

**PHONOLOGICAL INFLUENCE OF YORUBA ON  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**BY**

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**SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR THE AWARDS OF BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A) DEGREE IN  
LINGUISTICS AND AFRICAN LANGUAGES UNIVERSITY OF BENIN.**

**SEPTEMBER, 2015**

**I**

## **CERTIFICATION**

I, **NGOZI FOLASHADE DIOKPA** a student in the department of linguistics and African languages, university of Benin, with Matriculation number **ART1101043** have completed the requirements for course work and research of Bachelor of Arts degree of the University of Benin. The work embodied in this project is original and has not been submitted in part or whole for any other degree or diploma programme of this or any other university or institution.

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**EXTERNAL EXAMINER**

## **Dedication**

This work is dedicated to the most High, and Mighty God who sustained my through my academic years in the university of Benin. And to my grandmother MARIA DIOKPA for being there for me. Your memories remain in my heart.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I give glory to almighty God, the all sufficient and ever faithful God, the beginning and the end who led me graciously from the beginning of this program to the end. All glory belong to you for the great grace upon my life

I want to specially appreciate my loving parents Mr. and Mrs. Diokpa for their love, provision, and never season prayers, I want to thank them for their struggles in other to lay a good foundation to my success. God will make them reap the fruit of their labor and add length of days to their life

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I also want to appreciate the head of department Prof. B.A OKOLO and all the lecturers of the department of linguistics and African languages

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## **ABSTRACT**

This study aims at identifying the phonological influence of Yoruba language on English language. The need for this study is to find out the features that are peculiar to Yoruba speaker of English as a second language. Recorded speeches of thirteen speakers were analyzed and evaluated. The data was gotten

from the international corpus of English, Nigeria. The theoretical framework employed in the analysis of data is the preference operations Grammar (ugorji 2010, 2013). The study discovered that Yoruba speaker who use English as a second language tend to substitute sound segments which are not functional in their language with those that are functional in their language, and they also make use articulatory simplification in other to articulate English word with ease. This study concludes that the features of Yoruba language reflect in the use of English of Yoruba speakers

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.0 Introduction**

Language influences each other as a result of contact phenomenon among languages. The global spread of English language is responsible for the different

varieties of English which differ from the ‘standard’ to ‘non-standard’ varieties. Some of the varieties of English are the American English, British English, Australian English, Ghanaian English, Cameroonian English, Nigerian English, the list is inexhaustible. Nigerian English is one of the varieties of English used by Nigerians to communicate across socio-cultural boundaries; Nigerian variety of English is different from that of other native speaker because Nigerian English bears Nigerian marks. This is affirmed by Ugorji (2010: 134) which states that “Nigerian English can be described as that English that was extracted from England by the British, processed in Nigeria by Nigerians and used for its intra-national and international communication need”. Odumuh (1987) subdivides NE into three dialects arising from the influences of the three major (regional) languages of Nigeria, also referred to as “national languages.” These he categorizes as Hausa, Yoruba and Igbo Englishes. Ugorji (2010) also identified Igbo English, Hausa English and Yoruba English as the major types of English which arises from mother tongue transfer. The purpose of this work is to identify the features peculiar to Yoruba English because there are some features which are peculiar to Yoruba English which differentiates them from other varieties of English. Yoruba speakers of English have the way in which they pronounce English words which varies from that of other varieties of English.

They tend to replace segments, simplify segments in order to suit the structure of their language, in doing this a new variety of English is revolving because their English varies but there is still a level of mutual intelligibility between their English and that of other varieties of Nigerian English.

## **1.8 Yoruba Language**

Parkvall (2007b) states that “Yoruba language is a Nigerian language spoken in west Africa mainly in Nigeria, the number of speakers of Yoruba is approaching 30million. He further stated that it is spoken principally in Nigeria and Benin with communities in other part of Africa, Europe and America”. Yoruba is closely related to Itsekiri language and to Igala. According to parkvall (2007) they allocated primarily in the south-west of Nigeria, it is spoken majorly in the following states; Ogun, Ekiti, Lagos, Osun, Ondo, Oyo and some parts of Kwara. In the south western part of Nigeria it is the language of the media and literature this is supported by pulleybank (1990:265-266) states that;

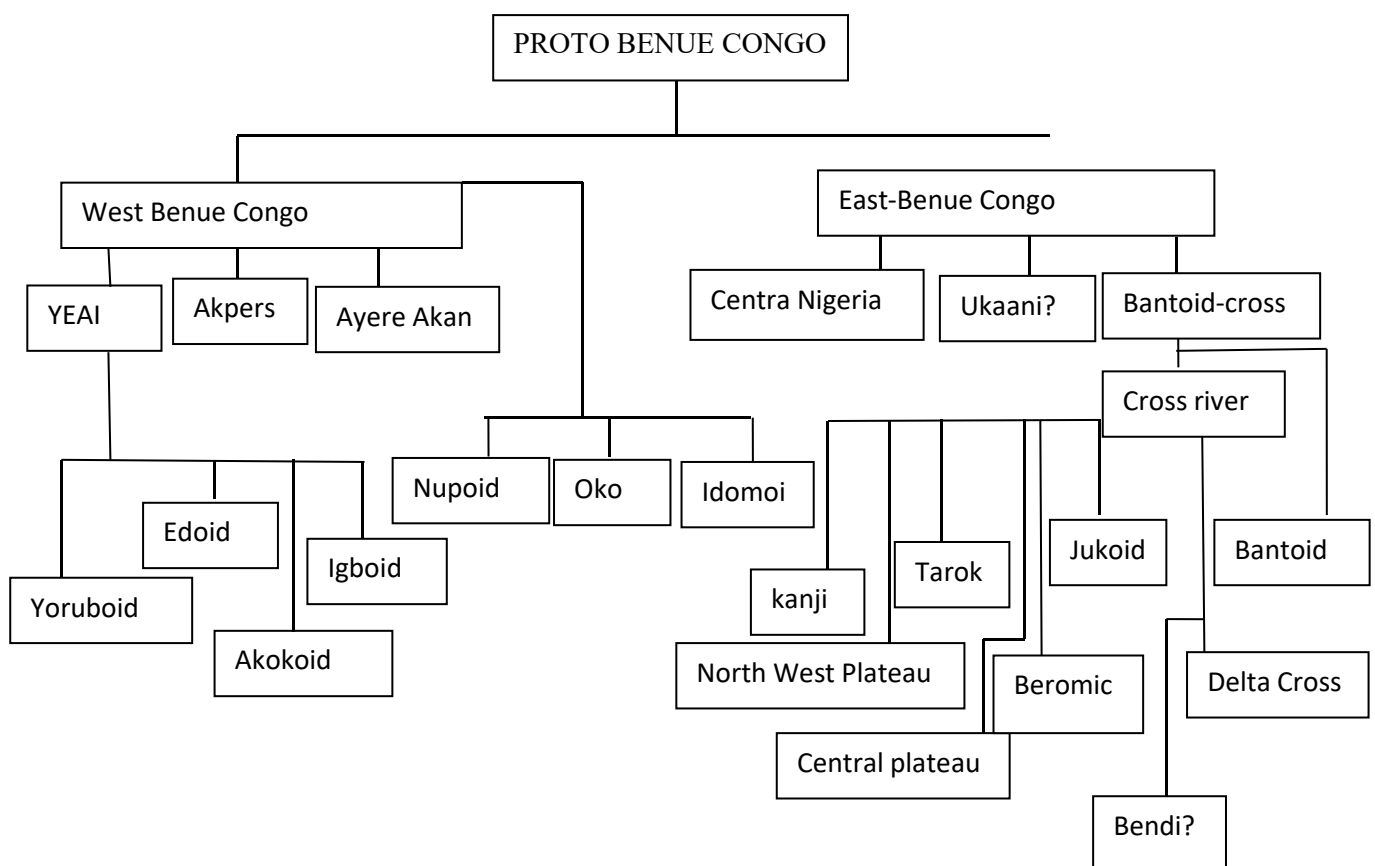
“the vast majority of the speakers of Yoruba are found in Nigeria (16 million) located particularly in oyo, ogun, ondo, and kwara state it is studied up in the universities and serve as the medium of instruction for courses in Yoruba linguistics and literature. It is of course well established as a broadcasting language for radio and television (newspaper)”

## 1.9 Linguistic Classification of Yoruba

According to Grimes (1996) west Benue Congo corresponding to the former ‘eastern kwa’ is spoken over the greater part of southern Nigeria extending further north in the west than the east. According to grimes (1996) Yoruba being one of the languages in Benue Congo finds its root under West Benue Congo and later was derived from Yeai (yoruboid, edoid, akokoid and igboid).

According to Williamson and blench (2000) Yoruba language was classified under the proto-Benue Congo family which was further classified into the West Benue Congo sub group and was classified under YEAI (yoruboid, edoid, akokoid and igboid). The family trees of protobenue Congo language is represented below;

Fig. 1: Benue Congo languages Williamson and blench (2013:13)



## **1.10 Status of English Language**

According to Ugorji (2010) English language has acquired an important status in the Nigerian society. English language serve as an official language in Nigeria, it is also a language of education , he further stated that it has been the country's most crucial language because it is a language of commerce, evangelisation, science, and technology.

Ugorji (2010) opined that English language is a national mark of education and educatedness; it is required for a well-paid job including government jobs. English generally dominates the linguistic ecology of Nigeria; it is an inevitable tool of social advancement as it is a requirement for any and every upward social mobility. He further stated that as Nigeria's official language It is one language in which all official thinking is done, documented, preserved and conveyed whether or not such is available in any or all of the major indigenous languages. In otherworld's, all formal or official thinking is conveyed in English and it is taught as a subject in schools.

## **1.11 Methodology**

The data for this research was gotten from international corpus of English, Nigeria. The files are spoken demonstration file and spoken parliamentary file. The files contain discourse of different Yoruba speakers of English, they are fifteen Yoruba speakers in number, and there are nine women and five men. The files were selected because it has more numbers and the duration of the files are longer compared to other files in the corpus. And due to the time frame of this research, we had to work on two files in other to make a better analysis. The duration of the files lasted for about three hours.

The first files contains speeches of politicians having parliamentary debate while the second file contains speech of TV presenters demonstrating different craft work, how to take care of our body and how to prepare some meals. From the spoken demonstration file, nine waves were selected and transcribed which are Dem 02,04,05,06,08,09,10,11 and 14 while twelve files were selected from the parliamentary files which are parl01, 02, 04, 05, 06, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 16 and 18, the total number of the selected wave files are twenty one (21)

The data are not free from background noises but the researchers had to listen through and choose sections which are free from background noise. After downloading the data, the speech forms of the informants gotten from the corpus were transcribed and classified into sections. After transcribing the segments which are present in both languages were neglected and the focus was

on the segments which are not functional in Yoruba language but are in English language.

