

CHAPTER II

THEORY AND METHOD

2.1 Theoretical Framework

2.1.1 Phonological Transfer

Odlin (1989) distinguishes between phonetic transfer and phonological transfer. Phonetic transfer occurs when there are differences in the physical and acoustic properties of sounds across languages, and phonological transfer is when there are differences at the level of sound system. When a speaker identifies a sound in their second language with a phonologically similar sound in their first language, the phonetic rules of the first language may be applied in producing that sound, resulting in systematic deviations from second language norms.

Odlin (1989: 115) stated that most classifications of pronunciation errors have emphasized phonemic contrasts following Weinreich's classification of phonemic contrasts as foundational to the study of phonological transfer.

2.1.2 Types of Phonological Transfer

This study applies Weinreich's framework on phonological interference to analyze the specific types of phonological transfer in Gloria's English speech. Weinreich (1979) describes phonological interference as a phenomenon when a speaker perceives and reproduces the sounds of the second language by using their first language's sound norms and system.

Weinreich (1979) discovered 4 basic types of phonological interference: (1) Under-differentiation of Phonemes, (2) Over-differentiation of Phonemes, (3) Reinterpretation of Distinctions, and (4) Phone Substitution.

Under-Differentiation of phonemes happens when two sounds are different in the target language but treated as the same by the speaker because their first language doesn't distinguish them. For example, the Romansh speaker's confusion of /y/ and /i/, or the Schwyzertütsch speaker's confusion of /i/ and /I/ (Weinreich, 1979).

Second, Over-Differentiation of phonemes occurs when the speaker creates distinctions that don't exist in the target language, because they are used to those distinctions in their L1. For example the "clear, careful" pronunciation of German by Baltic Germans to their possession of a distinction between palatal and non-palatal consonants; in other words, German [k] and [k'] are over-differentiated and interpreted as separate phonemes, one dorsal, the other palatal, as in Lettish (Weinreich, 1979).

Third, Reinterpretation of Distinctions occurs when the speaker distinguishes second language phonemes by features which are redundant in that language but still relevant in his first language. For example, the Romansh word 'Mass', which is phonetically /messa/, can be interpreted almost as Schwyzertütsch /mesa/; the distinctive length, or geminateness of [s], meaningless in this type of Schwyzertütsch (where -ss- does not occur in its language system) (Weinreich, 1979).

Last, Phone Substitution applies to phonemes that are identically defined in two languages but whose normal pronunciation differs. Or in simpler terms, replacing a sound with another sound because the original doesn't exist in their L1. For example: Romansh /ɛ/ and Schwyzertütsch /æ/ are both defined as front vowels of maximum openness, yet the Schwyzertütsch phoneme is pronounced more open (Weinreich, 1979).

2.1.3 Distinctive Feature

Distinctive feature is a basic feature that differentiates one sound from another. Schane (1973) discussed the appropriate and applicable terms of distinctive feature that build off of Chomsky & Halle (1968) work on sound pattern of English. According to Chomsky & Halle (1968: 64), distinctive features are minimal elements where phonetic, lexical, and phonological transcriptions are composed by combination and concatenation. Distinctive feature basically is the smallest sound of phonological structure that can be analyzed using phonological theory.

2.1.3.1 Major Class Features

Major class features is the most basic concept used in distinctive feature theory. Schane (1973: 27-28) explain that Major Class Feature include [syllabic], [sonorant], and [consonantal]. [syllabic] refers to to whether a segment functions as the nucleus of a syllable, like vowels are generally classified as [+syllabic], whereas most consonants are [-syllabic]. [sonorant], is related to the degree of resonance in a sound. Vowels, nasals, liquids, and glides are all [+sonorant] because the airflow

passes with relatively little obstruction, while stops, fricatives, and affricates are [-sonorant]. [+consonantal] indicates whether a sound involves a significant narrowing or complete closure in the vocal tract. Stops, fricatives, affricates, nasals, and liquid are all [+consonantal], while vowels and glides, which lack constriction, are [-consonantal].

[syllabic], [sonorant], and [consonantal] are the three features that provide the foundation for distinguishing vowels and consonants within the framework of distinctive feature theory.

