibadan phonetics laboratory for analysis. The visible part of the English vowel one, is not as long as those pronounced by the ukwuani L<sub>1</sub> speakers of English as L<sub>2</sub>. The visible part of the vowel [ɔ:] articulated by the native speaker is longer than that pronounced by the respondents and the fact that the duration of sounds cannot be pinned down to mathematical precision is also discovered.

**Keywords :** Acoustic Phonetics, formants, visible part, Hertz, milliseconds negative transfer and Ukwuani Monophthongs.

## INTRODUCTION

### English and Ukwuani

The problem this study addresses is to point out the spectrographic contrasts between the spoken utterance of the native speaker of English and those of the Ukwuani L<sub>1</sub> speakers of English as L<sub>2</sub>.



English is an international language. It is a globalized and technological tool of communication as Oluyemisi and Bodeunde (2016:163) note. In fact, English is the most international of all languages. 'It is a member of the Indo-European family of languages called West Germanic', as Barber (1999:81-83) notes and recalled by Oyeleye (2003:1).

There are three basic categories of English usage: as a native, foreign and second language. Quirk, R. and Greenbaim, (1976) A university grammar of English. London: Longman, the importance of the English language will therefore be examined in the following section.

It is the official language of Britain, the U.S and most parts of the common wealth countries. Osakwe (2011:9) notes that 'English is the mother-tongue of hundreds of millions of people in Britain, the U.S, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.' The importance of a language is not only determined by the number of its speakers and the size of its territory, it is also determined by the importance of its speakers. It is strongly believed by scholars such as Emenajo (2006), Gold (2011) and Osakwe (2011) that the following factors must have contributed to the growing importance of the English language.

English is the unquestioned language of international business, trade and commerce. English-speaking U.S.A emerged as the prominent country of influence and power in world affairs and English is the dominant language of research and academic enterprise. Osakwe (2011:10) affirms that: English is superlatively outstanding: not by size of vocabulary (although large), or other linguistic or aesthetic criteria, but on political, economic and demographic realities. It is the major Lingua Franca in Nigeria. Osakwe further asserts that: Of all the items of merchandise that sailed in within the cultural cargo, the most important was the English language ... English ... became the living instrument and vehicle for conveying and preserving the cultures of both its home and host communities (2005:12). From the preceding facts about English, we can submit that "it is of unparalleled relevance and inevitable to Ukwuanj people who are among the many linguistic groups in Nigeria" (Omenogor 2014:4).

Ukwuanj language is one of Nigeria's indigenous languages. Ukwuanj is a member of the Benue Congo family of languages, i.e., the Kwa group (Osakwe (2010:12). Williamson (1990:139) describes Ukwuanj as a language in its own right. According to her 'Ukwuanj is a minority language which forms a cluster with Igbo and other languages. Ukwuanj is also classified as a member of the Igboid languages. They include Igbo proper, Ikwerre, Ika, Izii-Ikwo-Ezza-MgboOgba and Ukwuanj.' Ukwuanj people share boundaries with the Isoko, the Urhobo, the Ika, the Igbo and the Ijaw people.

According to Uti and Iloh (1989:4), 'the people of Abraka and Orogun spoke Urhobo and a bit of Ukwuanj'. Today, "Ukwuanj is spoken as a mother tongue in Ndokwa West, Ndokwa East and Ukwuanj Local Government Areas of Delta state" Omili (2015: ii). It is also spoken as a mother tongue in Orogun, Delta State as well as in Noni, River state. The language is, to a large extent, the same within the community, however, dialectical varieties indicative of the speakers' geographical locations exist. Ukwuanj, like English, has a Subject Verb Object (SVO) language structure. Ukwuanj plays some useful roles for its native speakers as it is part of their culture which is very important to mankind. With the language, important aspects of life of the people such as festivals, names, traditions are handed down from generation to generation.

Though a local and a relatively minority language, Ukwuanj is very important to the citizens of the Ndokwa nation. Through the language, their rich cultural heritage is preserved. It also serves as their mark of identity and distinction besides its communicative function which is highly important. With the aid of Ukwuanj language, the Ndokwa nation is able to hand down its rich cultural heritage from generation to generation as well as preserve it. Ukwuanj runs the risk of being among the endangered languages in Nigeria as many of the youths of Ndokwa nation can hardly speak it. They merely can greet and nothing more. This is why the language should be studied so that it does not go into extinction.

English is the natural language spoken as a native language in England, other parts of Britain and other places. English and Ukwuanj came in contact as a remote consequence of the arrival of the first English ship in the Nigerian coast. That is, the part of Nigeria now called 'Western minorities' to which Ukwuanj is a member. The major interest of the English people then was commercial but the commercial interest also resulted in linguistic contact which eventually brought about linguistic interest.