### **1.12 Purpose of Study**

The purpose of this research is to identify the characteristics that are peculiar to Yoruba speakers. This research also aims at identifying features peculiar to Yoruba English which makes it different from other varieties of Englishes because it has been noted that the English language in Nigeria exhibits certain distinctive features that cannot be ignored. The purpose of this research is to identify the ones peculiar to Yoruba speakers.

The purpose of this study is to check closely on how the mother tongue influences English and to help bridge the gap between the English of Yoruba speakers and other varieties of English. The purpose of this research is to note the linguistic constraints that characterize various contexts of English words used by Yoruba speakers. The purpose of the research is to identify features that occurs more frequently in the English of Yoruba speakers.

### **1.13 Scope of Study**

This research would not go beyond segmental level though phonology can be studied from both segmental and supra segmental level. Due to the time frame of this research our focus will be on segment, the time frame of the research would not be enough to work on both segments and the suprasegments.

In this research our focus will be on Yoruba speakers, the speech forms of Yoruba speakers of English is worked on using data gotten from international corpus of English Nigeria (ICE) where about twenty two (21) wave files were selected and analysed.

#### **1.14 Significance of Study**

The contact phenomenon between English and our indigenous languages has led to what is known as varieties of English. This research is significant because it would help in identifying speech sounds that are peculiar to Yoruba speakers of English.

It will help Yoruba speakers get familiar with the linguistic factors that will make their English different from that of other varieties of English. This research will help Yoruba speakers know why they can articulate some segment easily and while they articulate some segments with difficulties. This research will be of benefit to all Yoruba speakers who intend to improve on their spoken English from this study they will know the point in which their mother tongue tends to interfere with their spoken English.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

#### **2.0 Introduction**

The focus of this chapter is on the review of relevant literature. The chapter covers the conceptual review of literature, which is followed by previous studies carried out on the phonology of Nigerian English and lastly the concern of the present study is discussed.

#### **2.1 Conceptual review of Literature**

Related terms in the literature as the work is concerned will be reviewed. What is phonology and some other related socio-linguistic aspects such as language interferences, phonological interferences and some others have been selected for review.

##### **2.1.1 What is phonology?**

Hyman (1975:1) states that “the goal of phonology is to study the properties of the sound system which speakers most learn and internalize in order to use their language for the purpose of communication”

Yul-ifode (1991:1) states that phonology “ deals with sounds and it concerns itself with significant speech sounds”. She stated further that “phonology requires human being with functional auditory and articulatory vocal system as its source of data”

Okolo and Ezikjeojiaku (1993:103) defines phonology as the scientific study of speech sounds and speech pattern in a language”. He further stated that “...every language in the world has its own sounds system and sound pattern”

Ladeford (2001:33) defines phonology as “the description of the systems and pattern of sounds that occurs in a language and it involves studying the language to determine its distinctive sounds”. Clark, et al (2007:2) sees phonology as “often associated with the study of “higher level of speech organisation”.

Osisanwo (2009:3) sums it up thus “ from the foregoing, it can be deduced that every language has sounds or a sound system. The sounds in their system are not without their properties and it becomes willy-nilly for every speaker to learn, master and internalize them to communicate better”.

This is to say that phonology is the study of how speech sounds are organised and functions in a language. It is the study of the theoretical aspect of speech sounds.

### **2.1.2 Segmental / Supra segmental phonology**

Phonology can be classified broadly into two levels; segmental and supra-segmental phonology. Segmental phonology is the study of sound segmental and how they come together to form meaningful utterances. To make it clearer, Roach (2006:44) states that “ it sometimes helpful to think of the phonemic system as similar to “.... set of pieces used in a chess .... in a similar way we have a more or less fixed set of pieces (phonemes) with which to play the game of speaking English” Osisanwo (2009:4) states that segmental phonology “is the aspect of phonology that studies individual sound segments and how these segments comes together” supra-segmental phonology is an aspect that function above the individual sound units. This is supported by Hyman(1975:187) which stated that “segment are used to refer to both phonological and grammatical unit larger than the segments”.

Roach (2000:45) believes that supra-segmental concerns those aspects that extend over several segments (phonemes) such as stress and intonation.

### **2.1.3 Bilingualism/ Multilingualism**

Bilingualism is a situation whereby more than a language is present in a society. Bloomfield (1933) regards bilingualism as a ‘‘name like control of two languages’’. The implication of the definition is that the speaker must be competent in the two languages before he can qualify to be a bilingual. He must be able to read, write, listen and comprehend the structures of the two languages.

Haugen (1953:7) states that bilingualism is the ability of a speaker of one language to produce complete and meaningful utterances in another language.

Mackey (1970) regards bilingualism as the alternative use of two or more language by an individual.

Diebold (1961) however, is of the opinion that an individual can acquire two languages at the same time which is not in accordance with the principle of language acquisition. Basically, bilingualism is

- The ability to speak two languages
- The frequent use (as by a community of two languages)
- The political or institutional recognition of two languages

Weinreich (1968:1) one of the fathers’ of bilingual studies and a bilingual himself, states that ‘‘ the practice of alternatively using two language will be called bilingualism and the person involved bilingual.

#### **2.1.4 Language Contact**

Hadumod (1996:120) states that language contact “is a situation in which two or more languages co-exist within one state. The speaker will use those different languages alternatively in a specific situation”.

Shomaron (2001: 3) opined that language contact is the use of more than one language in the same place at the same time.

Miller (1996:388) distinguishes between super stratum, substratum and adstratum contact situation. In superstratal contexts, the language of a socially powerful element in a society influences the language of less powerful groupings. These are common in place of post colonial experiences with word of the colonizer’s language finding their way into the language of the colonized

Adstratal influence is where two or more languages come into contact but there is no dominant community. Substrate influence involves influences of a dominant language by a less dominant one (often one which is losing native speakers). According to Miller (1996) opines that language contact occurs when two or more languages or varieties interact. The study of language contact is called contact linguistics. When speakers of different language interact closely, it is typical for their language to influence each other. Languages normally develop by accumulating dialectal differences until two dialects cease to be mutually intelligible. Language contact can occur at language boarder between adstratum languages or as the result of migration with an intrusive language acting as either as super stratum or a substratum.

Adeniran (1987) sums that English language coming in contact with indigenous Nigerian language have led to the varieties of English in which it reflects the culture of the people that uses it.

Dadzie (2004) states that the contract between English and the mother tongue is what he calls “linguistic ferment” which leads us to a linguistic form or a shift from the contact language and a sought of interlanguage is created which have some mixture of the features of both our mother tongue and English.

Language contact occurs when two or more languages or varieties interact. The study of language contact is called contact linguistics when speakers of different languages interact closely it is typical for their language to influence each other’s

### **2.1.5 Language Interference**

Romaine (1989) opines that when two codes overlaps then interference has occurred. He further stated that interference is possible if the two languages involved are related in some areas. For instance, if the two languages have the same word order or even if not the same but very close to each other that interference will be possible

Alabi (2007:85) states that “interference implies the rearrangement of patterns that result from the introduction of foreign element into more highly

structured domain of a language such as (Bulk of ) phonology, syntax as well as some area of vocabulary culture and discourse”.

Osisanwo (2009:139) states that ‘‘interference has to do with the carryover of the linguistics’ habits of individuals’ first language to the second language’’.

Adedemeji (2007:160) states that ‘‘ interference is the negative transfer of what obtains in the source language of Nigerian language to the target language English’’.

### **2.1.6 Phonological Interference**

There are many types of interference according to different scholars; Alabi (2007) identified three types of interferences which are phonological, lexical and grammatical interferences.

Alabi (2007:86) states that ‘‘Phonological interference refers to a situation where a bilingual or L2 learner substitutes the sounds or feature of his mother tongue for those of the target language’’ .He further stated that at the phonological level of interference the speaker transfers’ sounds in his first language to the second language, this becomes possible through his or her approximation of sounds in the second language with those of the first language.

## **2.2 Previous Studies**

Different works have been carried out on the phonological interference of different indigenous Nigerian languages on English. Works have been carried

out on the major Nigerian languages and also the minority languages. Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa have been identified as the major types of varieties of English. Different scholars have carried out various works on these languages to discover features peculiar to them.

Banjo (1996) proposes two types of varieties based on mother tongue influence, that is our mother tongue affect our English. He also gives phonological examples based on ethno-linguistics variations in Nigerian English noting that

“one of the three major Nigerian languages Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba has up to ten diphthongs.... and in many cases R<sub>p</sub> diphthongs are monophthongs.... while some languages like Hausa and Igbo do have the phonemes /z/ others like Yoruba do not have it”

He analysed further that “Yoruba speaker would substitute /z/ for /s/ and similarly for some language /f/ is substituted for /v/ and /s/ is substituted for /ʃ/. He also noted that these feature are mostly peculiar to uneducated Yoruba speakers which he classified as variety one Basilectal.

Banjo in his work identified features that are peculiar to the three main Nigerian languages. He differentiated between Hausa English and Yoruba English. He noted that Hausa have diphthongs which are absent in Yoruba and Igbo English.

He used level of education on classifying the features peculiar to the three major Nigerian languages, noting that uneducated Nigerian speakers which he termed 'Basilectal' have more mother tongue influence.

Banjo (1996:76) stated that " in correlating ethnic pronunciation pattern to Sociolectal hierarchy, homophony occurs more in "Basilectal" speech than in "Acrolectal speech due to absence of vowel length". He went further to state the example in which it occurs, " Nigerian English variety one also known as Basilectal pronounces /Liv/ in equivalent to Rp /li:v/ and /faja/ is represented as /faið/".

In Banjo's work on vowel length, in which he used level of educational attainment in classifying Nigerian English, he concluded that absence of vowel length occurs less frequently in the English of educated Nigerian which he termed 'acrolectal'. In his work he compared Nigerian English to Rp, it was during an error analysis between Nigerian spoken English and Received Pronunciation (RP).

Jowith (2000) identified some phonological features that are peculiar to Yoruba English. He stated that some Yoruba speakers have problems producing (h); they either drop or insert where it does not exist. Jowith (2000:79) states that

“/h/ is rare in Yoruba, Yoruba speakers tend to omit it from its syllable initial position... there is a converse tendency to insert a word initial /h/ when it is not required”.

