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One of the major objectives of life besides other objectives is to realise and understand the Almighty’s blessedness on human-spices, which has been gifted with speech (vani), in the form of language. During the study of sound, an important question that must strike the human-intellect is how does the whole process of sound occur? Does it happen automatically or does somebody consciously enable the mechanism? Panini explains this complex process of the emergence of every sound in Ashthadhyayi. For instance, only the process of one sound /t/ is taken:¹

\[ \text{अल्मा बुध्या संनेत्यार्थाँनु मलो युक्ते विवक्ष्या } \]
\[ \text{मनः कायामित्रानाहिति स प्रेयत्यति मार्ततन् } \]
\[ \text{मार्तत्सूरसिय चरणः मन्न्यं जन्य्यति स्वरथ्यः...} \]

(My intellect and soul decides to pronounce / t /. They send message to the mind. The mind attacks on the ‘kayagni’ (a type of fire). One peculiar type of air produces because of this attack. This air comes out as the sound / t /.)

The holy scriptures of western and eastern also herald ‘speech’ as the special attribute to humanity from God. The Bible says that it is not you that speak but the spirit of thy father that speaks in you.² Furthermore, in the Bhagwad Geeta, God himself approves, sound / ø / as his own ‘vibhuti’ (means God’s own image) by asserting ‘aksharnamkarosmi’.³ In Sanskrit and Gujarati languages, letter is named as ‘akshar’ that also means the element which can never be destroyed. The Bhagwad Geeta proclaims ‘aksharam
brahm param’ means, I (God) myself is akshar. Thus, a touch of almighty has been experienced throughout this phonological study.

In this concluding chapter, the findings are mentioned categorically in keeping with the hypotheses mentioned in the first chapter.

5.1 English and Gujarati phonological systems have noticeable similarities, which could assist in attaining intelligible standards in English communication.

At first, the striking identical features of both the phonological systems have been summarised here:

- Both the systems have pulmonic egressive air-stream mechanism. Manners of articulation (plosive, affricate, fricative, nasal, lateral and approximants) are almost identical in both the systems. Both the systems have common places of articulation like bilabial dental, alveolar, palato-alveolar, palatal, glottal etc.
- A diachronical study of both the systems indicates the impact of Sanskrit phonology on many philologists of English and Gujarati. They are indebted to Sanskrit language.

Some imperative features also emerged during the study of vowel systems in both English and Gujarati phonology. Michael Ashby and John Maidment have given the graph of vowel systems of the world languages. The information used to compile this figure was taken from a database of 317 phonological systems known as UPSID (UCLA phonological segment inventory).
The survey indicates that the simplest system contains only three vowels – [i, a, u]. Many languages of Australia, such as Aranda and Nunggubuya have a vowel system of this type, but it is also found in other parts of the world.

From the above graph, it can also be said that the most frequently occurring vowel system has five vowels [i, e – ε, a, o – evif emoS .[u ,כּ-vowel system languages use close –mid vowels and some use open-mid vowels. There are five vowel languages in all parts of the world.

Accordingly, English contains twelve pure vowels against eight in Gujarati. But both systems contain five short vowels / i, e, æ, o, u /. They may have little variation in their position of articulations. These five short vowels are the most frequently produced vowels in both the languages.

Another noticeable feature is that both the vowels systems have front, central and back types of vowels. They vary in their numbers. As in English, Gujarati too contains four front vowels / i, ɪ, æ /.
they are different phonemes as / i, e, ε, a /. In the center position English has three vowels / a, 3.:, æ / against one in Gujarati / æ /. At the back position English comprises five vowels / æ:, o:, u, u:/ against two vowels / o,u / but in some cases three / o, o:, u / in Gujarati. Details and reasons of this variation have already been discussed in the second chapter.

5.2 English and Gujarati phonological systems have clear distinctive features, which need to be recognized and articulated for achieving intelligible standards in English communication for Indian (Gujarati) students.

Certain striking distinctions in both the vowel systems have also been studied.

- Long vowels are one of the major distinctions between both the systems. As English produces five long vowels / i:, æ:, o:, u:/ against two long vowels in Gujarati / ε, o:/ . English comprises eight diphthongs against two in Gujarati / uæ, au / . It is observed that / ɪ / ended diphthongs get shifted to monophthongs. As people of Gujarat pronounce / j / instead of producing / ɪ / . Similarly / u / ended diphthongs are also shifted to monophthongs as people of Gujarat pronounce / u / instead of / u / . In case of triphthongs, only English phonology produces them.

