



**PHONOLOGICAL TRANSFER FROM SPANISH TO ENGLISH: AN  
ANALYSIS OF GLORIA PRITCHETT'S ACCENT IN AMERICAN  
TELEVISION SERIES "MODERN FAMILY" SEASON 1**

**A THESIS**

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for S-1 Degree Majoring Linguistic in the English Department,  
Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University**

**Submitted by:**

**Putri Syaina Azzahra**

**NIM 13020122140151**

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
DIPONEGORO UNIVERSITY  
SEMARANG**

**2026**

## **PRONOUNCEMENT**

I honestly state that this thesis is written by myself without taking any work from other researchers in any university, in diploma degree, S-1, S-2, and S-3 degree. I also confirm that I do not take any material from other works except from the references mentioned.

Semarang, 21 April 2026

Putri Syaina Azzahra



## MOTTO AND DEDICATION

*That it will never come again is what makes life so sweet.*

**Emily Dickinson**

*To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment.*

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**



*This thesis is dedicated to*

*Me, Myself,*

*And those who i love the most*

**APPROVAL**

**PHONOLOGICAL TRANSFER FROM SPANISH TO ENGLISH: AN  
ANALYSIS OF GLORIA PRITCHETT'S ACCENT IN AMERICAN  
TELEVISION SERIES "MODERN FAMILY" SEASON 1**

Written by:

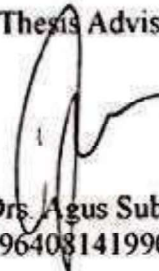
Putri Syaina Azzahra

NIM: 13020122140151

Is approved by the thesis advisor

On April 21st, 2026

Thesis Advisor



Prof. Dr. Drs. Agus Subiyanto, M.A  
NIP. 196408141990011001

The Head of English Department



Dr. Drs. Oktiva Herry Candra, M.Hum.  
NIP. 196710041993031003

**VALIDATION**

**PHONOLOGICAL TRANSFER FROM SPANISH TO ENGLISH: AN  
ANALYSIS OF GLORIA PRITCHETT'S ACCENT IN AMERICAN  
TELEVISION SERIES "MODERN FAMILY" SEASON 1**

Submitted by:  
Putri Syaina Azzahra  
NIM. 13020122140151

Approved by  
Strata I Thesis Examination Committee  
Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University  
On June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Chairman  
Dr. Dra. Nurhayati, M. Hum.  
NIP. 196610041990012001

Member  
Dr. Drs. Oktiva Herry Candra, M. Hum  
NIP. 196710041993031003

Member  
Prof. Dr. Drs. Agus Subiyanto, M.A.  
NIP. 196408141990011001



Accepted and declared in Semarang on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
The Dean of the Faculty of Humanities



Prof. Drs. Alamsyah, S.S., M. Hum  
NIP. 197211191998021002

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All praise be to Allah SWT, who has given us his countless blessings and great mercy, so that this thesis could be completed. This part is presented to thank all people who have given their in the accomplishment of this thesis. This gratitude might never be equal to their help and support.

The deepest appreciation and gratitude are extended to Prof. Dr. Drs. Agus Subiyanto, M.A as my advisor, who has spared his valuable time to give his constructive suggestions patiently and continuous guidance without which I would be doubtful to accomplish this thesis.

My greatest thanks also go to the following:

1. Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University, Prof. Dr. Alamsyah, S.S., M.Hum.
2. Dr. Drs. Oktiva Henry Candra, M.Hum. as the Head of the English Department, Diponegoro University.
3. All lecturers of the English Department, Diponegoro University, for the knowledge they give me over the years.
4. My parents, who are the biggest reasons and motivations for me to finish my education. The encouragement they both give me during the process of writing this thesis is what gets me to finally be able to finish this. I also would like to thank them for the love and support they give me all my life. I wouldn't be where I am right now without them.