Jo/with identifies one of the features peculiar to Yoruba English that though /h/ is present in the sound inventory of Yoruba speakers they still face problems in its production.

Awonusi (2004:214) states that “ the variant /tʃ/ in ‘shoe’ is substituted with /f/, that the English voiceless palato alveolar fricative has different variables in Nigerian English phonology; he confirms that “...the variant [s] in ‘shoe’ is used by some Yoruba speakers in Oyo Ibadan area’.

Olaniyi (2005) identifies some linguistics features which are common with the three major ethnic groups in Nigerian. He showed that socially however that there are feature which are peculiar to the three major languages. Hse identified that /t/ and /d/ are used in place of /θ/ and /ð/ and that feature shared between the three major ethnics in Nigeria is enough to make them stereotype in their own right.

He stated that /d/ in used in place of / ð/ and /t/ in place of /θ/, that this is general in English of the three major Nigerian languages.

Alabi (2007:86) states that ‘substitution is a major part of phonological interference triggered by language contact, that it is a linguistic situation

whereby a speaker found a sound which is absent in the sound system of his or her first language but it is present in the target language and replaces it with sounds that are available in his or her language''. He identified sounds such as /ɔ/, /æ/, /ɜ:/ and /ɑ:/ as in words like father, cat, birth, and star. And he stated that they may be replaced with cardinal vowel /a/ by Nigerian speaker of English.

Unit (2009) worked on the Anang ascent of English, she discussed the segmental and suprasegmental features. She explained sound substitution, monophthongisation of diphthongs, simplification of final consonants cluster, devoicing of voiced sounds, shortening of long vowels and spelling pronunciation under segmental feature. At the suprasegmental level he paid attention to intonation, shift in accentuation and rhythm.

Ugorji (2010) states that Nigerian English consist of the English of colonial and decolonial times as its base is enriched by socio cultural materials which maybe uniquely Nigerians. He work on the phonology of the three major Nigerian languages in Nigerian and he identified feature that are peculiar to English of these regions and used their level of educational attainment as a socio linguistic factor in classifying them into varieties. He identifies some features which are peculiar to Yoruba speakers.

Ugorji (2010:101) states that "... some part of the west substitutes /tʃ/ with /f/ such that "which and wish, chair and share are homophonous".

According to him, these are speech patterns associated with less educated Yoruba speakers of English. He also noted in Ugorji (2010:103) that “in the west however /z/ may be substituted with /s/ and /ʃ/ may be substituted with /s/” he also confirm that /h/ is elided were they are to occur and affixed before vowel initial which is a feature share by both Yoruba speaker of English with an average of primary education from his work one can deduce that the higher an individual level of education the less mother tongue influence he/she here in his/her use of English.

Adebileji (2013) in his work titled “is bilingualism in teaching of English as a second language a curse or blessing” examined the spoken English of teachers of junior and senior secondary schools in Ogun state. He stated that many teachers “ about 85% could not distinguish between /i:/ and /i/ as in ‘feat’ /si:t/ and ‘sit’ /sit/, ‘bread’ /bi:d/ and /bid/. He also stated that majority of teacher’s nasalized English vowels which is preceded by nasal consonant”.

He gave examples which are “/teskbuk/ instead of /tekstbuk/ for the word “textbook”, /botul/ instead of /botl/ for the word bottle. /ʃaild/ instead of /tʃaild/ for the word child.

He also work on the variation on lexical and grammatical errors which he observed may have been caused by interference are syntactic innovation such as direct transfer, reduplication, substitution, omission of functional word, insertion of discourse particles.

He concluded that, the English teachers are not well trained that is why they have difficulties in producing those sounds.

Olaniyi et al (2013:42) stated that “from our perception there are four consonantal features of shibboleths Yoruba English: /ʃ/ for /tʃ/, /θ/ for initial /h/, /s/ for /z/, even when spelt as /z/ among secondary school teachers, civil servant and students and /f/ for /v/. From our observation / tʃ/ , /z/ and /v/ appears extended from the Yoruba language alone but the work was carried out on the three major Nigerian languages. They compare the spoken English of the three major Nigerian ethnics with the aim of identifying the one with the closest to standard British English. Their informants were all educated people and they concluded that Hausa English is closer to standard British English using these examples: “the EHE version seems closest to SBE in its realization of the central open and lax R<sub>p</sub> vowels

1. SBE /K ʌn frʌnt ɔs/ confront us

EHE /Kʌn ‘frʌnt ɛs/

EIE /K ɔfr nt ɔs/

EYE /kɔ frɔnt ɔs/

They still presented feature of Yoruba English stating the sound segment Yoruba speakers of English substitute with. According to them vowel segments like / ɜ:/, /ʌ/, /u:/, /i:/, / / were substituted with /ɛ/, /a/, /u/, /i/, /g/ and /ɜ/ is substituted with /ʃ/.

In their work they only stated segments that are used in place of the non functional sound in Yoruba language; they did not state any linguistic factor responsible for the substitute of segments.

Owolabi (2014) in his work titled “the problem of vowel production by Yoruba speakers of English as a second language”, using error analysis identified some error made by Yoruba speakers which leads to the mispronunciation of English words. The study was conducted at the college of education where forty (40) Yoruba speakers whom are English students were given a passage which consist about 120 words to read. He identified that letter ‘a’ occurring in ‘man’ and ‘manger’ were pronounced correctly in ‘man’ but wasn’t pronounced correctly in ‘manger’.

He stated that the reason for mispronouncing ‘a’ in ‘manger’ is because it isn’t a familiar word to the informants.

He also noted that ‘o’ in ‘woman’ is pronounced correctly but in ‘women’ it is not pronounced correctly, that the respondents pronounced words as they are spelt.

In his work, noted that respondents couldn’t recognise vowel variation in ‘rid’ /rid/, /ride/ and /raid/ that they pronounced both words the same way. He also stated that the same problem became noticed in ‘bite’ and ‘bit’,

“... the plausible explanation for this may be that while hide are more familiar words heard in common usage, as we ride everyday in vehicles and ride bicycle, and hide our belongings to protect them from being stolen, the word bite and bit are not popular in use” Owolabi (2014:75).

From his work he concluded that his respondents pronounce some words than the other because of how frequent they use the words. From previous studies carried out on the phonological influence of indigenous Nigerian languages in English, it is affirmed that there is indeed a Nigerian English and there are feature which are peculiar to the different varieties of Nigerian English.

### **2.3 Concern of Present Study**

This study is concern on the phonological influence of Yoruba on English language. At what point does interference occurs in the pronunciation of the Yoruba speakers of English? The study is concern with how segments are substituted by the Yoruba speakers of English dues to the fact that the segment is absent in their language.

This study is concern with how ones ethnic affect the use of English, it is noted that English language has been localized, this study aims at identifying features that are peculiar to Yoruba speaker of English. English language in Nigeria has been naturalised, Ugorji (2010) states that English language in

Nigeria is enriched by socio cultural materials which makes it uniquely Nigerian.

This study is concern with how ones regional background affects ones pronunciation of English words. Akeredolu-Ale (2005) observed that the spoken English of Nigerians is appalling, and also Ofolue (2005) states that correct pronunciation skills are essentially for intelligibility. So therefore, their study aims at identifying the motive behind segment being substituted.

This study will identify sound segment that are mispronounced by Yoruba speakers and the sounds they substituted them with. The study also aims at identifying features which are peculiar to Yoruba speaker of English.

This study aims at encouraging Yoruba speaker of English to pay more attention to their spoken English and learn those sounds that are difficult for them to articulate while speaking English language in that their spoken English would have less mother tongue influence.

Holmes (2008) state that a person dialect reflects their socio background and the way an individual speak is a good indicator of their socio background. Language is part of our culture, the way we use English reflects our ethnical background.

This study is significant because it will help know the feature that are peculiar to Yoruba speakers of English, it will help Yoruba speaker of English

know segment they will have challenges in articulating and words they are likely to simplify as result of difficulties in articulating the segments.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **Theoretical Framework**

#### **3.0 Introduction**

This chapter is concerned with identifying the theoretical framework which will be used in analyzing the data that will be presented in the next chapter.

#### **3.1 Statement of theory**

The theory for this research is called Preference Operational Grammar (POG) by Ugorji (2010, 2013). The framework was introduced in his work Nigerian English phonology and later in his work standardizing new Englishes: a suggestion for phonological corpora.

The framework is built to formalize the phonology of Nigerian English, it is concerned with providing a guide for discussing varieties of Nigerian Englishes and it is also a mechanism for describing and analyzing Nigerian English phonology.

Preference grammar aims at bringing out sounds and prosody from spoken data which should constitute the normative inventory that is, something that is a norm or a standard. The standard can be used as a tool for standardizing phonological corpora including segmental constituents and prosodic elements.

### **3.2 Basic assumption of preference operation grammar**

According to Ugorji (2010, 2013) preference grammar identifies six parameters, these parameters are used for the identification and evaluation elements of phonological components of Nigerian English. The framework works like optimality theory because the parameters are ranked in order of preference and it's built in flexibility and violability.

#### **3.2.1 Parameters of preference operation grammar**

The parameters are ranked in order of preference and its built in flexibility and violability, that is the parameter occurs as preferred, the parameters are;

- 1) International acceptance : which is defined as close approximation to the more international norms that may be considered broadly as *lingua franca*
- 2) Contractiveness: which is defined as phonological distinctiveness
- 3) Frequency : is defined as overall high rate of occurrence
- 4) Disambuity : which is defined as property or properties that diminish ambiguity or miscommunication

- 5) Phonological simplicity defined as preference for features which seem physiologically more plausible
- 6) Pedagogic convenience : which is defined preference for features which advanced facileness in teaching and learning

These parameters represents twin criteria for Nigeria English which are international intelligibility and violability like that of optimality theory.

The first parameter addresses, the need to understand and be understood by other competent speaker in the world and so remains relevant in the global community.

The second parameters allows those properties whose phonological status remains crucial to international intelligibility even when learning them is difficult.

The third parameter incorporates those properties which may suggest deviance relatively but bears distinguishable Nigerian mark and have high rate of occurrence.

The fourth parameter suggests that in spite of the first three parameters ambiguity should be kept to the barest minimum.