In a Contrastive Analysis hence forth C.A of two languages, the points of structural differences are identified and these are then studied as areas of potential difficulty that is interference or negative transfer in foreign language learning. C.A emerges primarily out of the evidence that when learning a foreign language after acquiring competence of L<sub>1</sub>, there is the tendency to transfer features of the first language (L<sub>1</sub>) to the target language (TL). The evidence of the transfer manifests primarily in the phonology of any language concerned. This is probably because according to Hyman, (1975) 'Phonology studies the physical properties of sounds of a specific language, which speakers must learn or internalize in order to use the language for the purpose of communication (1)

In addition to Hyman's view, we draw attention here to the fact that the study of the physical properties of sounds of a language is also the concern of acoustic phonetics. While acquiring a second language, there is the tendency to transfer to the target language (TL), our phonemes and their variants ... (Lado, 1975: ii).

According to Lado, (1975) C. A. is based on two assumptions:

- a. that second language learning is not the same as first language situation and
- b. that the learner does not approach the learning of L<sub>2</sub> from the scratch (11).

The language learner brings to the task of learning language tacit expectations about what he or she will be able to do with the language and presuppositions about the nature of human language which could be true or false. The above constraints necessitate Nickel's (1971) suggestion that:

Both author and teacher require a knowledge of contrastive grammar in order to be able to predict, explain, correct and eliminate errors due to interference between source and target languages (1971:15)

The contact between English and Ukwuanj is one of the cases of languages in contact, which necessitates Contrastive Analysis according to Weinreich's suggestion recalled by Uhumwangho and Anyanwu, (199:176). We subscribe to Nickel's view since C A provides the author and the teacher with a knowledge of common and divergent features of different languages, so long as ideal models are used for description. C A between English and some Nigerian languages have

attracted the attention of some linguists. Past studies on the contact of English and Nigerian languages include Oluikpe (1978), and Amayo (1992). This work is another of such studies.

### **The Procedure for Contrastive Analysis:**

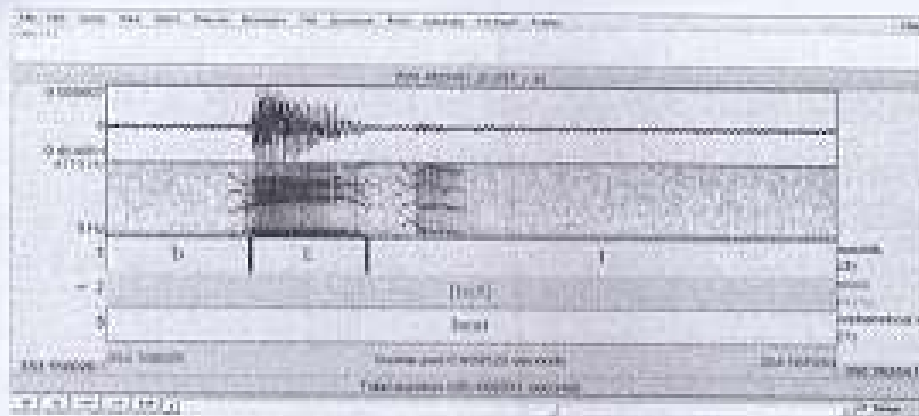
The term 'procedure' as used in linguistics refers to a particular way of arriving at a linguistic analysis or decision (See Crystal, 1979: 387). In a contrastive analysis, a linguistic analysis, of the concerned features of the two languages involved is carried out. Then the features of the two languages analyzed are compared while description of contrasts between the features of the two languages is finally carried out. The effects of the contrasts on the language user are also explained here. As Crystal notes,

Contrastive analysis is general approach to the investigation of language (contrastive linguistics), particularly as carried out in certain areas of applied linguistics, such as foreign-language teaching and translation. (2008:112).