- English contains six plosives as against sixteen in Gujarati phonology. On the contrary, English produces nine fricatives against three in Gujarati. Two affricates are in English against four in Gujarati. English
produces three nasals while Gujarati has four nasals. English has /l/ as lateral and /ɹ/ (dark) as an allophone while Gujarati contains two separate phonemes /l/ and /ɻ/. /ɻ/ is not an allophone of /l/. /r/ is articulated as retroflexed and remains silent if it is not followed by vowel in English phonology. In Gujarati, /r/ is produced as a tap/flap and does occur in every condition. In the manner of approximants, English articulates three consonants /v, w, j/ as against two /v, j/ in Gujarati. Again Gujarati does not articulate phonemes /v/ and /w/ separately.

- ‘Aspiration of phoneme’ is also one more remarkable distinction that has been studied here. English plosive /p, t, k/ are aspirated when they occur in the initial position of a word as /pʰ, tʰ, kʰ/. They are not treated as separate phonemes but as allophones. In Gujarati, eight pairs of plosives and two pairs of affricates are categorized by some phonologists as aspirated and non-aspirated but these pairs are not allophones to their respective phonemes but each one is a separate phoneme, which has been approved by concerned references and analysis in the third chapter. That is to say, the term ‘aspiration’ applies and is used for English phonemes and it should not similarly be applicable to Gujarati.

- Similarly, affricates can also be treated in Gujarati phonology. /ʧʰ/ is not found in English phonology. In Gujarati Phonology /ʤʰ/ is affricate, while English has fricative /z/. Gujarati people do not produce sounds with fortition as it is found in English spirantizatic. Due to lack of fortisness, Gujarati has three fricatives /s, ʃ, h/ against nine in English. /ʒ/ is not produced in Gujarati while /f, θ, ð/ phonemes are produced as plosives:
Roach is also of the opinion that /ð/ is mostly produced in the manner of a plosive rather than of a fricative in English.\(^6\)

In short, the vowel system in English relatively contains a larger number of phonemes with greater variety as in length: short and long or say diphthongs and triphthongs. On the other hand, the consonant system in Gujarati phonology has a larger number of phonemes with greater variety of manner, place, aspiration and murmurs as compared to English.

In the study of suprasegmentals, two elements: syllable and stress, had been selected for comparative study from both English and Gujarati. Actually in Gujarati, the suprasegmental portion has not been studied thoroughly by many philologists. However, these two topics have been focused up to a certain level by Pandit and Mistry. In the present study, a few major comparative features of syllable structure and syllable division are mentioned in brief:

- The fundamental concept of a syllable is quite different in both the systems due to their orthography patterns. The alphabets of English language do not contain an inherent vowel with a consonant while the alphabets of Gujarati language carry an inherent vowel with a consonant. As such, Gujarati orthography is written in abugida script. Thus, English syllable is the unit that is next in hierarchy to the speech sound while in Gujarati every letter can have the status of a syllable.
- English syllable structure is CCCVCCCC while Gujarati syllable structure is CCCVCC. In English, consonant clusters occur at the initial and at the
ending position as against the initial, medial and ending position in Gujarati.

- Considering syllable division, Gujarati records the complexity of certain consonant sequences, which are not accepted in Gujarati as phonological clusters. That is why one special condition was set out by Modi. In fact, the third rule given by her for syllable division; “[+ syll] c c (v - having stress) (c) [+syll] c c (v-having stress)” is almost similar to the maximum onset principle which is widely accepted for syllable division.

The second element of the suprasegmental is stress pattern, which has also been studied comparatively. Identical features are summarized here and the findings are listed as follows:

- Both the systems place stress on the strong syllable of the word in most cases, whether the strong syllable is at the place of the first, second or third.
- In both the systems, a syllable containing schwa (ә) vowel does not take stress.
- In both the systems, affixes affect the placement of stress partially.
- In both the systems, the two types of stresses i.e. primary and secondary are noticed.

Now the features that indicate the contradiction are listed as follows:

- English has well established stress patterns as against the less studied stress patterns of Gujarati.
Stress changes its placement according to the function of the word, i.e., stress on a word, which is a noun, will change if the same word is used as a verb. Such shifting of stress has not been found in Gujarati.

5.3 The native speakers of Gujarat generally do communicate in English through Gujarati phonology. They do not use English phonology while communicating in English; if remedial guidance is provided for the improvement of English communication, the standards of intelligible English are possible to locate among the native speakers of Gujarat.