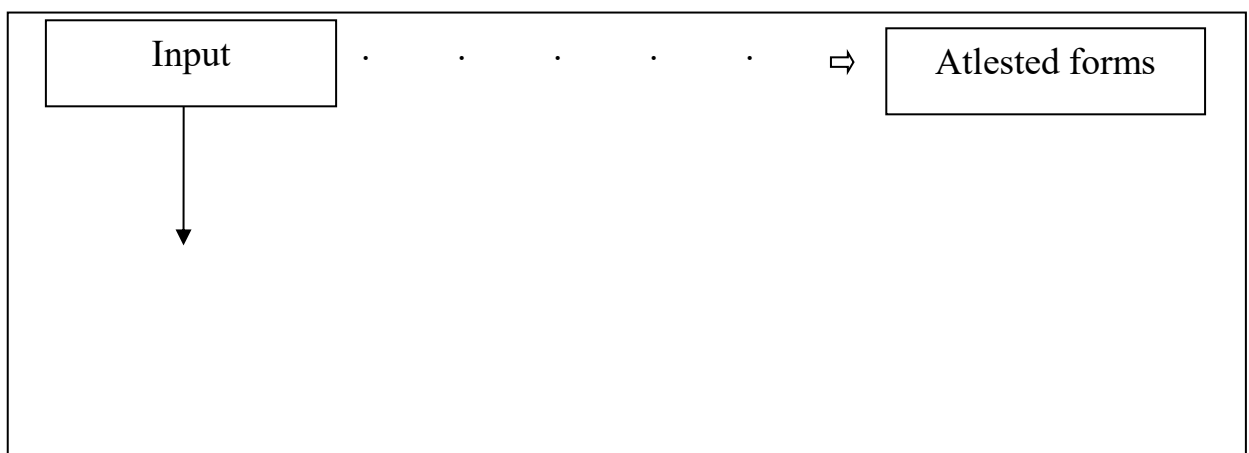
The fifth and sixth parameters are relate, it provides that what are physiologically more plausible may be relatively easier to learn but not preferred over and above the fourth parameters

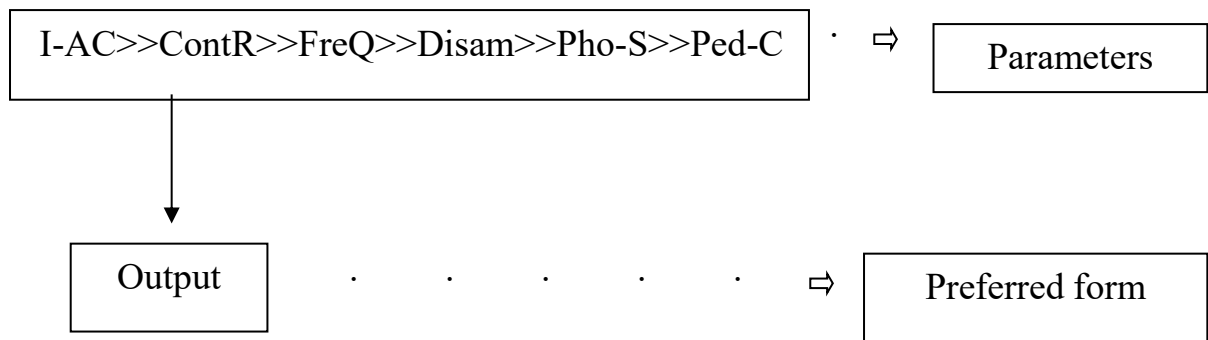
The parameters are broken down into smaller configurations and formal inventories which are represented in negative statements;

- 1) Non –international acceptance is prohibited  
\*No I-AC
- 2) Non –contractiveness is prohibited  
\*N0- contR
- 3) Infrequency is prohibited  
\*No freQ
- 4) Ambiguity is prohibited  
\*Disam
- 5) Phonetic complexity is prohibited  
\*pho-s
- 6) Pedagogical difficulty is prohibited  
\*ped-c

The parameters are ordered and the orderings are strict in respect to the highest parameters. The parameters are ordered thus, international acceptance ( I-AC) dominates contractiveness (ContR) which dominates frequency (FreQ) which dominates Disambuity (Disam) which phonetic simplicity(pho-s) which in turn dominates pedagogical conveniences(ped-c) and it can be abbreviated as follows:

Fig. 2: I-AC>>contR>>freQ>>Disam>>pho-s>>ped-C





ugorji (2010: 80)

Preference grammar do away with the notion of underlying representations and it relies on actual spoken data, the framework predicts that the input consists of all elements of a family units that may occur in the phonological inventory while the output elements are representatives of classes of such items preferred in the grammar.

### 3.3 How the theory applies to this research

For the purpose of this research, preference operation grammar is used as a tool for identifying and evaluating elements of the phonological component in the English of Yoruba speakers.

Preference grammar helps in the realization of language and dialects diversity and it also accounts for language as a social phenomenon that is language cannot be used in isolation, preference grammar accounts for how society use language.

Preference grammar as a tool used for evaluation process here is concerned with selecting phonological elements that are preferred in the English of Yoruba speakers. For the purpose of this research, some of the parameters will be used in accounting for our data because we need to use only the parameters that will be able to account for features that are peculiar to Yoruba speakers and why these features are peculiar to Yoruba speakers. Preference grammar will be used as a tool in evaluating the phonological inventories of Yoruba speakers of English. The preferred parameter selected and ranked thus:

- 1) Frequency: defined as overall high rate of occurrence

Frequency allows features that bear distinguishable Nigerian mark and high rate of occurrence. Frequency is ranking as the highest parameters because the frequency of use of feature peculiar to Yoruba speakers will be considered. How frequently do they use a particular speech form for instance, [tri] occurs more frequently than [Øri]. [tri] tend to be pronounced more than [Øri]. [tri] occurs frequently also [fəri] is pronounced more frequently than [vəri].

- 2) International / regional intelligibility: this addresses the need to understand and be understood. Ugorji (2010: 79) states ... ‘Acceptability is the measure of validity in language usage’.

International acceptability is ranking second because we are considering features that occur more in the speech of Yoruba speakers, we are also

considering regional variety of English and also concerned with if the features used by Yoruba speakers are accepted across the region of Nigeria. For instance, [θri] may not occur frequently in speech of Yoruba speaker but it is internationally accepted. [tri] which occurs in the speech of Yoruba speaker is accepted internally and also regionally. In this work therefore acceptability is important.

- 3) Phonetic simplicity: is related to what is physiologically more plausible, that is features that is easier to produce. For instance the segment [ʃ] is difficult for Yoruba speakers to produce.
- 4) Contractiveness defined as phonological distinctive, it permits features whose phonological status remains important to international intelligibility even when learning them is difficult. And here, it is ranking lastly and it is selected because there is need to consider features that are important for international intelligibility even if learning them will be difficult for Yoruba speakers.

These parameters are selected because they would help in evaluating the features peculiar to Yoruba speakers and other parameters

deletes were not deleted because they are not useful but the point for evaluating this study.

The parameters can thus be broken into smaller configuration and formal inventories which are represented below:

1. Infrequency is prohibited

\*No FreQ

2. Non- international acceptance is prohibited

\*No I-AC

3. Phonetic complexity is prohibited

\*pho-s

4. Non – contractiveness is prohibited

\*No – contR

These parameters are parallel ‘constraint’ and are ranked with respect to one another. The highest parameter is frequency (freQ) which dominates international intelligibility (I- Ac) which dominates phonetic simplicity (pho-s) which dominates contractiveness (contR). Any candidates which violate the highest parameter cannot be a preferred candidate. That is any candidates or input which have (\*) which means to violate in the first parameter cannot be a preferred candidate.

FreQ>>I-AC>>pho-s>>contR

### 3.3.1 Evaluation of phonological inventory of the English of Yoruba Speakers.

The speech forms of Yoruba speakers are evaluated using preference operation grammar. Preference grammar is used as a tool in evaluating features peculiar to Yoruba speakers of English.

#### 3.3.1.2 Consonants

1) Very, vacuum, travel, and serve

For the words, Yoruba speakers tend to use /f/ in place of /v/. Most Yoruba speakers use / f/ more in their production of / v/.

Fig. 3 < serve >

<serve>	*No- freq.	*No- I AC	*Pho-s	*No-contR
a)=>saf				
b)sɛf	*	*		*
c)sæv	*		*	

As shown in the figure (a) is the preferred option among Yoruba speakers. Yoruba speakers tend to use /f / in place of / v/ when producing the word

“serve” while (b) and (c) violates the frequency parameter because it less used by Yoruba speakers frequently. While (a) and (b) are both internationally and regionally intelligible that means they are both accepted as a way of pronouncing the

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS**

#### **4.0 Introduction**

This chapter focuses on the presentation and analysis of data gotten the international corpus of English where two files were selected. These files includes spoken parliamentary file and spoken demonstration file. In this chapter only sound segments are presented and analysed due to limited time of the research. In this chapter, the sound segments are classified into consonants

and vowel sounds, the sound segments of both Yoruba and English language will be discussed.

#### 4.1 Yoruba and English functional sounds

Sound segments are classified into consonants and vowel sounds. Yoruba languages have phonemes that are functional in the language which are not present in English language and English language has phonemes that are functional in their language but are not present in the sound inventory of Yoruba language. Okolo and ezikeojiake (1999: 85) states that “every language of that world has its own sound system and sound pattern”

The difference between the sound inventory of these two languages leads to a great challenge for Yoruba speaker of English. They would have difficulties in the production of sounds that are not functional in their language.