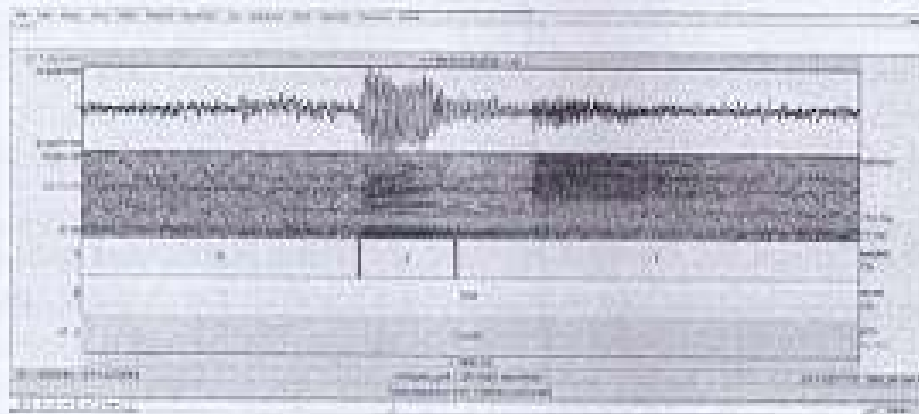
## **THE ANALYSIS**

*Beat, roof, course, earth, bid, bet* and *bus* are used in this study. These words were used because of the various phonological concepts about them in order for the researcher to find out some facts, such facts as the concept of long and short vowels; central vowels etc. The Ukwuani language does not have central vowels and long vowels hence we have to contrast the spoken utterance of these words that contain the said phonemes from the spectrographic perspective. A sound spectrogram is a visual representation of the spectrum of a sound, it is also called a voice print. Phoneticians generally use three dimensions namely; (1) frequency, shown vertically, (2) time, horizontally displayed and (3) intensity, indicated with the degree of the darkness of the formants in talking about the harmonic analysis of an utterance or a sound segment in a spectrogramme. The analysis that follows is therefore based on the above numbered variables. The different frequencies for each formant indicate their various tongue positions which account for the different vowel qualities. The higher formants are primarily determined by some qualities of an individual which he or she cannot vary and thus are not very relevant to the analysis here. The important formants for recognizing the qualities of vowels are all voiced. Osisanwo 2012:4) they are the first and the second. The analysis that follows will therefore be focused them. The control in the analysis is Roach (2010). Our data are comprised of Roach's (2010) articulations of some English expressions and those of the respondents in this study recorded in a CD rom of our Ukwuani respondents. The data articulated by Roach (the control) and the respondents are the same. The various hertz numbers quoted are supplied by the spectrograms and recorded by this researcher in the course of producing the voice prints that is spectrograms.

### **a. Beat [bi:t]**



Peter Roach



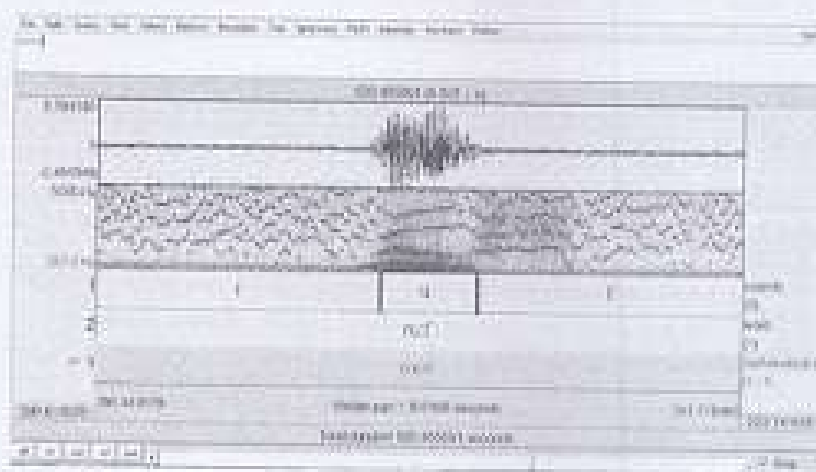
Ukwani Respondent

The interest of this researcher in 'beat' is the articulation of the long vowel [i:]. The difference in the number of hertz between the first and the second formants in the control's (i.e., Peter Roach's) pronunciation is  $F_2, 4719, \text{Hz} - F_1, 0\text{Hz} = 4719\text{Hz}$  whereas the difference in hertz between the first and second formants in the respondent's pronunciation is  $F_2, 2910 - F_1, 0\text{Hz} = 2910$ . The phonological implication of the above is that the qualities of the vowel pronounced by the control and the respondents are different. Roach pronounced the highest English front, tense vowel (English vowel [i]) while the respondent pronounced an African high front vowel. The quality of the vowel in the respondents' sound is not as high as that in the control's own. The difference is the number of  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  in the controls and the respondents' articulations, this is substantiated by the wider space between  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  in the controls and the respondent's spectrograms.