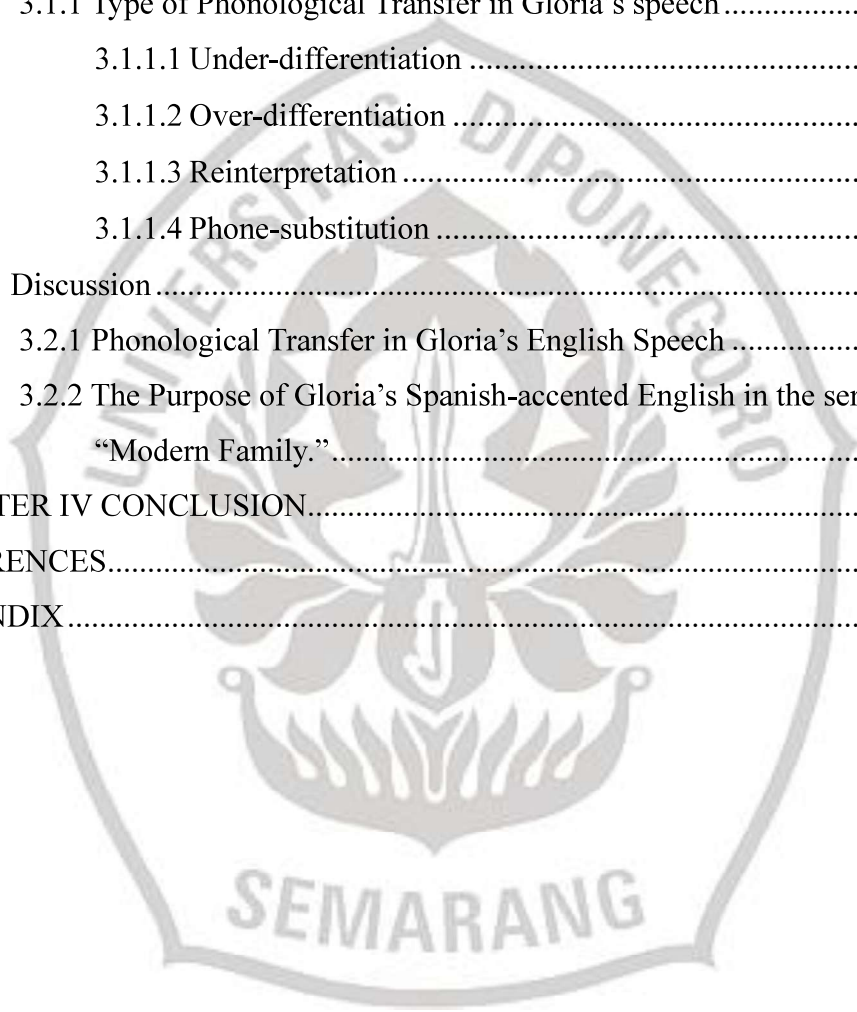
5. My family back home for also being the motivation behind me finishing my education here. Their support means a lot to me.
6. My friends throughout the university years, especially Angel, Dian, Dea Galuh, and Nasywa, for going through everything together with me and being a place for me to pent up the frustration and ears to listen. I would like to acknowledge that I wouldn't have survived university and be in this stage writing this without you all.
7. For my far-far away friend, Fefe, who met me at one of the most stressful times in my life, thank you for putting up with me and listening to my problems almost every day. Your words of encouragement are greatly appreciated and have helped me to keep going.
8. Special shoutout to Louis Tomlinson and Harry Styles for being my rocks. Their music helps me through the hard times in my life, especially during the process of this thesis.

I realized this thesis is still far from being perfect and needs improvement. Thus, any recommendations and suggestions would always be welcomed and appreciated. Finally, hope this thesis contributes to knowledge and is helpful for the readers.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRONOUNCEMENT .....	ii
MOTTO AND DEDICATION .....	iii
APPROVAL .....	iv
VALIDATION .....	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	vi
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	viii
LIST OF FIGURES .....	x
LIST OF TABLES .....	xi
ABSTRACT .....	xii
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION .....	1
1.1 Background of the Study .....	1
1.2 Research problem .....	4
1.3 Objectives of the Study .....	4
1.4 Previous studies .....	5
1.5 Scope of the Study .....	8
1.6 Writing Organization .....	9
CHAPTER II THEORY AND METHOD .....	10
2.1 Theoretical Framework .....	10
2.1.1 Phonological Transfer .....	10
2.1.2 Types of Phonological Transfer .....	10
2.1.3 Distinctive Feature .....	12
2.1.3.1 Major Class Features .....	12
2.1.3.2 Manner Features .....	13
2.1.3.3 Place of Articulation Features .....	13
2.1.4 Phonological Contrast Between Phonological Systems of English and Spanish .....	14
2.1.4.1 Consonant Contrast .....	14
2.1.4.2 Vowel Contrast .....	15
2.2 Research Method .....	17