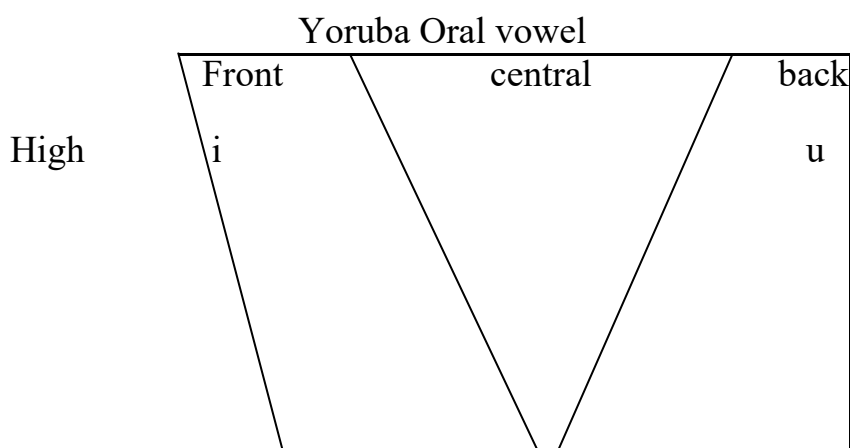
##### 4.1.1 Yoruba functional sounds

There are thirty phonemes in Yoruba language; they are grouped into eighteen consonants and twelve vowels;

##### 4.1.2 Vowel Sounds of Yoruba

Yoruba vowel sound system exhibits both oral and nasal vowel. They are / I, ε-e, o, ɔ, u, a, ǎ, ẽ, ã, û, ɔ. They are represented in the diagrams below;

Fig. 4

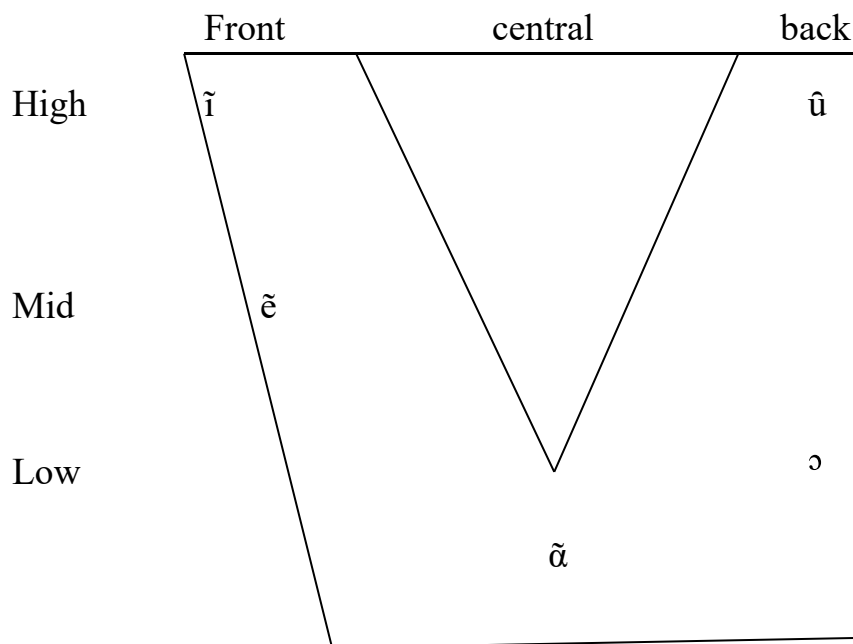


Mid	e		o
Low	ɛ		ɔ
		a	

Adéèboyèje, et al (1986:57)

Fig. 5

Yoruba nasal vowel



Bamgbose (1966: 6)

**4.1.3. Yoruba Consonant Phonemes**

They are eighteen consonant sounds in the Yoruba sound inventory. They are /b, d, f, g, gb, h, dʒ, k, L, m, n, kp, r, s, ʃ, t, w, j/. The chart is represented below;

Fig. 6

Manner of articulation	Bilabial	Labiodental	Alveolar	Palatoalveolar	Palatal	Velar	Labiodental	Glottal
Plosive	p b		t d			k g	Kp gb	
Affricate				tʃ				
Fricative		f	s	ʃ				h
Nasal	M		n					
Tap			r					
Lateral		L						
Semi vowels					j	w		

Adéèboyèje, et al (1986:57)

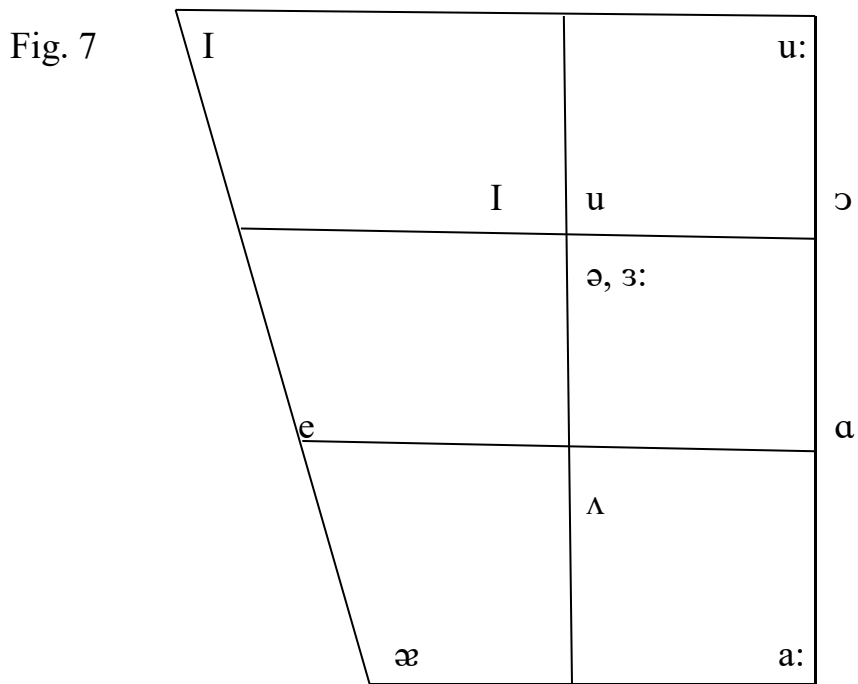
#### 4.1.4 English Phonemes

Yul- ifode (1999:20) states that “Phonemes is the smallest functional unit, they are discrete element among the basic phonological unit of all human language”.

English language has forty-four speech sound units. They are divided into twenty-four consonants and twenty vowel sounds. The vowel sounds are divided into twelve pure vowels and eight diphthongs sound and triphthongs.

### 4.1.5 Pure Vowel Sounds

Roach (2000: 10) states that “vowels are sounds which there are no obstruction to the flow of air”. There are five long vowel sounds and seven short vowel sounds in English language. They are /i:, I, ε, æ, ɜ:, ,a:, ɔ, u, ʌ, u:, ʌ, ə /. They will be represented in the chart below:



Ogoanah (2010:21)

### 4.1.6 English Consonant Sounds

There are twenty four consonants sounds in English language. They are /p , b , f , v, t , d, k , g, ,d , s , z , ʃ, ʒ, s , z , m , n , r , n , w, j /. They are represented in the chart below:

Fig. 8

Manner	of	Bilabia	Labio	denta	alveola	Post	Palata	vela	glotta
--------	----	---------	-------	-------	---------	------	--------	------	--------

articulation	l	Denta l	l	r	alveola r	l	r	l
Plosive	p b			t d			k g	
Fricative		f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ			h
Affricate					tʃ dʒ			
Nasal	M			n			ŋ	
Lateral approximan t				L				
approximan t				r	j	W		

Roach (2010:52)

#### 4.1.7 Difference between English and Yoruba Phonemes

According to the above discussion as shown in the diagram, there are differences in the sound system of the two languages. This indicate the reason for the phonological influences of Yoruba language on English language

#### 4.1.8 Consonant Sounds: Consonant Differences

There are some consonant segments which are functional in English which are not functional in Yoruba language and there are also some segments which are functional in Yoruba language but are not in English language. They are;

English: / v, θ, æ, ə, z, tʃ, ʒ, ŋ /

Yoruba: /kp, gb /

### **4.1.9 Vowel Differences**

Some vowels are not functional in Yoruba but are functional in English language while some vowel are functional in Yoruba but are not functional in English language. They are:

English : /i: , a: , ɜ:, ɔ:, ɑ , ʌ , ɔɪ , eɪ, ɔɪ , əu , iə , ɛə , uə , əu /

Yoruba: /e, o, ï, ã, ê, ù, ɔ /

### **4.2 Data Presentation**

There are seven consonant sounds that are functional in English but are not functional in Yoruba language. The informants have difficulties in producing these sounds and they substitute these sounds with other sounds.

#### **4.2.1 Consonant Sounds**

According to ogoanah (2010: 59) “consonants are those speech sounds we produce with some form of obstruction or audible friction in the vocal tract”. He further stated that consonant sounds are produced when two or more articulators make contact”. Consonant are described in term of these basic properties which are place of articulation, manner of articulation and voicing.

##### **4.2.1.1 Voiceless Labio Dental Fricative / f /**

The informants used the voiceless labio dental fricative / f / in place of voiced labio dental fricative / v /, which occurs in the following words:

- a. Vacuum [ fakum ]
- b. Deserve [ disaf ]
- c. Serve [ saf ]
- d. Travel [ trafu ]
- e. Seven [ sefũ ]

#### **4.2.1.2 Voiceless Dental Fricative / t /**

The informants used the voiceless dental stop / t / in place of the voiceless fricative / θ /. The following words were pronounced as follows;

- a. Three [ tri ]
- b. Thank [ tɛk ]
- c. Thrown [ trɔ̃ ]
- d. Thing [ tĩ ]
- e. Method [ metɔd ]

#### **4.2.1.3 Voiced Alveolar Stop / d /**

The informants used the voiced alveolar stop / d / in place of the voiced dental fricative / ð /. This is evident in the following words:

- a. That [ dat ]
- b. Therefore [ defɔ ]
- c. Their [ dɛ ]
- d. This [ dis ]

e. The [di]

#### 4.2.1.4 Voiceless Alveolar Fricative / s /

The informants used voiceless alveolar fricative / s / in place of the voiced alveolar fricative / z /. They are evident in the following words;

a. Dissolve [disɔf]

b. Reason [rist̃]

c. Says [ses]

d. Please [plis]

e. Defreeze [difris]

#### 4.2.1.5 Voiceless Palate Alveolar Fricative

The informants used the voiceless palate alveolar fricative /ʃ/ in place of the voiceless palate alveolar affricate /tʃ/. This is evident in the following words;

a. Future [fjuʃɔ]

b. Question [kwɛʃɔ]

c. sChairman [ʃamã]

d. Wash [wɔʃ]

e. Chair [ʃa]

#### 4.2.1.6 Voiceless Palate Alveolar Fricative / ʃ /and Voiced Palate Alveolar Affricate /dʒ /.

The informants used the voiceless alveolar fricative or voiced alveolar fricative / dʒ / in place of the voiced palate alveolar fricative /ʒ /. This is evident in the following words;

Porridge [ pɔredʒ ]

- a. Measurement [ mɛdʒɔmɛ̃t]
- b. Measuring [ mdʒĩ]
- c. Usual [judʒa]
- d. Pleasure [plɛdʒɔ]

#### 4.2.1.7. Voiced Alveolar Nasal / n /

The informants used the alveolar nasal /n/ in place of the velar nasal / ɲ /. This is evident in the following words;

- a. Think [tɪk]
- b. Bring [brɪŋ]
- c. Morning [mɔrnɪ]
- d. Thank [tɛnk]

#### 4.2.2 Vowel Sounds

According to Ogoanah (2010), vowel is a speech sound produced without obstruction or audible friction in the mouth. Two articulatory organs are

involved in the production of a vowel sound; these are the lips and the tongue. Vowels are generally described in terms of position of the tongue and the relative rounding of the lips.