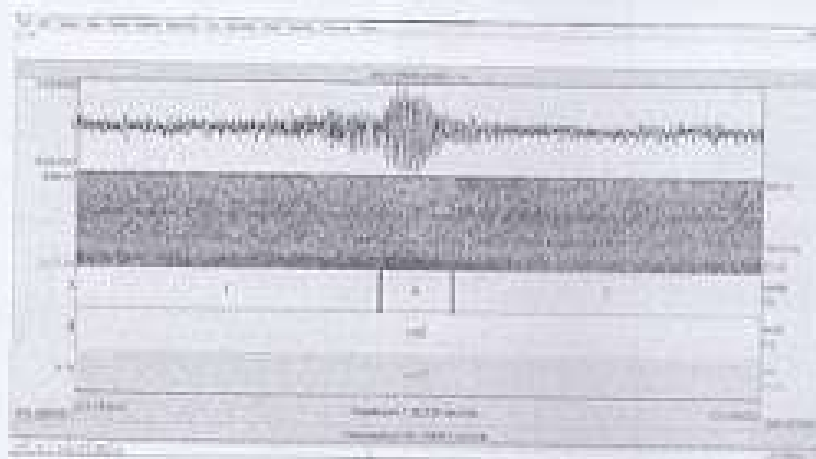
The spectrograms being analyzed show that the duration of the visible part in the control's pronunciation is approximately 1.00 milliseconds while that of the respondent is approximately 0.20 milliseconds. The visible part is perceived as from the beginning to the end of the word articulated. The interesting fact here is that the length of time taken by the control's production is not as long as that taken by the production of the respondent even if it has been observed that the respondent used an Ukwuanj vowel while the control used a long vowel. Different phonological acts in English account for the above situation. Usually, English long vowels are not as long as they ought to be whenever they precede a voiceless consonant as they do in 'beat' /bi:t/. Furthermore, phoneticians have observed that English vowels at the end of the words are in fact slightly longer at the beginning... (Crystals and House 1988a:285-294). The above principles of phonology are alien to Ukwuanj  $L_1$  speakers of English as  $L_2$ . Equally, it has been observed that Nigerians with a kwa group mother tongue, hence forth (MT) treat English as a syllable timed tonal language thereby giving English syllable more intensity and quantity [*Length*, italics mine] than they have in Standard British English (RP) (Jowitt 1991:97). Another fact that must have

shortened the duration of Roach's pronunciation is tempo, which refers to the speed of speaking (Crystal 2008:479). The tempo of the native speakers is evidently higher than the Ukwuani people's own. The native speakers observe many principles of phonology such as elision, observation of weak forms, strong forms and stress rules which our respondents are ignorant of, the total duration stated in the above spectrogram refers to the entire time frame used in the capturing of the spectrogram. It also includes the space taken by noise before the words were pronounced, so they are not accurate for measuring the duration of the pronunciations involved.  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  in Roach's spectrogram is darker than  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  in the respondents' own which indicates higher frequencies in Roach's spectrogram. Lastly, the widths of  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  in the respondents' spectrogram shown horizontally are longer than those of Roach which indicates a longer duration of the vowels pronounced.

b. Roof [ru:f]



