

PHONOLOGICAL SKILLS ACQUISITION WITH REFERENCE TO ENGLISH CONSONANTS IN NIGERIAN SCHOOLS

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ABSTRACT

Speaking is one of the language skills that has proven a serious level of difficulty to the second language learner of English. This is the skill that the teaching of English phonology tries to develop in the learner-speaker of English language. Phonology is taught in segmental and supra-segmental dimensions, and the segmental phonology, particularly the consonant types have been influenced adversely by the fossilized aspects of the mother tongues of the learners. This paper is intended to proffer solutions to such linguistic problems by identifying the criteria for the description of the consonant types in English and embarking on the concise and comprehensive description of each consonant type. It is expected that the description of the consonant types will aid the learner in acquiring the speaking skill in English language. To do this, the researchers have relied more heavily on the library type of research, though some important cues have been taken from some language laboratory works.