The informants used the short vowels in place of the long vowels. The short vowels and long vowels occur in free variation and they tend to pronounce some of the words alike which are evident in the following words:

- a. Beat and bit                    [bit]
- b. Live and leave                [lif]
- c. Peak and pick                [pik]
- d. Eat and it                    [it]
- e. Seat and sit                 [sit]

#### **4.2.2.1 The Use of / i /**

The informants used / i / in place of /i:/, this is evident in the following words;

- a. Speaker            [spika]
- b. Reason            [ris̄]
- c. People            [pipu]
- d. Free                [fri]
- e. Week                [wik]

#### **4.2.2.2 The Use of / a /**

The informants used /a / for / a: /. This is evident in the following words;

- a. Pass [pas]
- b. Class [klas]
- c. Hard [had]
- d. Sack [sak]
- e. Pack [pak]
- f. As [as]

#### **4.2.2.3 The Use of /ɔ /**

The informants used /ɔ / in place of /ɔ: /. This is evident in the following words;

- a. Course [kɔs]
- b. Water [wɔtə]
- c. Order [ɔdə]
- d. Court [kɔt]
- e. Therefore [ðɛfɔ]

#### **4.2.2.4 The Use of / u /**

The informants used / u / in place of / u: /. This is evident in the following words;

- a. Use [jus]
- b. Tools [tuls]
- c. Future [fjuɔ]

- d. Huge [udʒ]
- e. Remove[rimuf]

#### 4.2.2.5 The Use of /ɔ/

The informants used /ɔ/ in place of /ʌ/. This is evident in the following words;

- a. Bud [bɔd]
- b. Cut [kɔt]
- c. Other [ɔda]
- d. Stud [stɔd]
- e. Come [kɔm]

#### 4.2.2.6 The Use of /ɔ, a and ε/

The informants used /ɔ, a and ε/ in place of /ɜ:/. This is evident in the following words;

- a. Further [fɔda]
- b. World [wɔld]
- c. Serve [saf]

- d. Thursday [tʊsde]
- e. Measure [mɛʃɔ]
- f. Learn [lɛn]
- g. Pleasure [plɛdʒɔ]

#### 4.2.2.7 The Use of / a and u/

The informants used / a and u /in place of / ə /. This is evident in the following words;

- a. Either [ida]
- b. Remember [rimɛ̃ba]
- c. Sugar [suga]
- d. Sample [sampu]
- e. Water [wɔta]

The informants used a single vowel for complex vowels. Diphthongs were monophthongnised by the informants. This is evident in the following words, the informants used / e / in place of / iə /;

- a. Say [se]
- b. Plain [plɛ̃]
- c. Cake [kek]
- d. Play [ple]
- e. Day [de]

#### **4.2.2.9 The use of / ε /**

The informants used / ε / in place of / εə /. This is evident in the following words;

- a. Fair [fε]
- b. Hear [jε]
- c. Hair [hε]
- d. Pair [pε]
- e. Clear [klε]

#### **4.2.2.10 the use of / o /**

The informants used / o / in place of / əu /. This is evident in the following words;

- a. Smoke [smok]
- b. Comb [komb]
- c. Old [old]

#### **4.2.2.11 The use of glides**

The informants insert glides when producing words with triphthongs. This is evident in the following words;

- a. Pliers [plaja]

- b. Flour [flawa]
- c. Fire [faja]
- d. Hour [hawa]
- e. Layer [leja]

### **4.3 Data Analysis**

The data analysis is the speech of 20 Yoruba speakers gotten from the international corpus of English, Nigeria. Their speeches are analysed thus;

#### **4.3.1.1 The use of voiceless labio dental fricative / f /**

The informants used / f / in place of / v / and it is evident in the following words;

- a. Stove [stof]
- b. Very [feri]
- c. Cover [kɔfa]
- d. Evening [ift]
- e. Leave [lif]

In 1a, the informants used / f / in place of / v /, both / f / and / v / share the same place of articulation and manner of articulation but the differences between / f / and / v / is that one is voiceless and the other is voiced. Yoruba

speaker tend to use / f / in place of / v / due to the level of similarities between these sounds.

In 1b, the informants used / f / also in place of / v /, / v / isn't present in the sound inventory of Yoruba speakers but / f / is present in the sound inventory. And both sounds are similar to each other in place and manner of articulation. It is easier for a Yoruba speaker of English to use / f / for / v / than any other sound in their sound inventory.

In 1c, the informants used / f / in place of / v / , in the word 'cover' , it is easier for Yoruba speaker of English as a second language to use / f / in place of / v / because of the close similarity between both segments.

In 1d, the informants used / f / in place of / v / and also the use of nasal vowel. The informants tend to use / f / in place of / v / because / f / isn't functional in their sound inventory.

#### **4.3.1.2 The use of voiceless dental stop / t /**

The informants used voiceless dental stop /t/ in place of voiceless dental fricative /θ /. This is evident in the following words;

- a. Thursday [tʊsde]
- b. Method [metɒd]
- c. Thing [tɪŋ]
- d. Thank [tæŋk]

e. Three [tri]

In 2a, the informants used / t / in place of /θ /, / t / is a voiceless alveolar stop while /θ / is a voiceless dental fricative which is absent in the sound inventory of Yoruba language. But the informants tend to use / t / in place of /θ /, they could use / f / which shares the same manner of articulation and voicing. But Yoruba speaker tend to use / t / and the only similarity between / t / and /θ / is that they are both voiceless sounds.

In 2b, 2c, 2d and 2e, the informants used / t / in place of / θ /, that is to say the informants are using the sounds present in the words to pronounce them. And / t / is present in their sound inventory and the words have [t].

In 2c and 2d , the informants tend to nasalise [ tĩ ]and [ tẽk]. This is a feature peculiar to Yoruba speaker of English.

#### **4.3.1.3. The use of voiced alveolar stop / d /**

The informants used the voice alveolar stop / d / in place of the voiced dental fricative /ð /, this is evident in the following words;

a. Whether [wɛda]

b. Either [ida]

c. Further [fɔda]

d. Their [dɛ]

e. This [dis]

In 3a, the informants used voiced alveolar stop / d/ in place of the voiced dental fricative / ð/ in [wɛda], the sounds differ in place of articulation and manner of articulation. / d / is an alveolar stop while / ð/ is a dental fricative. / z / couldn't be used in place of / ð / by the informant because it is not present in their sound system which is voiced alveolar fricative and the voiceless alveolar fricative / s / is used as a substitute for /z/. The informants tend to use / d / in place of / ð / both sounds are voiced sounds.

In 3b and 3c, the informants also used / d / in place of / ð/. / ð/ is not in their sound inventory and using / d / is easier for Yoruba speaker because of their perception of the sound, both segments sound alike even if differ in manner and place of articulation.

In 3d and 3e, the informants used / d / in place of / ð /, Yoruba speaker tend to use / d / for / ð/ because / ð / sound like / d / which is present in their sound inventory.

#### **4.3.1.4 The use of voiceless alveolar fricative / s /**

The informants used / s / in place of / z /. This is evident in the following words;

- a. Because [bikɔs]
- b. Tools [tuls]
- c. Dissolve [disɔf]
- d. Please [plis]

The informants used voiceless alveolar fricative / s / in place of the voiced alveolar fricative / z /. In 4a, 4b and 4c, the informants used / s / in place of / z /. / z / is not functional in the sound inventory of their language and / s / is functional. Both sounds are both alveolar sounds and they are both fricatives, they only differ in voicing. / s / is voiceless while / z / is voiced, it is easier for Yoruba speaker of English to use / s / in place of / z / than any other segment functioning in their language because of the close similarity.

In 4d and 4e, in the words [disɔf] and [plis], / s / is used in place of / z /. This is as a result of the similarities in between both segments.

#### **4.3.1.5 The use of voiceless post alveolar fricative / ʃ /.**

The informants use / ʃ / in place of / tʃ /. This is evident in the following words;

- a. Kitchen      [kiʃɪ]
- b. Which        [wiʃ]
- c. Wash         [wɔʃ]
- d. Wish         [wiʃ]
- e. Chair         [ʃa]

In 5a, b and c, the informants used the voiceless post alveolar fricative / ʃ / in place of the voiceless post alveolar affricate. In the sound inventory of Yoruba language / tʃ / is among the sounds that are not functional and it is substituted with / ʃ / due to the similarities between both sounds. They are both

voiceless sounds and they are both post alveolar sounds. It is easier for a Yoruba speaker of English use /ʃ/ for /tʃ/, than using /dʒ/, /dʒ/ is the voiced counterpart of /tʃ/ but the informants preferred substituting /ʃ/ for /tʃ/.

In 5c and 5d, the informants used /ʃ/ in place of /tʃ/, the informants could use /s/ which is a voiceless alveolar fricative, but the informants tend to use /ʃ/. This is as a result of the close similarity between both sounds. They only differ in manner of articulation.

#### **4.3.1.6 The use of voiceless alveolar fricative /ʃ/ or the voiced post alveolar affricate /dʒ/**

The informant used either /ʃ/ or /dʒ/ in place of the voiced post alveolar fricative /ʒ/. This is evident in the following words;

- |                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| a. Porridge    | [pɔredʒ]    |
| b. Measure     | [mɛdʒɔ]     |
|                | [mɛʃɔ]      |
| c. Usual       | [judʒəl]    |
| d. Measurement | [mɛdʒɔmɛ̃t] |
|                | [mɛʃɔmɛ̃t]  |
| e. Pleasure    | [plɛdʒɔ]    |

In 6a, the informants used the voiced post alveolar affricate / dʒ / in place of the voiced post alveolar fricative / ʒ /. Both segments are voiced sounds and they both share the same place of articulation.

In 6b, the informants use either / dʒ / or / ʃ / in place of / ʒ /. / dʒ / is a voiced post alveolar affricate and / ʃ / is a voiceless post alveolar fricative. Both segments share some features in common with / ʒ /. / ʃ / and / ʒ / are both post alveolar segments and they are both fricatives and also / dʒ / and / ʒ / have some features in common. They are both voiced and they are both post alveolar sounds they only differ in manner of articulation. Yoruba speaker of English can either use / dʒ / or / ʃ / in the word 'measure'.

In 6c and 6e, the informants used / dʒ / in place of / ʒ /, this is as a result of the close similarities between both sounds. They share similar features except in their manner of articulation which differ.