2.1.3.2 Manner Features

Manner features help to distinguish types of consonants that include [continuant], [delayed release], [strident], [nasal], and [lateral] (Schane, 1973: 28). It describes how a consonant sound is produced. There are continuant and non-continuant. Continuant is when the airflow continues (like fricatives) and non-continuant is when the airflow is blocked at some point (like stops). There are also nasal sounds ([m], [n], [ŋ]), where air passes through the nose. Similarly, there are also lateral sounds (such as [l]), where air is escaping along the sides of the tongue.

2.1.3.3 Place of Articulation Features

There are four principal places for consonant articulation: labial, dental, palato-alveolar, and velar. There are two main features: [anterior] and [coronal]. Consonants are [+anterior] if they are produced at the very front of the mouth, such

as labials and dentals. The feature [coronal] refers to whether the tongue blade is used, such as dentals, alveolars, and palato alveolars (Schane, 1973: 30)

2.1.4 Phonological Contrast Between Phonological Systems of English and Spanish

2.1.4.1 Consonant Contrast

The table below consists of the consonants in English and Spanish according to the place and manner of articulation.

Table 2.1 Consonant Contrasts between Spanish and English

Manner/Place	Bilabial		Labio-Dental		Dental		Alveolar		Post-Alveolar		Palato-Alveolar		Palatal		Velar		Glottal	
	E	S	E	S	E	S	E	S	E	S	E	S	E	S	E	S	E	S
Language	E	S	E	S	E	S	E	S	E	S	E	S	E	S	E	S	E	S
Plosive	V	b			d			d										
	Vs	p			t			t										
Affricate	V								dr		dʒ							
	Vs								tr		tʃ	tʃ						
Nasal	V	m					n	n										
	Vs																	
Roll	V							r										
	Vs																	
Flap	V																	
	Vs																	
Lateral	V						l	l										
	Vs																	
Fricative	V		v	ð			z											
	Vs		f	θ	θ	s	s	s										x
Approximant	V								r									
	Vs																	
Semivowel	V	w																j
	Vs																	

Adapted from Fisiach and Lima (1982: 26)

Note: E= English S= Spanish V= Voiced Vs= Voiceless

English has more consonant phonemes than Spanish. There are 24 consonant phonemes in English and grouped as plosive, affricate, fricative, nasal and lateral. English has consonants /p/, /b/, /t/, /d/, /k/, /g/, /f/, /v/, /θ/, /ð/, /s/, /z/, /ʃ/, /ʒ/, /h/, /tʃ/, /dʒ/, /m/, /n/, /ŋ/, /l/, /r/, /j/, and /w/. One distinctive feature is the presence of the interdental fricatives /θ/ as in ‘think’ and /ð/ as in ‘this’, do not exist in Spanish. English /r/ is a postalveolar approximant [ɹ], different than Spanish’ trilled /r/ or flap /ɾ/.

Spanish consonants contain of /p/, /b/, /t/, /d/, /k/, /g/, /f/, /θ/ (for some dialect) /s/, /x/, /tʃ/, /m/, /n/, /ɲ/, /l/, /j/, /r/, and /r/. A notable characteristic of Spanish is that the voiced stops /b, d, g/ have fricative allophones [β, ð, ɣ] when they’re in a certain position, such as in between vowels or in other non-initial positions

2.1.4.2 Vowel Contrast

The table below consists of the Vowels in English and Spanish according to tongue position and lip rounding.

Table 2. 2 Vowel contrast between Spanish and English

Backness		Front		Central		Back		
Height	Language	E	S	E	S	E	S	
High	R					ʊ	u:	u
	Ur	ɪ	i:	i				
Mid	R	e		ə	ʌ	ɜ:		ɒ
	Ur		e					
Low	R							
	Ur	æ			ɑ:	a		
Adapted from Finch and Lira (1982: 26)								
Note: R= Rounded Ur= Unrounded E=English S= Spanish								

English has a relatively large vowel system. There are 12 main vowels in English: /i:/, /ɪ/, /e/, /æ/, /ɑ:/, /ɒ/, /ɔ:/, /ʊ/, /u:/, /ʌ/, /ɜ:/, and /ə/. In addition, English also has variety of diphthongs such as: /eɪ/, /aɪ/, /ɔɪ/, /aʊ/, and /əʊ/ ([oʊ] if it's American English) . The distinction between tense, lax, long, and short is also important in English.

On the other hand, Spanish has a more simple vowel system with only 5 vowels: /i/, /e/, /a/, /o/, /u/. Unlike English, Spanish vowels are pure monophthongs but form their diphthongs by combining vowels. Spanish also does not have the tense and lax distinction like English.

