6. PROBLEMS FACED BY ENGLISH SPEAKERS

6.1. Concerning Vowel System

The non-existence of certain Malayalam vowels is always difficult for English speakers in speaking Malayalam. Though some vowels are somewhat similar they are dissimilar either in distribution or in articulation.

Among front vowels [i,iː] are similar in both languages. But in the initial position English speakers fail to pronounce them with an English [y] as ordinary Malayalam speakers pronounce it.

eg: [iːs] for [yːs] 'leaf'
    [iːtuː] for [yːctː] 'fly'

English speakers fail to pronounce Malayalam tense [i] in the final position. Instead they pronounce a lax [i]. English speakers use [i] and [iː] in different positions though Malayalam has no such variations. Malayalam [iː] is more open and centralized than English [iː]. [i] in the first syllable of a polysyllabic word corresponds to [e] before [a] in the next syllable in Malayalam.

eg: [piːrəmu] [pɛɾəmu] 'born'
    [iːla] [eːla] 'leaf'

Another change of [i] to [u] in bases in which [i] is immediately followed by a short consonant and an open vowel is a common phonological change in Malayalam.
Such changes are not observed by the English speakers.

As final [ə] does not occur in English the English speakers substitute [ei] for Malayalam final [e].

*eg*: [nindei] for [ninde] 'yours'

Malayalam [a] and [ai] are difficult for English people as they do not occur in English. They substitute [ʌ] or [u] for [a] and [æ] or [ai] for [ai].

*eg*: [padam] for [pədəm] 'picture'

[even] for [avan] 'he'

[scanf] for [sənti] 'peace'

[a:ne] for [a:na] 'elephant'

English people pronounce [ai] which is less fronter and centralized than Malayalam [ai]. Sometimes in Malayalam, [a] in the first syllable of a polysyllabic word may change into [e] when preceded by a voiced consonant.

*eg*: [balam] [belam] 'strength'

such change is not observed by English speakers.

Among the back vowels Malayalam [o] and [oi] do not occur in English. So they substitute [o] and [oi] respectively.

*eg*: [one] for [onai] 'one'

[poti] for [pəti] 'broken'

[odi] for [o:ti] 'tiles'

[o:ni] for [ɔ:ni] 'boat'
In the final position Malayalam [ oː ] is substituted by English diphthong [ o u ]. English speakers do not use [ v ] onglide with [ o ] initially which is usual in Malayalam.

[ u ] and [ uː ] are similar in both languages but in English [ u ] does not occur in the final position, English speakers substitute [ uː ] for Malayalam [ u ] in that position.

eg: [ v a uː ] for [ v a u ] 'came'

English [ u ] and [ uː ] are restricted to the initial position whereas in Malayalam there is no such restriction.

Malayalam [ u ] sometimes changes into [ o ] when in initial syllable [ u ] is followed by short on consonant and a more open vowel. ³

eg: [ u n d u ] > [ o n d u ] 'have' (possessive)
[ k uː t a ] > [ k oː t a ] 'umbrella'

Such changes are absent in English, hence it is difficult for English speakers in learning Malayalam.

Malayalam has an [ u ] in the final position which is fronter and lower and somewhat similar to [ e ] in English. It occurs in the final position with consonants except [ l, l, m, n, n, r, y ]. English people end such words in consonants only.

eg: [ k aː d ] for [ k aː t u ] 'forest'
[ j u p ] for [ u pː u ] 'salt'
Malayalam [ y ] or [ v ] which occurs between two vowels or preceded by a vowel is sometimes realised as diphthong: by the English speakers.

eg : [ t r e i u ] for [ c a y T u ] 'done'
[ k a i ] for [ k a y ] 'hand'
[ p o i ] for [ p o : y i ] 'went'
[ i o i ] for [ i o : l ] 'This man'
[ p u o ] for [ p u : v u ] 'flower'
[ k a u 8 u g e m ] for [ k a v u T u k a m ] 'pleasure'