Peter Roach

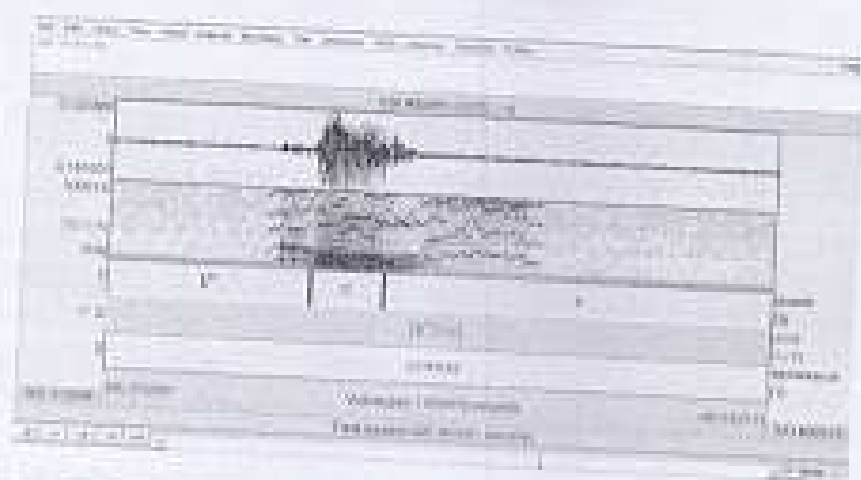


Ukwuani Respondent

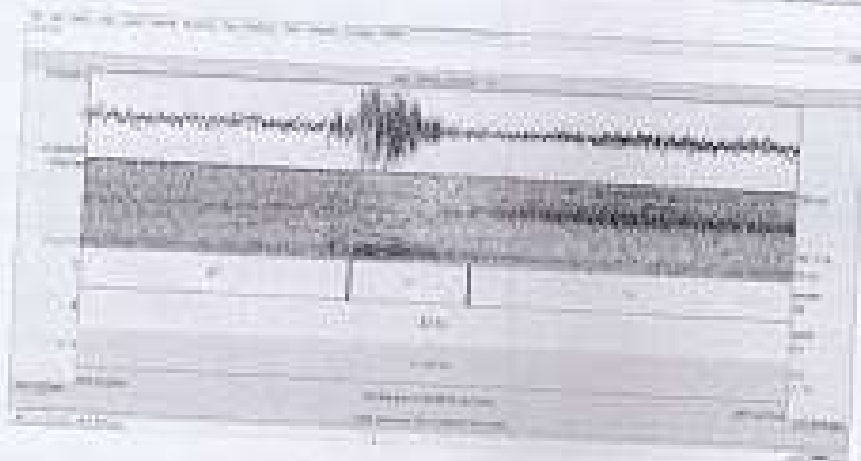
The difference in the number of hertz between  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  in the control's (Roach's) spectrogram, is  $F_2$  5000Hz- $F_1$  307.4692.40, while the difference between  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  in the respondent's spectrogram is  $F_2$  5000Hz- $F_1$  53.75Hz=4946.25 hertz. This shows that the vowels pronounced in the spectrograms are of different quantities. Roach pronounced an English high back, long vowel but the phoneme pronounced by the respondent is the same with the sound already identified as a back vowel with a high position in different Nigerian languages as was found by Aziza (2007:276)

in Urhobo language, Anagbogu, Mbat and Eme (210:118) in Igbo language as well as Ogunsiji and Olanrewaju (210:24) in Ibibio. The space between  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  in the respondent's spectrogram which is wider than the one between  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  in the control's spectrogram supports the difference in their frequencies as shown by the number of their hertz. The duration of the visible part in the control's production is approximately 1.31 milliseconds while that of the respondent is approximately 1.32 milliseconds. This shows that the production of the respondent is a bit, longer even if the control pronounced a long vowel while the respondent pronounced a short vowel. The phonological factors responsible for this situation are the same as given for the first spectrogram analyzed and substantiated with the facts observed by the earlier cited scholars.  $F_1$  in the control's spectrogram is darker than  $F_1$  in the respondent's spectrogram which shows that the control's  $F_1$  is of a higher frequency. The spectrograms clearly display this fact. Lastly, the first formant in the respondent's spectrogram has a wider width than that of the control. This width is horizontally displayed and it shows that the duration of the visible part of the respondent's spectrogram is longer than that of the control.

c. Course [kɔ:s]