The comparative study of segment and suprasegment of both the phonological systems facilitate to prepare a portrait that Gujarati Phonology contains enough variety to enunciate English up to the international standards easily. Gujarati consonant system comprises of almost all the phonemes of the English consonant system. In addition, Gujarati articulates a larger number of plosive, nasal, and affricate consonants. Gujarati Phonology produces eight vowels as against twelve in English. All the short vowels are properly produced in Gujarati. The problem is only at producing long vowels & diphthongs. Gujarati as a language does contain the variety of the long vowels but this is observed only in orthography. During speech production, long vowels are not produced as a matter of habit. Babu Suthar dedicated his fiction ‘Nindraviyog’ to the vowels and consonants, which are used in orthography but not produced in speech. He mentions, “You are the victims of our mouth - the first metaphysical machine evolved by itself.” However, According to Michael Ashby and John Madiment, vowels carry less
information than consonants. It is perhaps because of this that vowels tend to be more variable and unstable than consonants. One consequence is that vowels change over time more rapidly than consonants do. They proved it by stating an example: take one short English sentence and transcribe it, but replace every vowel symbol with [3:] if you were to do this with the sentence “Mary had a little lamb”, the transcription would be [m3: r3: h3:d l3:t l3:m]. Now, practice saying this sentence until you are sure, you have uttered it right and see if your friends can understand the sentence when you say it to them. You will very probably find that most of them can. If you do a similar thing with the consonants, replacing them all with [d] say, but keeping the correct vowel qualities, the sentence will be unintelligible.⁸

Thus, it seems producing less number of vowels may not prove much of a hindrance in speaking internationally intelligible English by the people of Gujarat. However, the following suggestions are placed at the disposal of those learners who wish to speak internationally intelligible English.

- Pronunciation is a matter of habit and as it is said ‘habit hardens the hearts’. One must pass through proper guidance in a form of a remedial course for better quality of ‘intelligible pronunciation of English’ (Bansal’s Spoken English for India).
- Such a kind of course, or say the basic knowledge of phonetics should be a part of high school syllabus. On the contrary, phonetics in Gujarat is taught only at the graduate and the postgraduate levels. It often happens that by the time they come to know how to pronounce English accurately, they are already habituated to pronounce it differently.
because of what they have learnt at their secondary and under-graduate levels. On account of that it is very difficult for them to apply the knowledge of phonetics for practical purposes. That is why an elementary course regarding better pronunciation should be introduced in the syllabus from high-school level onwards, so that the learners acquire the habit of accurate pronunciation.

- The students are always impressed by the speech of their teachers. Hence, they tend to follow their teacher. The reality is that the teachers at high school and colleges have not been trained with the proper method of pronouncing English intelligibly. Naturally, they would speak English through their first language. That is to say, an orientation should also be offered to the teachers at high-school and college level to get better results.

- It is also observed that English medium schools in Gujarat where teachers are from other states like South or North states of India may speak English through their first languages to the students. In such cases, the Gujarati students may acquire wrong pronunciation.

- Up to now the focus of learning and teaching English has been only on vocabulary and syntax but now this formal trend should be recontextualised. A portion of pronouncing vowels with adequate length and accuracy; stress patterns in a word and in connect-speech and proper syllable-division should be included in this process. For accurate pronunciation of English word, the best way is to refer to standard dictionaries.
5.4 Further Areas of Study:

Further areas of comparative study in phonological systems of different languages with Gujarati need to be explored. Such a type of research would help to transmit certain unique features of the Gujarati phonological system to the world languages. At the level of phonetics, one may focus on the areas of articulatory phonetics considering both the systems of English and Gujarati as the base. The most essential matter is now to take an initiative for the further study in Gujarati Phonology, particularly focusing upon the suprasegmental portion. Many aspects of the suprasegmental as stress, intonation, elision, rhythms, assimilation, linking etc. have not been studied with proper data-material up to now.

If the present study can prove to be even a little needful to any research scholar to study further in this area, it would be a matter of satisfaction. A pinch has also been felt during the study that certain minute impacts of nasalization as well as of murmur could not be discussed in full detail. Nevertheless, they have been referred to whenever their references have been required. Even then, a separate thorough study with the collection of full data material should be planned for further research. Similarly, intonation-patterns in suprasegmental portion had been considered for the study but during the study of Gujarati phonology, no such sufficient explanatory and authentic work could be found. That is why the topic could not be incorporated and ‘syllable’ had been selected in its place.
In Gujarat, the present study (in the area of phonology), has remained untouched until now. Generally, scholars prefer the studies based on literary pieces and genres or critical theories and even if one selects a linguistic area, the topics are mostly related to the syntactic field. In fact, phonology has not been sufficiently studied in Gujarat. Specifically speaking, a comparative study on phonological systems has never been handled in Gujarat. Therefore, it can be expected that the present study may throw some light to motivate the scholars to research in this unpouched area. The work can finally be summed with quote from Vagbhushanam: 9

यदश्रयुद्धछन्ं मान्ताहि च युद्धवत
तत्स्वच्छ आन्यतं देव / प्रतीद परमेवं वर

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Reference:


2. *Good News Bible*, *(Bangalore: The Bible Society of India,2003)* p.28


4. Ibid, p.215