Malayalam vowels [ l, m, n ] are sometimes omitted by the English speakers, because sometimes they consider [ l, m, n ] as syllabic consonants in their language.

eg : [ t s a t n ] for [ c a t a n ] 'lame'
[ v a : n l ] for [ v a : n i l ] 'in the sky'
[ k a : l m ] for [ k a : l a m ] 'time'

Wherever there is [ y ] or [ v ] which occurs intervocalically in a Malayalam word English speakers make it a diphthong or a vowel sequence.

eg : [ p a i 8 e l ] for [ p a y i T a l ] 'child'
[ k u i l ] for [ k u y i l ] 'a song bird'
[ k a e ] for [ k a y a r ] 'coir'

When a vowel-ending word is followed by a vowel-beginning word, there should be a vowel sequence. But in Malayalam in such a place an elision takes place.

deg : [ a v i 8 e ] + [ a r u ] [ a v i T a r u ] 'who is there?'
[e] in the first word has disappeared. In literary language it changes into [a v i d e y a r w]. Here [e] is still there but [y] comes between the two vowels. Such changes are unknown to English speakers.

Malayalam nasalization is difficult for English speakers. Malayalam Nasalized [a, aː, aː, o, oː] are pronounced as [ ɐ, æ, aː, ɔ, ɔː] before nasal consonants. Malayalam nasalized [e] in the final position is difficult for English speakers, hence they may use a diphthong [ei] for it.

eg: [enei] for [em ɐ] ‘me’

In English only [i], [u] and [o] have length opposition. But in Malayalam all vowels except [u] have length opposition. English speakers substitute [oi] for [oː], [aː] for [aː] and [ei] for [eː]

eg: [oː aːi] for [oː tːi] ‘ran’

[aː n oː] for [aː n aː] ‘elephant’

[eː iːn iː] for [eː ðːiː] ‘ladder’
6.2. Concerning Consonant System

English speakers aspirate Malayalam [p, k] in the initial position.

eg: [pʰ ʌ ni] for [p a ni] 'fever'
    [kʰ o d i] for [k o t i] 'flag'

Malayalam aspirated plosives [pʰ] and [tʰ] are substituted by [f] and [θ] respectively by the English speakers.

eg: [f ʌ s] for [pʰ aː s a] 'language'
    [θ ʌ n e m] for [tʰ a n a m] 'money'

English speakers replace [t] for Malayalam [tʰ] and [θ].

eg: [v e t i] for [v e t; i] 'cut'

Non-occurrence of Malayalam consonants in the final position is a difficult problem for English speakers. Malayalam speakers use an [w] after a consonant finally. English speakers avoid that vowel and pronounce the final consonant.

eg: [p aː t] for [p aː t; w] 'song'
    [v aː k] for [v aː k; w] 'word'
    [j u p] for [u p; w] 'salt'

Though [t] is somewhat similar in both languages, [tʰ] is difficult for English speakers. [t] and [θ] do not occur in English hence the English speakers substitute [t] and [θ] respectively.

Intervocalic [T] variant of [t] in Malayalam is realised as [d] by the English people.

eg: [p ʌ d i] for [p a t i] 'step'
[τ] is substituted by [θ].

eg: [θʌlə] for [tələ] 'head'

Malayalam [τ] has a variant [τ] in the medial position intervocalically. It is replaced by [θ].

eg: [pʌθə] for [pətə] 'foam'

Malayalam voiced retroflex [d] is substituted by alveolar voiced [d] by the English people.

eg: [dəpi] for [dəpi] 'a small box'

English speakers substitute [θ] for Malayalam voiced dental stop [d].

eg: [θəs] for [θəsə] 'kindness'

[d] is a variant of [τ] in [nd] cluster in Malayalam. It is unknown to English people. [τ] and [k] in Malayalam word final syllable followed by [u] are substituted by [θ, d, g], respectively.

eg: [onpəθ] for [onpətə] 'nine'