2.1.4 Accents in Television

Viollain (2023) examines the relationship between accent and television series stated there are 4 things accents do to/for TV series: (1) Geographical anchoring, sense of place, (2) Historical anchoring, sense of time, (3) Attitudinal anchoring, sense of style, and (4) sense of humor.

First is geographical anchoring or sense of place. This function refers to how accent establishes a character's place of origin, be it a country, region, city, or a neighborhood, and creates a sense of culture and identity.

Second is historical anchoring or a sense of time. This function refers to how accent establishes the time background in which the story takes place and is often relevant to shows set in medieval times or specific historical periods where accents signal the time period.

Third is attitudinal anchoring or a sense of style. This function refers to how accent helps the audience's perception of the character's personality and social position through the associations attached to particular ways of speaking.

The last function of accent in television series, according to Viollain (2023) is sense of humor. This refers how accents generate comedic effects within narratives through the social reactions and cultural stereotypes of the character, especially a foreign character with a foreign accent in an English-speaking television series.

2.2 Research Method

This part will contain the explanation about (1) the type of research, (2) data and data source, and (3) Method of collecting and analyzing data.

2.2.1 Type of Research

This research applied a qualitative descriptive research method to describe and interpret the phonological errors in Gloria's English pronunciation. According to Cresswell (2023), qualitative research is a method that focuses on understanding the meaning individuals or groups give to social or human problems. The qualitative method is chosen because this research analyzes the phonological phenomenon in Gloria's Spanish-accented English speech in a descriptive method. According to Kothari "descriptive research is description of the state of affairs as it exists at present and that the researcher has no control over the variables and can only report what has happened without manipulating the data (2004: 2).

2.2.2 Data and Data Source

The data for this research are categorized as secondary data because the data was taken from Gloria's English speech throughout season one of the series "Modern Family." The data then classified into 4 types of phonological interference based on Weinreich's (1979) theory. Gloria's character was played by Sofia Vergara, an actress from Colombia and a native Spanish speaker. Her character was chosen because even though she was acting and tried to minimize her accent in the series, there was still a strong Spanish accent that could be detected in her speech. For this research, the researcher took the sample of data by watching, listening and note-taking techniques. The reason why the researcher chose the first season is because Gloria's accent is still strong, showing that she is still new to the English-speaking environment.

2.2.3 Method of Collecting data

The data for this research is taken from the spoken utterances produced by the character Gloria in the series "Modern Family" season 1. The series contains speeches that reflect everyday communicative situations. The primary source of this research is the show "Modern Family" accessed through a public streaming platform.

This research will analyze the phonological interference found in Gloria's English utterances. It will consist the individual phonological features and each unit includes a target English word, its expected phonemic transcription, the actual

pronunciation by gloria and the identified type of phonological interference based on Weinreich (1979) theory of Phonological interference.

For this research, the researcher intentionally selected data that contains phonological interference in Gloria's speech. The researcher only picked the utterances where Gloria's pronunciation deviates from the standard form of English.

To collect the data, the researcher applied a note-taking technique and some procedures:

1. The researcher watched the series "Modern Family" season 1: (<https://www.hotstar.com/id/shows/modern-family/8549>).
2. The researcher used headphones to watch the series to cancel out the outside noise and be able to hear Gloria's speech better.
3. The researcher turned on the subtitle feature while watching the series to make sure what is heard is correct. In addition, the researcher also used the script of "Modern Family" season 1 to make sure what is heard is accurate.
4. The researcher wrote what was heard, seen, and experienced when watching the series, but only the selected speech that fits the phonological transfer theory.
5. After getting the data, the researcher then converted both target English pronunciation (from Cambridge Dictionary) and Gloria's actual pronunciation using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA).
6. The data then classified and analysed into the phonological interference theory by Weinreich (1979).

2.2.4 Method of Analyzing Data

This research used a distributional method for analyzing the data. According to Sudaryanto (2015), the distributional method is a method using the internal elements of the language as the determining tools. This study applied this method because its examining the phonological structure of the words produced by Gloria and compares them with standard English. There are several steps the researcher applied to analyze the data:

1. Compared Gloria's pronunciation with the standard English phonemic transcription
2. Identified the Spanish interference in Gloria's English speech.
3. Classify each data according to Weinreich's categories: under-differentiation, over-differentiation, reinterpretation, or phone substitution
4. Explain the interference by referring to relevant Spanish phonological features.