

PRONUNCIATION PROBLEMS AMONG JUKUN (WAPAN) ENGLISH SPEAKERS

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ABSTRACT

People learning a new language like English cannot use it effectively as a medium of communication; spoken or written unless they know and correctly use its components one of which is pronunciation. Poor communication distorts meaning. This paper therefore is primarily an investigation on pronunciation problems among Jukun (Wapan) speakers of English. It provides information on why these problems possibly occur and the specific English phonemes that Wapan speakers of English find difficult to pronounce or articulate. Only segmental phonology is considered and the model for the study is Received Pronunciation (RP). The study revealed that, pronunciation problems among the people are due to some extent at least, to mother-tongue influence. In spite of this, however, we cannot generalize because even among the people, ranging from the very highly educated to those with limited education we find a very great range of usage.

Keywords: Jukun, Received Pronunciation, segmental phonology, Mother-tongue influence, conflation and epenthesis.