2.2.1 Type of Research.....	17
2.2.2 Data and Data Source.....	18
2.2.3 Method of Collecting data .....	18
2.2.4 Method of Analyzing Data.....	20
CHAPTER III RESULT AND DISCUSSION.....	21
3.1 Results.....	21
3.1.1 Type of Phonological Transfer in Gloria’s speech .....	21
3.1.1.1 Under-differentiation .....	22
3.1.1.2 Over-differentiation .....	28
3.1.1.3 Reinterpretation .....	30
3.1.1.4 Phone-substitution .....	33
3.3 Discussion .....	36
3.2.1 Phonological Transfer in Gloria’s English Speech .....	36
3.2.2 The Purpose of Gloria’s Spanish-accented English in the series “Modern Family.”.....	39
CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION.....	43
REFERENCES.....	44
APPENDIX.....	48



## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 3. 1 Distinctive Feature of /ɑ:/ and /o/ .....	23
Figure 3. 2 Distinctive feature of /æ/ and /a/ .....	24
Figure 3. 3 Distinctive feature of /ʊ/ and /u/ .....	25
Figure 3. 4 Distinctive feature of /ʌ/ and /a/ .....	26
Figure 3. 5 Distinctive feature of /θ/ and /t/ .....	27
Figure 3. 6 Distinctive feature of /z/ and /s/ .....	28
Figure 3.7 Distinctive feature of English approximant /ɹ/ and trill /r/ .....	29
Figure 3. 8 Distinctive feature of English approximant /r/ .....	30
Figure 3. 9 Distinctive feature of /d/ and /ð/ .....	31
Figure 3. 10 Distinctive feature of /g/ and /ɣ/ .....	32
Figure 3. 11 Distinctive feature of /v/ and /β/ .....	33
Figure 3. 12 Distinctive feature of /j/ and /j̥/ .....	34
Figure 3. 13 Distinctive feature of /d/ and ∅ .....	35

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1 Consonant Contrasts between Spanish and English.....	14
Table 2. 2 Vowel contrast between Spanish and English .....	15
Table 3. 1 The phonological interference found in Gloria’s speech.....	22
Table 3. 2 The sound /ɑ:/ contrasts with /o/ in between consonants .....	22
Table 3. 3 the sound [æ] contrasts with [a] in between consonants .....	23
Table 3. 4 The sound /o/ substituted to /u/ .....	24
Table 3. 5 The sound /ʌ/ substituted to /a/.....	25
Table 3. 6 The sound /θ/ contrasts with /t/ .....	26
Table 3. 7 The sound /z/ substituted as /s/ after consonant .....	27
Table 3. 8 The sound /r/ when it’s written as rr.....	28
Table 3. 9 The sound /r/ after a consonant other than l, n, s.....	29
Table 3. 10 The sound /d/ produced as /ð/ in between vowels.....	30
Table 3. 11 The sound /g/ recognized as /ɣ/ in between vowels .....	31
Table 3. 12 The sound /v/ pronounced as /β/ in between vowels.....	32
Table 3. 13 The [j] sound at the beginning of the word .....	34
Table 3. 14 The sound [-ld] at the end of a word .....	35

## ABSTRACT

“Modern Family” is an American television series about the daily life of three interrelated families. One of the main characters, Gloria, stole the audience’s attention through her Spanish-accented English. Gloria’s accent is noticeable by reflecting the Spanish phonological features in her English speech. This study aims to analyze phonological transfer from Spanish to English in Gloria’s speech and the function her accent serves for the series. This study applies a qualitative descriptive approach and uses the distributional method to analyze the data. The data are taken from Gloria’s daily utterances in the series “Modern Family, season 1, using the note-taking technique. The data were then analyzed using Weinreich’s (1979) theory on phonological interference and classified to 4 different categories. This study also uses Viollain's (2023) framework for analyzing the relationship between Gloria’s accent and the series. The result shows that four categories of phonological interference can be found in Gloria’s English speech in “Modern Family” season 1, and under-differentiation appeared most frequently. The discussion later shows that Gloria’s accent serves 4 purposes for the series: geographical anchoring, attitudinal anchoring, sense of humor, and contribution to the theme of the series.

Key Words: *Modern Family, Gloria, Accent, Phonological Transfer, Spanish*