[aθd] for [aθtə] 'goat'

[marug] for [maruku] 'mole'

In Malayalam, voiced stops occur finally in clusters followed by [u] but in English, voiced stops are freely used finally without the help of [u]. So Malayalam voiced stops plus [u] are substituted by English voiced stops.

eg: [pəθəmb] for [pəmb] 'snake'

An English cannot pronounce voiced stops with vocalic release.
To an Englishman Malayalam [c] is a voiceless alveolar affricate [tʃ].

eg: [tʃ iː p] for ['c iː p, w'] 'comb'

Malayalam intervocalic [C] is substituted by [dʒ].

eg: [p əː dʒ ə k e m] for [p əː k ə m] 'cooking'

English speakers do not pronounce [tʃ] and [dʒ] with vocalic release in the final position.

eg: [m aː tʃ] for [m aː c iː w] 'roof'

Among the fricatives [s] and [g] are very difficult Malayalam sounds for English people. [s] is a voiceless retroflex fricative in Malayalam. An English speaker substitutes a voiceless palato-alveolar fricative [ʃ] for it.

eg: [v iː s a m] for [v iː s a m] 'poison'

[g] is a voiceless palatal fricative in Malayalam. English people substitute [ʃ] or [ʒ] for it.

eg: [ʃ ə n ə l] or [ʒ ə n ə l] for [s ə n ə l] 'peace'

Malayalam final [g] followed by [w] is substituted by the English speakers.

eg: [k ə ʃ] for [k əː s w] 'money'

English labio-dental voiced fricative [v] is used for Malayalam labio-dental semivowel [v]. [v] is used without vocalic release in the final position.

eg: [p l əː v] for [p l əː v w] 'jack tree'

English speakers substitute [n] for Malayalam dental nasal [n] and retroflex nasal [ŋ].
eg: \([ n a : n u ] \) for \([ n a : n u ] \) 'a name'

Malayalam final \([ ñ ] \) is realised as \([ n ] \) by English people.

eg: \([ k ñ n ] \) for \([ k a ñ ] \) 'eye'

English speakers substitute \([ n d z ] \) cluster for Malayalam palatal nasal \([ ñ ] \) and \([ ñ i ] \).

eg: \([ n d z \ a : n ] \) for \([ ñ a : n ] \) 'I'

\([ k ñ n d z \ i ] \) for \([ k a ñ i ] \) 'a rice preparation'

Sometimes all these nasals have intervocalic length in Malayalam. It is difficult for English speakers, as length is not observed by them.

eg: \([ v ñ n u ] \) for \([ v a ñ u ] \) 'came'

The change of \([ ñ k ] \) into \([ ñ i ] \) and \([ ñ c ] \) into \([ ñ i ] \) has occurred by a process of nasal assimilation in Malayalam. The assimilative change of \([ ñ t ] \) into \([ ñ i ] \) is also one of the earliest changes in Malayalam. English speakers substitute \([ ñ g ] , [ n d z ] \) and \([ n ð ] \) for \([ ñ k ] , [ ñ c ] \) and \([ ñ t ] \) respectively.

eg: \([ ñ i ñ g \ o l ] \) for \([ ñ i ñ k a l ] \) 'monday'

\([ k u ñ d z i ] \) for \([ k u ñ c i ] \) 'name'

\([ t s ñ ñ ð a ] \) for \([ c a n t a ] \) 'market'

\([ ñ ] \) and \([ ñ ] \) are other difficult Malayalam sounds for English speakers. English voiceless lateral \([ ñ ] \) is substituted for Malayalam retroflex \([ ñ ] \).

eg: \([ v ñ 1 e ] \) for \([ v a 1 a ] \) 'ring'

\([ v o : l ] \) for \([ v a : l ] \) 'sword'

In English there is no palatal lateral \([ ñ ] \), so this is
difficult for the English speakers. They substitute frictionless voiced semivowel [ j ] for it.