#### **4.3.1.7 The use of alveolar nasal / n /**

The informants used / n / in place of / ŋ / which is evident in the following words;

- a. Thing [tɪŋ]
- b. Wearing [wɛrɪŋ]
- c. Icing [isɪŋ]
- d. Morning [mɔːrnɪŋ]
- e. Bring [brɪŋ]

In 7a, the informants used the alveolar nasal / n / in place of the velar nasal /ŋ/. /ŋ/ is not functional in the sound segments of Yoruba speaker but / n / is functional in Yoruba sound inventory. / n / and / ŋ / are both nasal sounds the difference is in the place of articulation. The informants did not use / m / which is also a nasal sound, it is a bilabial nasal sound. But / n / is used in place of / /. Both segments are voiced and they are both nasal sounds. / n / is an alveolar while /ŋ/ is a velar sound. / n / is used in place of / ŋ / because / ŋ / is not functional in Yoruba sound inventory and / n / is close to use in place of / ŋ /.

In 7c, the informant used / n / in place of /ŋ/ and also / g / is realised in the word 'bring' Yoruba speakers tend to use / n / in place of / ŋ /

#### **4.3.2. The use of / i/**

The use of / i/ in place of / I: /, they occur in free variation and it is evident in the following words;

- a. Beat and bit      [bit]
- b. Live and leave    [lif]
- c. Peak and pick     [pik]
- d. Eat and it        [it]
- e. Seat and sit       [sit]

The informants tend to use the short vowel in place of the long vowels. / I: / and /i/ share the same features, they are both front vowel, they are both

produced with spread lips. The only difference is that one is a long vowel and the other is a short vowel. Yoruba speaker of English as second languages uses the short vowel in place of the long vowel. In 1a, the informants tend to pronounce the words with / i/ and / i: / alike in the word beat is pronounced as [bit]

In 1b and 1c, / i:/ is pronounced as / i/ , the difference between both segments is that one is long and the other is short. Yoruba speaker of English uses / i/ because it's similar with / i: /. They are both front vowels and they are both high vowels.

#### **4.3.2.2 The use of / a / in place of / a: /**

The informants used / a / in place of / a: / and this is evident in the following words;

- a. Pass [pas]
- b. Class [klas]
- c. Hard [had]
- d. After [afta]
- e. Half [haf]

In 2a, the informants used / a / in place of / a: /. /a/ and /a: / are both open vowels, the differences between / a/ and /a: / is that / a / is a central vowel and / a: / is a back vowel. The closest to / a: / in Yoruba sound inventory is / a /. So

they tend to use / a / in place of / a: / because / a / is functional in their language and it shares some features with / a: /

In 2b, c d and e, the informants used / a / in place of / a: /, this is because Yoruba speaker of English tend to replace all long vowels with the short counterpart that is functional in their language.

#### **4.3.2.3 The use of / a / in place of /æ/**

The informants used / a / in place of /æ/, which are evident in the following word;

- a. Sack [sak]
- b. Pack [pak]
- c. Hand [ãd]
- d. Had [ad]
- e. Pat [pat]

The 3a, b, c, d and e, the informants used / a / in place of / æ /, / æ / is not functional in Yoruba language in English language / æ / is functional. / æ / is an open front vowel while / a / is an open mid vowel due to the similarities between both segments, Yoruba speaker tend to pronounce / a / in place of / æ / which is occurring in the above words. Both sounds are produced with spread lips.

#### 4.3.2.4 The use of / ɔ /

The informants used / ɔ / in place of / ɔ: /. This is evident in the following words;

- a. Course [k ɔs]
- b. Water [wɔtə]
- c. Order [ɔdə]
- d. Court [kɔt]
- e. Therefore [dɛfɔ]

In 4 a, b, c, d, and e, the informants used the short back vowel in place of the long vowel which is half open back vowel. Yoruba speaker do not distinguish between long and short vowels. Only short vowels are functional in their language.

/ ɔ / is used in place of / ɔ: / as a result of the similarities between both sounds. They are both produced with rounded lips, they are both back vowels. The differences is that / ɔ: / is a long vowel and / ɔ / is a short vowel but they are perceived as the same segment by Yoruba speaker of English.

#### 4.3.2.5 The use of / u /.

The informants used / u / in place of / u: / this is evident in the following words;

- a. Use [jus]
- b. Tools [tuls]

- c. Future [fjuʃɔ]
- d. Huge [udʒ]
- e. Remove [rimuf]

In 5a, b, c, d and e, the informants used / u / in place of /u:/ both segments are pronounced with rounded lips. / u :/ is longer than / u / and / u / is functional in Yoruba language, Yoruba speaker tend to use / u / in place of / u: /

#### **4.3.2.6. The Use of / ɔ / in Place of / ʌ /**

The informants used / ɔ/ in place of / ʌ /. This is evident in the following words

- a. Bud [bɔd]
- b. Colour [kɔb]
- c. Some [sɔm]
- d. Cut [kɔt]
- e. One [wɔ]

In 6a, b, c, d and e, the informants used / ɔ / in place of / ʌ /. / ɔ / was pronounced in the above words because the central vowel / ʌ / is not functional in Yoruba language. / ʌ / is a short central vowel while / ɔ/ is a short back vowel, both sounds are open mid vowels. / ɔ / issued in place of / ʌ / because of the close similarities between both sounds.

#### **4.3.2. The Use of / ɔ / in Place of /ɜ: /**

The informants used / ɔ / in place of / ɜ:/. This is evident in the following words;

- a. Further [fɔda]
- b. World [wɔd]
- c. Thursday [tɔsde]
- d. First [fɔst]
- e. Work [wɔk]

In 6a, b, c d and e, the informants used / ɔ / in place of /ɜ:/. /ɜ:/ is not functional in Yoruba sound inventory.

#### **4.3.2.8 The Use of / ε/ in Place OF /ɜ:/**

The informants used / ε/ in place of /ɜ:/. This is evident in the following words:

- a. Measure [mεʃɔ]
- b. Learn [lɛn]
- c. Pleasure [plɛdʒɔ]
- d. Girl [gɛ]
- e. Heard [hɛd]

In 8a, b, c, d and e , the informants used / ε/ in place of /ɜ :/ , both segments are open mid vowels, / ε / is a front vowel and / ɜ: / is a central vowel which is not functional in Yoruba language.

#### **4.3.2.9 The Use of / a / in Place of / ə/**

The informants used / a / in place of /ə/. This is evident in the following words;

- a. Either [ida]
- b. Remember [rimɛ̃ba]
- c. Sugar [suga]
- d. Water [wɔta]
- e. Woman [wumã]

In 9a,b ,c, d and e, the informant used / a / in place of /ə/. /ə/ is not functional segment in Yoruba language , they tend to pronounce / a/ in place of /ə/. /ə/ and / a / are perceived as the same sounds by Yoruba speaker of English.

#### **4.3.2.10 The use of single vowel in place of complex sounds**

The informants used single vowels for diphthongs and for triphthongs, they insert a corresponding glide. This is evident in the following words;

- a. Say [se]
- b. Plain [plɛ̃]
- c. Cake [kek]
- d. Play [ple]
- e. Day [de]

- a. Fair [fɛ]
- b. Hair [hɛ]
- c. Clear [klɛ]
- d. Hear [hjɛ]
- e. Pair [pɛ]

- a. Smoke [smok]
- b. Comb [komb]
- c. Old [od]

- a. Pliers [plaja]
- b. Flour [flawa]
- c. Fire [faja]
- d. Hour [hawa]
- e. Layer [leja]

In 10a, the informant used / e / in place of / ei /, also in 10b, c, d and e. the informants used / e / in place of / ei /. In Yoruba sound segment they lack diphthongs, so therefore they use / e / in place of / ei /. In Yoruba sound

segment they lack diphthongs, so therefore they use / e / in place of / ei /. In the production of / ei /, the glide start from slightly below the close mid front position / e /, and moves in the direction of / I /. Yoruba speaker of English pronounces the close mid than producing both segments.

In the words [ se ], [ plɛ̃ ], [kek] , [ ple] and [ de ]. [e] Is pronounced in place of / ei /, they pronounced /e / and not / I / because / e / comes before / I /.

In 11 a, b and c, the informants used / ε / in place of a complex vowel / εə /, Yoruba speaker of English tend to simplify the vowel segment / εə/ with / ε / because they cannot articulate the / εə / but / ε / is used. The first vowel in the complex sound is similar to the single vowel used by Yoruba speaker. The segment is an open mind, front vowel which is produced with rounded lips. Yoruba speaker do not have complex segment in their sound inventory. They use one of both sounds / ε / is used place /ə / which is a central mid vowel which is not functional in Yoruba language.

In 11b and 11d, the informants used / ε / in place of / iə /, in words [h jε] and [ pε]. In [hjε] the / I / is pronounced as a glide / j / and / ə / is pronounced as / ε/. The words are articulated like this because they are easier produced by Yoruba speaker when the complex sounds are substituted as a single vowel segment

In 12a, b, c, d and e, the informants pronounced / o / in place of / əu /. Both sounds are not in the sound inventory of Yoruba speaker of English. / o / is pronounced by Yoruba speaker instead of / əu /. Yoruba speaker tend to pronounce words as they are spelt, / o / is functional in their sound inventory which makes it easier for production.

In 13 a, b c d and e, the informants tend to insert a glide in the production of [flawa], [playa], [hawa], [leja] and [faja]. Triphthongs are not functional in Yoruba language , they tend to use a semi vowel to break the vowels apart and also in the sound patterning of Yoruba language such vowel clustering is not allow so they tend to replace the middle vowel with a glide counterpart. / w / is used in place of / u / and / j / is used in place of / I / .

In 13a, b, c, d and e, the central vowel / ə /, is pronounced as / a /, / a / is also a central in the sound inventory of Yoruba language.

In conclusion all these features are peculiar to Yoruba speaker of English. They tend to substitute one segment for another. They also tend to pronounce words the way they are spelt.

#### **4.4 Evaluations of Data**

The speeches of Yoruba speakers are evaluated in this section using preference operation grammar.

#### 4.4.1 Consonants

1) Very, vacuum, travel, deserve, seven, serve

In the above words, Yoruba speakers tend to use / f / in place of /v/. Most Yoruba speakers use / f / more in the production of /v/.