Peter Roach

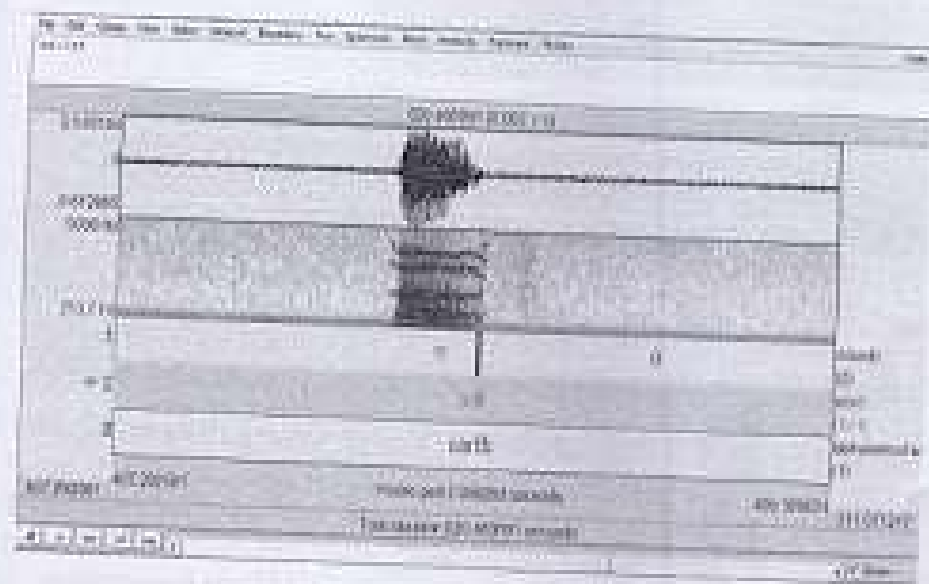


Ukwuanj Respondent

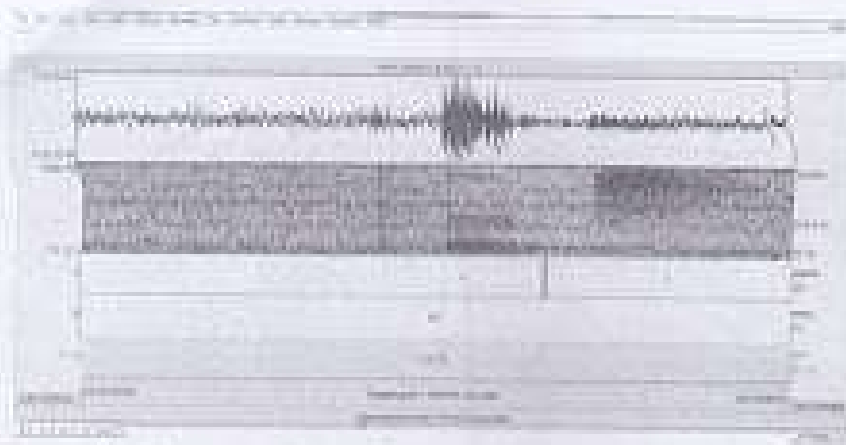
The difference in hertz between  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  in the control's spectrogram is  $F_2 = 2021\text{Hz} - F_1 = 0\text{Hz} = 2021\text{Hz}$  while that between  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  in the respondent's spectrogram is  $F_2 = 5000\text{Hz} - F_1 = 214.4\text{Hz} = 4785.6\text{Hz}$ . These frequencies are corroborated with the gap between  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  in the respondent's voice print which is wider than the one between  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  in the control's voice print that is spectrogram. The above differences show that the vowels articulated are not of the same quality and quantity. The control articulated an English open, long, back vowel while the

respondent articulated an open vowel. The observed difference in quality is that while the control's production is just a little below the half open position, the respondent's own is actually lower and it is more open besides being short relatively. The width of  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  shown horizontally in the control's spectrogram are longer than those observed for  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  in the respondent's spectrogram. This fact supports the duration of the visible parts of the spectrograms as supplied by the spectrograph: approximately 1.26 milliseconds for the control and 0.94 milliseconds for the respondent's voice print (spectrogram). The recorded durations of the visible parts of the above spectrograms show the English long vowel [ɜ:] is truly longer than the Ukwani [ɔ]. This is a deviation from the earlier observation in the earlier spectrograms. This fact is a pointer to the observation by some scholars that mathematical precision may not be achieved at all times in the measurement of acoustic features. This position is supported by the psychological view of the phoneme to the effect that the phoneme is 'a mental reality. The phoneme is defined as 'the intention of the speaker or the impression of the hearer, or both' (Twaddell 1935:56) in Hyman (1975:72). The proponents of the above position stipulate that 'each time a speaker pronounces the sound [P] it is acoustically never quite the same as the [P], the speaker must have internalized an image or idealized picture of the sound, a target which he tries to approximate' (Hyman 1975:72). The above facts and a possible difference in the tempo of speech can be responsible for the acoustic features of the spectrogram being analyzed. The higher degree of darkness of the  $F_1$  in the respondent's voice print, than that in  $F_1$  in the control's voice print also explain the higher frequency of  $F_1$  in the respondent's voice print as is displayed by 214.4 for the respondent and 0Hz for the control.

d. Earth [ɜ:ə]



Peter Roach



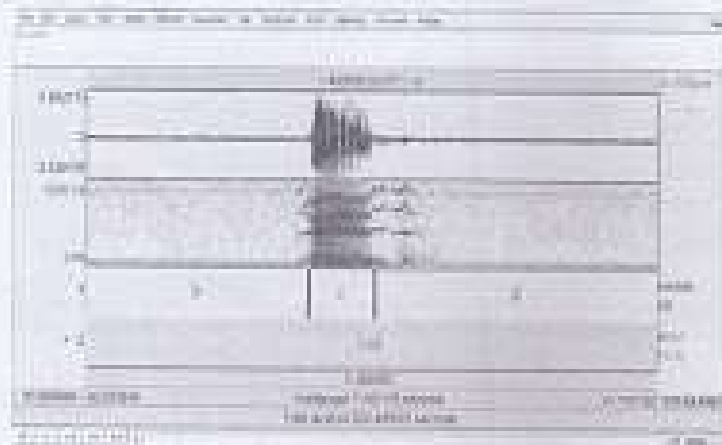
Ukwuanj Respondent

The difference in frequency between the first formant and the second in the control's articulation =  $F_2$  5000Hz -  $F_1$  253;7Hz = 4746.3Hz while the difference in the respondent's production is -  $F_2$  5000Hz -  $F_1$  1198Hz = 4880.20Hz. These figures show a wider space between  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  in the respondent's production. It indicates that the vowels articulated by the control and the respondent differ in quantity and quality. The control pronounced the English long, neutral, tense, central vowel i.e English vowel [i:] while the respondent pronounced an Ukwuanj half open front unrounded vowel. The phonological facts advanced in the third analysis are also responsible for the fact that the control's pronunciation actually has a longer duration than the respondents.

e: Bid [bid]



Peter Roach



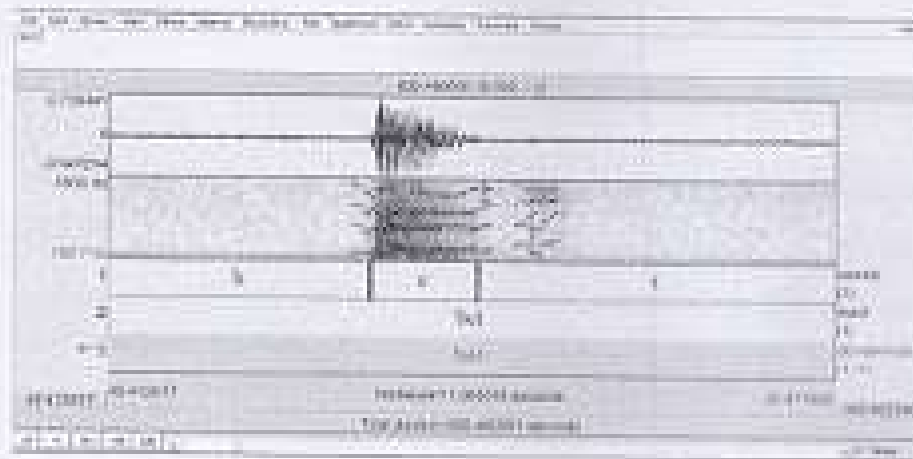
Ukwuanj Respondent

The difference in frequency between  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  in the control's articulation is  $F_2$ :4265Hz -  $F_1$  0Hz = 4265Hz while the difference between  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  is  $F_2$  in the respondent's spectrograms is

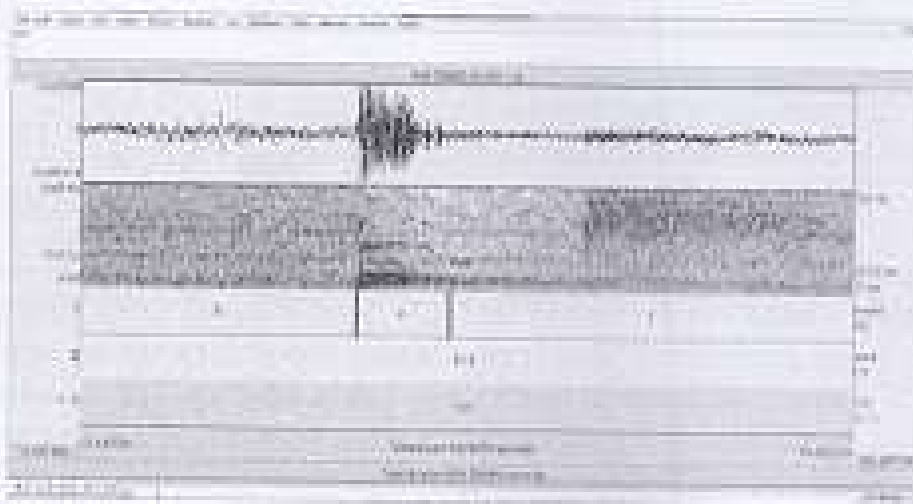


5000Hz-  $F_1$  187.5 = 4812.5Hz. This implies that the control (Roach) and the respondents' pronounced vowels of different qualities and to some extent quantities. Roach pronounced a short, lax, closed, front vowel that is English vowel 2 while the respondent pronounced a half-closed front unrounded vowel. Both vowels are high but the vowel pronounced by the respondent is not as high as that of the control's. The control's vowel is more closed. Duration wise, the respondent's articulation is a bit longer since its visible part takes 1.58 milliseconds while that of the control takes 1.48 milliseconds.

Bet [bet]