Fig. 9 <very>

<very>	*No freQ	*No I-Ac	*pho-s	*No- contR
a) =>fəri				*
b) Vəri	*		*	

As shown in the figure above (a) is the preferred option among Yoruba speakers of English. Yoruba speakers tend to use / f / frequently than /v/ when pronouncing the word ‘very’ while (b) violates the ‘frequently parameters’ because it is less used by Yoruba speakers. Both candidate, that is [fəri] and [vəri] are both international and regionally intelligible that mea

ns they are both accepted as a way of pronouncing the word ‘very’

While (a) does not violate the third parameter because it w be easy for Yoruba speakers to produce and that is because /f / is functional in the sound inventory of their language while /v / is not functional. (b) Does not violate the fourth parameter because it is recognized as an international norm even if earning to produce it will be difficult for Yoruba speakers.

2) Three, thank, thrown, thing, method

Fig. 10 <tri>

<Three>	*No freQ	*No I- Ac	*Pho-s	*No- contR
a) =>tri				
b) Øri	*		*	
c) tiri	*	*		*

In the figure above, (a) is preferred by Yoruba speakers. (a) is preferred because it occurs frequently in the speech of Yoruba speakers. They tend to pronounce /t / in pace of / ø/ and / t/ occurs more frequently than / ø/. (a) does not violate the second parameter, the candidate[tri] is accepted and intelligible even if it bears a Nigerian mark because it is a speech form peculiar to Yoruba speakers of English. (a) is the preferred candidate because it does not violate any of the parameters. While (b) candidate violates the frequency parameters, it does not occur frequently in the speech of Yoruba speakers. They tend to use / t/ in pace of /ø/, and it will be phonetically difficulty for Yoruba speakers to produce and learn how to pronounce this segment because it is not functional in their first language.

3) That, this, then, the

Most Yoruba speakers of English pronounce /d/ in place of //, which occurs in the above words.

Fig. 11 <dat>

< dat>	*no freq.	*no I-Ac	*Pho-s	*No – contR
a) => dat				
b) dæt	*		*	
C) dɛt	*	*		*

(a) Is the preferred candidate, (a) is most preferred because it does not violate any of the parameters it occurs frequently as [dat] in the speech of Yoruba speakers. It is the most preferred speech form among the three candidates represented above. It is also intelligible and it is phonetically simple for Yoruba speakers to produce and learn. (b) Candidate violated the first parameters, it does not violate the second parameter because it is accepted at the international but it is phonetically difficult for Yoruba speakers to produce and phonological difficulty is prohibited. (c) Candidate violates the two major parameters which are frequency and international intelligibility it also violates the last parameter which is contractiveness, so it cannot be preferred.

4) Dissolve, reason, says, please

In the above words, Yoruba speakers tend to use / s/ in pace of /z /. Most Yoruba speakers tend to pronounce /s/ in pace of /z/.

Fig. 12 <please

<Please>	*no freQ	*no I-Ac	*Pho-S	*no- contR
a) =>plis				*
b) Pliz	*		*	

As shown in the figure above, (a) is the most preferred option among Yoruba speakers. They tend to use /s/ in pace of /z/. (B) Violates the frequency parameter which means it occurs less frequently. Bth candidate, that is [plis] and [pliz] are intelligible. Both are internationally and regionally intelligible but (b) is not phonetically simple for Yoruba speakers because it is not a functional sound in their language and (a) violates the contractiveness parameter because it carries a Nigerian mark and not an international norm. It is the speech form of Yoruba speakers of English.

### 5) Measure, pleasure, usual, porridge

Fig. 13 < measure>

< Measure>	*No freQ	*No I-Ac	*pho-s	*no -contR
a) Mɛʃɔ	*	*		

b) Mɜ:ʒɔ	*		*	
c) = >mɛdʒɔ				

(b) Is the most preferred, (c) form occurs more frequently in the speech of the informants than (a) and (b). (a) candidate violates the first and second parameters but (c) candidate does not violate any of the parameters, so therefore it is most preferred. /dʒ/ is used in place of /ʒ/ by Yoruba speakers, /s/ is also used but it is not our most preferred because it violates the first and also the second parameter.

#### 4.4.2 Vowels

##### 1. Bit –beat, sit- seat

In the listed words above, they occur in free variation in the speech of Yoruba speaker of English. /I/ and /i/ occurs in free variation in the above words.

Fig. 14 < bit >

< Bit >	*No freQ	*No I -Ac	*Pho-s	*No- contR
a) bit				
b) bIt	*			

(a) Does not violate the first parameter, its occurrences are more than (b) in the speech of Yoruba speakers. (b) violates the first parameter because it occurs less frequently.

2. sack, pack, hand, pat

In the above word, /a/ is used in place of /æ/ by Yoruba speakers of English.

Fig. 15 < pack >

< Pack >	*No freQ	*No I-Ac	*Pho-S	*No-ContR
a) Pak				
b) pæk	*			

(a) is most preferred, in the above figure (a) is most preferred by Yoruba speakers. The occurrence of (a) is more than that of (b). (a) Occurs more frequently while both candidates do not violate international intelligibility, phonetic simplicity by Yoruba contractiveness. (a) is most preferred by Yoruba speaker of English.

7 bud, colour, some, cut etc.

In the above words, Yoruba speakers tend to use /ɔ/ in place of /ʌ/.

Fig. 16 <cut >

< Cut >	*No freQ	*No I- AC	*pho- s	*No -contR
a) =>kɔt				*
b) KΛt	*		*	

(A)Is most preferred, in the above figure (A) occurs frequently in the forms above while (A) violates the first parameter, it occurs less frequently. /ɔ / is functional in the sound inventory of Yoruba speakers while /Λ / is not a functional sound segment. Also both candidate, that is [kɔt] and [kΛt] are intelligible. (B) violates the third parameter because it is not easy for Yoruba speakers to produce them, the segment is not functional in their language.

8) Further, world, first, work etc.

Fig. 17 <work >

<Work>	*No freQ	*No I- Ac	*Pho-s	*No contR
a) =>wɔk				
b) wɜ: k	*		*	
C) wɛk	*	*		*

(a) Is the most preferred option, it does not violate any of the parameters. It is used frequently than any of the above speech forms by Yoruba speakers (b) violates the frequency parameter, it also violates the phonetic simplicity parameter, it will be difficult for Yoruba speakers to articulate the segment /ɜ:/ because it is not functional in their language but /ɔ/ is used more than /ɛ/ and /ɜ:/ in the above word 'work'

9) Plain, say, cake, play, day

In the above words, Yoruba speakers tend to use /e/ in place of /ei/

Fig. 18 < play >

< Play >	*N0 freQ	*No I –Ac	*pho-s	*No contR
a) Plei	*		*	
b) =>ple				

(b) Is the most preferred option, it does not violate any of the parameters, (b) occurs more frequently than (a), (a) violates the frequency parameter and phonetic simplicity parameter. (a) Candidate occurs less frequently among Yoruba speakers and also it is a form that is difficult for Yoruba speaker to articulate. Diphthongs are not functional in Yoruba language.

10) Flour, plier, fire, layers

The informants tend to insert glides in the production of the above words

Fig. 19 <fire>

< Fire>	*No freQ	*No I- Ac	*pho-s	*No contR
a) => faja				
b) faiə	*		*	

As shown in the figure above, (a) is the most preferred option. (a) occurs frequently while (b) candidate is less used by the Yoruba speakers.(b) form is difficult for Yoruba speakers to articulate because it is not in line with the structure of their language

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

#### 5.0. Introduction

This chapter entails the summary, findings, conclusion and recommendation of the work.

#### 5.1. Summary

The first chapter starts with general introduction to the study, which gave an insight to the work. The issues discussed in this introduction includes the methodology, the purpose of study, the significant of study, and the justification of the study.

The second chapter presents the review of literature; terms related to this work were discussed in this chapter. We discussed on the term phonology, bilingualism/multilingualism, language interference, language contact etc. the chapter was concluded by discussing previous studies carried out in this research and stating the concern of our present study.

In the third chapter, the theoretical framework was stated; the theoretical framework discussed in the third chapter is called preference operational grammar. The usefulness of the framework was identified and the basic assumptions of the framework were also discussed.

In the fourth chapter, the phonological inventory of both languages were discussed, the similarities and differences between English and Yoruba segments were stated. The data was presented, analyzed and evaluated.

In this present chapter, the findings, results and conclusions of this study is stated and recommendation shall be made

## **5.2 Findings**

From the research, it was discovered that as a result of language contact between the informant's first language which is Yoruba language and English language which is the informant's second language; the informants tend to do the following;

1) Impose the features in their mother tongue when producing English words, it is also discovered that there are deviance in the English of Yoruba speaker and other Englishes in Nigeria.

2) Have difficulties in pronouncing sound segments they do not have in their language and as a result of this the informants make use of substitution for instance / f / is substituted for /v/ by the informants /f/ is functional in Yoruba language while /v/ is not a functional sound segment

3) Make use of nasalization. This is because nasalization is functional in the first language of the informants. For instance, words like 'thing and 'thrown' were pronounced as [tĩ] and [trò]. The final vowels in the words were nasalized by the informants

4) The informants tend to simplify words in other for them to be able to articulate them without difficulties. For instance complex vowel segments such as diphthongs were pronounced as a single vowel segment. Example the word 'cake' is pronounced as [kek]. The informant articulate diphthongs as a single

vowel segment because diphthongs are not features that are peculiar in their language.

5) make use of insertion, the informants insert semi vowels to break vowel clusters, triphthongs are not functional in the informants first language they tend to insert glides [j] and [w] for articulatory simplification.

In the speech of the informants , the features of there is as a result of their mother tongue influencing their spoken English, and the difference in English sound segments and the sound segments of Yoruba leads to the influence of Yoruba in English.

### **5.3. Conclusions**

Variation, especially in pronunciation is bound to occur as a result of language contact. English in contact with our indigenous Nigerian languages has led to English language bearing Nigerian mark, Yoruba language to be precise. English language is now reflecting the speech form of Yoruba language and other indigenous Nigerian languages it came in contact with.

As a result of this, there are varieties of English language in Nigeria, from the study it is noted that English language reflect the speech form of Yoruba language. The features peculiar to Yoruba speakers of English differs from other Englishes of the world and it is also observed that one can determine the first language of an English speaker from the way he/she pronouncers English

utterances. It is also noted that in Nigeria which is a multi-lingual country, individual's first language differs so therefore their pronunciations of English words differs.

#### **5.4. Recommendations**

Nigeria been a country with multiple languages, the English of other regions can be worked on in other to identify features that are peculiar to their English. Further data can be gotten from international corpus of English, Nigeria, there are files containing data of other indigenous Nigerian languages, those languages can be studied in other to identify the characteristic peculiar to them.

Also further study can be carried out on this work, because there are other levels of linguistics analysis in which can be used in carrying out a further research on this work.

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