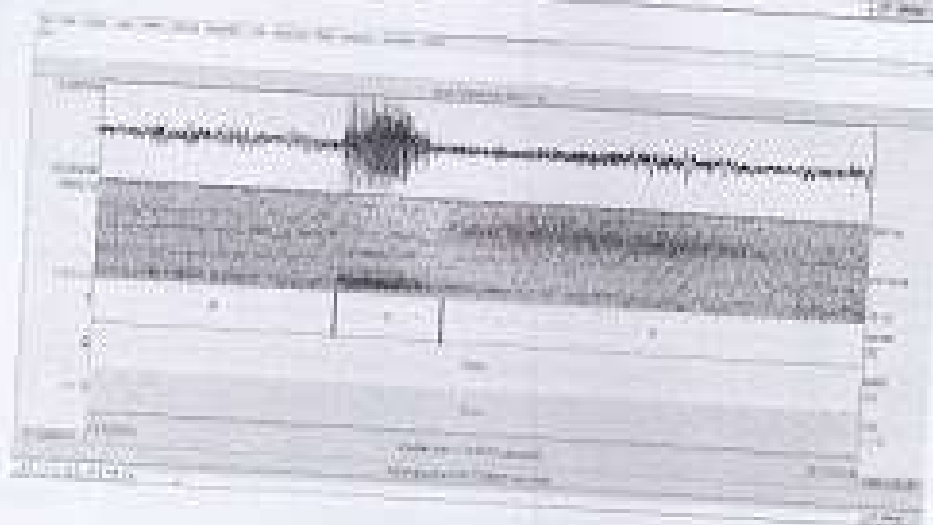
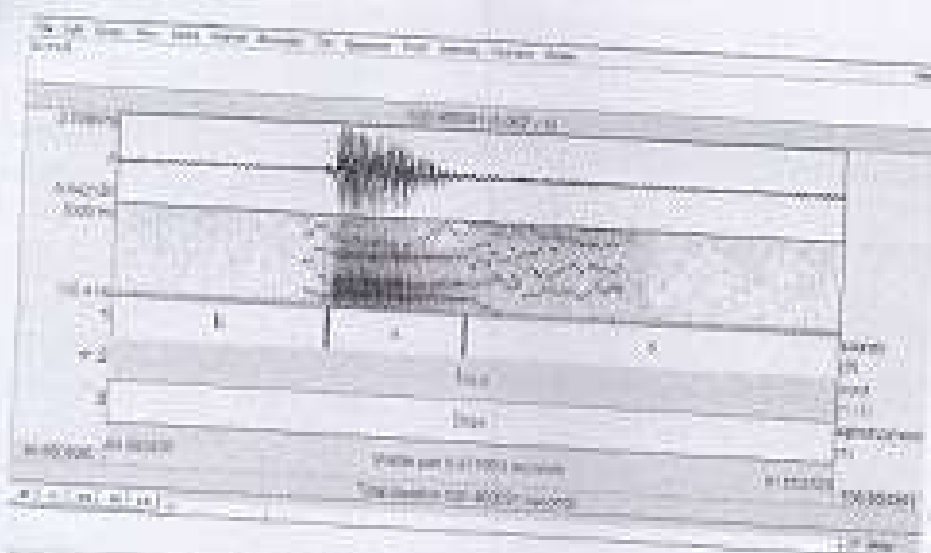
Peter Roach



Ukwuanj Respondent

The difference in hertz between  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  in the control is 4800 hertz while the difference between  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  in the respondent is 1453 hertz. It therefore proves the fact that they are producing different sounds. *Duration wise, the English [e] is longer than the respondent's [E] as was shown in the duration of the visible part.* The higher hertz in the control is supported by the darker formants. While Peter Roach pronounced a front vowel between a half close and half open position the respondent pronounced a speech sound that is half open which is [E].

## f. Bus [bʌs]



The difference in hertz between  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  in the Peter Roach is  $F_2$  5000Hz- $F_1$  156.4Hz=4843.6Hz while the difference between  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  in the respondent is  $F_2$  5000 Hertz- $F_1$  119.8Hz=4880.2Hz. It shows that different sounds are pronounced. Roach pronounced a short, central, lax vowel while the respondent pronounced a sound different in quality like [ɔ] in English. The duration sound pronounced by the control as is indicated in the respondent's pronunciation has a higher frequency as can be seen from the darkness and the first formant. The respondent's sound is longer than the control's.

## FINDINGS

1. The tempo of the native speakers represented by Roach is higher than that of Ukwuanj people's because the native speakers observe some principles of phonology which Ukwuanj people are ignorant of.
2. It is also discovered that the widths of  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  in the respondent's spectrogram are longer than that of the control's which indicates that the sound in the respondent's spectrogram is longer even if the control pronounced a long vowel. This is observed in the analysis of [ɪ].
3. Some English long vowels are not as long as some Ukwuanj short vowels as revealed by the spectrograms studied. For instance, the English [i:] and the Ukwuanj [ɪ].

4. English [a:] is truly longer than the Ukwuanj [ɔ] and the duration of the visible part for the English sound is also longer than the Ukwuanj sound. [ʌ] is shorter than the speech sound articulated by the respondent as their visible parts show.

## CONCLUSION

The tempo, which is speed in speech of the native speaker is higher than of the Ukwani language speaker. Sound duration of the English men cannot be pinned down to mathematical precision because it cannot be constant as a result of the various principles of phonology such as elision, which they observe. The Ukwani people are completely ignorant of the principles of phonology of English. The central vowels are a source of problem for the Ukwani speaker of English as L<sub>2</sub> as observed in this study

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Spectrographic analysis should be carried out between English and other Nigerian languages so that it can be confirmed whether the results will be the same as it is with the Ukwuanj speakers of English as L<sub>2</sub>. Any teacher to teach the Ukwuanj L<sub>1</sub> speakers of English as L<sub>2</sub>, should concentrate on the English central vowels as they are found to constitute problems of pronunciation as the spectrograms display.

NB:

Kay Williams is a woman.

Ukwuanj: This is the right way of writing "Ukwuanj" according to the orthography of the language. The "j" is dotted up and down.

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