eg : [ m a j e ] for [ m a l a ] 'rain'

English speakers sometimes use [ w ] with lip rounding for Malayalam voiced labiodental frictionless continuant [ v ].

eg : [ w i d e i ] for [ a v i t e ] 'there'

Malayalam palatal semivowel [ y ] is replaced by [ j ] by the English people.

eg : [ v a j s ] for [ v a y a s w ] 'age'

Voiced retroflex alveolar continuant [ r ] is used for Malayalam voiced alveolar flap [ r ] and voiced alveolar trill [ r ].

eg : [ r a n d ] for [ r a n d w ] 'two'

[ r a i n i ] for [ r a i n i ] 'queen'

All Malayalam [ r ] - ending words are difficult for English people. They simply do not pronounce it. [ r ] - ending words may be changed there by a diphthong or [ e ] or a vowel sequence.

eg : [ o v e ] for [ a v a r ] 'they'

[ p a i e ] for [ p a y a r ] 'gram'

Malayalam two consonant clusters which have first element [ t, d, j, s, n ] are difficult for English speakers. They substitute [ θ, ɹ, dʒ, ʃ, n ], respectively.

eg : [ θ r a i n i ] for [ t r a i n i ] 'strength'

[ ɹ r e v a m ] for [ ɹ r e v a m ] 'liquid'

[ v a dʒ e m ] for [ v a j r a m ] 'diamond'

[ f m a s a i n o m ] for [ g m a s a i n a m ] 'cremation'

[ p n ɹ ] for [ p a n w ] 'ball'
Malayalam two consonant clusters which have [ t, c, r, v, n, l ] as the second element are difficult for English speakers. They substitute [ θ, dz, r, w, n, l ] respectively.

eg: [ sθanem ] for [ stαnam ] 'breast'
    [ v∧ndzi ] for [ vantci ] 'boat'
    [ pra:v ] for [ prα:v ] 'dove'
    [ w:rem ] for [ gvar:ram ] 'hole'
    [ rθanem ] for [ rα:nam ] 'diamond'
    [ kris:en ] for [ kris:nan ] 'a name'

Certain Malayalam two consonant clusters especially which begin with [ r ] are pronounced as single consonants by the English speakers.

eg: [ vε:sem ] for [ var:sam ] 'year'
    [ u:dzem ] for [ ur:jam ] 'energy'

Malayalam three consonant clusters are sometimes realised as two consonant clusters by the English people.

eg: [ le:mi ] for [ la:smi ] 'a name'
    [ le:jem ] for [ la:tyam ] 'aim'

Sometimes a Malayalam four consonant cluster is made into a three consonant cluster by the English speakers.

eg: [ θα:stjem ] for [ dha:rstyam ] 'arrogance'

[ y ] - ending clusters followed by a vowel are sometimes realised with a diphthong at that place.

eg: [ mal:siem ] for [ mal:tyam ] 'fish'
    [ va:di:en ] for [ vayidyan ] 'physician'
    [ en:tiem ] for [ antyam ] 'end'
    [ nam:pi:s ] for [ nambyar ] 'a caste'
Many words in English end in consonants whereas in Malayalam only [m, n, p, t, l, 1'] occur in the word-final position and there are no clusters in the final position. Hence English speakers realise the Malayalam final consonants without vocalic release, i.e., without [w].

eg: [tʃ em p] for [c em bu] "copper"
[kel p] for [kel p u] "ability"
[nir θ] for [nir t u] "stop"

Certain geminated consonants are also made into clusters of different consonants.

eg: [m a : ñ g ə] for [m a ñ a] "mango"
[m æn ñ ə] for [m a ñ a] "yellow"

Malayalam geminated consonants are difficult for English speakers. In English, gemination occurs in certain compound words or with affixes. In Malayalam, gemination is distinctive. English speakers realise Malayalam geminated consonants of [p, t, t', c, k, j, m, n, n, ñ, h, l, l', v, y] without gemination. A few examples are given below:

[kupi] for [ku p i] "bottle"
[kæθi] for [ka t i] "knife"
[kut i] for [ku t i] "child"
[pÆθ u] for [pÆθ a] "green"
[tʃÆθ k u] for [ca ku a] "jack frint"
[æm u] for [a m a] "mother"
[pÆn i] for [pÆn i] "mine"
[kÆn] for [ka ñ u] "eyes"
[pÆl] for [pa ñ w] "tooth"
[kÆl] for [ka ñ w] "today"
[tʃÆv u] for [cov a] "tuesday"
6.3. Concerning Syllabic System

There are differences in the structure of syllables in both languages. So English speakers may find some difficulties to study the Malayalam syllabic patterns. Malayalam disyllabic words are made into monosyllabic in the following examples.

\[ \text{eg: } [\text{i}: \text{em}] \text{ for } [\text{i}: \text{yam}] \text{ 'since'} \]
\[ [\text{i}: \text{el}] \text{ for } [\text{i}: \text{ya}: \text{y}] \text{ 'this man'} \]
\[ [\text{po}: \text{i}] \text{ for } [\text{po}: \text{y}i] \text{ 'went'} \]
\[ [\text{ma}: \text{u}] \text{ for } [\text{ma}: \text{v}\text{m}] \text{ 'mango tree'} \]

The number of syllables in words which have more than two syllables is also reduced by the same process mentioned above. Wherever there is a cluster with [\text{y}] as its first element there is a chance of diphthongization. English speakers change most of the [\text{y}] and [\text{v}] into the nonnucleus part of diphthongs.

\[ \text{eg: } [\text{aikjem}] \text{ for } [\text{aykym}] \text{ 'unity'} \]
\[ [\text{kau}: \text{ugem}] \text{ for } [\text{kavutukam}] \text{ 'interest'} \]

Malayalam words which end in [\text{y}] or [\text{v}] are substituted by the nonnucleus part of diphthongs in the pronunciation of English people thereby their syllabic pattern suffering a change.

\[ \text{eg: } [\text{kau}] \text{ for } [\text{ka}: \text{v}] \text{ 'temple'} \]
\[ [\text{ka}: \text{i}] \text{ for } [\text{kay}] \text{ 'hand'} \]

The patterning of consonants preceding and following the syllable nucleus is different in both languages.
English consonants and clusters can occur in the final position. In Malayalam only a few number of consonants occur in that position. This results in the change of syllabic pattern when the English people try to learn Malayalam. They pronounce consonants in the final position without vocalic release, reducing the number of syllables in that word. Word final syllables are mostly open in Malayalam. They are difficult for English people as they have close syllables in that position. Malayalam words which end in [m] lose one syllable when they are pronounced by the English speakers.

eg : [əθ] for [əTm] 'that'

[m dek] for [m aik u] 'folding'

[p ænɪt] for [pa tin u] 'eighteen'

[k n a i ku d] for [ka n a T i ku u T u] 'glass case'

All Malayalam words are pronounced with or without stress uniformly. If a vowel is long that syllable is prominent. So it is difficult for an Englishman to pronounce a Malayalam word as he does not know how to stress that word. He gives unnecessary stresses in Malayalam words. Sometimes the English speakers omit a vowel in a Malayalam word before [l, m] and [n], as they consider these consonants as syllabic in their language, and thereby one syllable of that word is reduced.

eg : [mu k l] for [mu k i l] 'in the nose'

[m u l] for [mu i l] 'in front'

[θ e t θ l] for [θ e t a θ l] 'in the garden'
Final syllable in Malayalam is problematic for English speakers because of the non-occurrence of certain consonants and clusters in that language. They make various substitutions in the final syllable. English speakers cannot pronounce Malayalam word final [r]. They make different substitutions as is given in the following examples:

- [a:i] for [a:i r] 'who'
- [k a:i] for [k a:i r] 'cloud'
- [p a:e] for [p a:y a r] 'gram'
- [a u e] for [a v a r] 'they'
- [m a:l e] for [m a:l a r] 'flower'
- [k u:t u k a:i] for [k u:t u k a:i] 'friends'
- [t s e] for [c e: r] 'mud'

Geminated consonants are treated as CC in Malayalam. Gemination creates some difficulties for English speakers. They substitute consonants without gemination in such cases and syllabic patterns are changed. Some examples of it have already been given in the preceding section.

eg: [θ枕头 θ e] for [θ a ti: a] 'parrot'
- [p o t n] for [p o t: an] 'dumb'
- [k a t u] for [k a t: u] 'stole'
- [k a s t] for [k a s t: w] 'wind'
- [p a t i] for [p a t: i] 'dog'
- [m a n] for [m a m: u] 'soil'
- [m u: k] for [m u: k: w] 'nose'
[ θ ∧ n u ] for [ t a m u ] 'gave'
[ k ∧ n i ] for [ k a n i ] 'link'
[ m æ p ] for [ m æ p u ] 'pardon'
[ o t s ] for [ o c i u ] 'snail'

Medial [ r ] in Malayalam is also difficult for the English speakers. They make different substitutions and the syllabic patterns are changed in the following examples.

eg: [ v e n e m ] for [ v e r n a m ] 'colour'
[ p a : r u ] for [ p a r t u ] 'lived'
[ t s e r u ] for [ c e r t u ] 'joined'
[ o i r u ] for [ o t c u ] 'remembered'
6.4. Concerning Word Boundary

6.4.1. Initial Elements

6.4.1.1. Vowel Beginning

A consonant, a cluster or a vowel can begin a word in Malayalam. There are no diphthongs and vowel sequences in that language. These initial vowels of Malayalam which are not available in English cause difficulty for English speakers in learning Malayalam.

Malayalam front vowels \( [i, iː, e, eː] \) can begin a word taking an onglide \( [y] \) in the initial position. In English \( [eː] \) does not occur hence the English speakers substitute a diphthong \( [ei] \).

\[
\text{eg: } [ei ɔ] \quad \text{for } [y ɛ: ɪw] \quad \text{"which"}
\]

Though \( [i, iː, e] \) are similar in both languages English speakers fail to pronounce them with onglide \( [y] \) in the initial position.

\[
\text{eg: } [i ɔ] \quad \text{for } [y i ɛw] \quad \text{"this"}
\]
\[
[iː tː ə] \quad \text{for } [y iː c: a] \quad \text{"fly"}
\]
\[
[e tː] \quad \text{for } [y eː tː u] \quad \text{"eight"}
\]

\( [i] \) in the initial syllable of a polysyllabic word as said Carlois corresponds to \( [e] \) before \( [a] \) in the next syllable.

This change is unknown to English people.

\[
\text{eg: } [b ɛ la m] \quad \text{for } [b a la m] \quad \text{"strength"}
\]
Malayalam central vowels [a] and [æ:] do not occur in English. When a Malayalam word begins in [a] or [æ:] English people substitute [ʌ] or [e], [æ:] or [æ] respectively.

eg: [ʌpəm] for [æ:ɪm] 'bread'
[ənɪ] for [ænɪ] 'line'
[dək] for [æ:ɪk] 'to whom'
[ætm] for [æ:tæm] 'dance'

Malayalam [o] and [ɔ:] can begin a word taking an onglide [v] initially. Though English speakers substitute [ə] and [ɔ:] for the said vowels they fail to produce them with the liprounding.

eg: [ɔtəgəm] for [ɔːtəkəm] 'camel'
[ɔːtem] for [ɔːtəm] 'running'

Malayalam [u] and [u:] can begin a word taking an onglide [v] initially. English [u] does not begin a word and [u:] is not pronounced with the onglide. In English, [u] does not occur in the initial position, hence English people substitute [ju:] for it.

eg: [juːnəkɪ] for [uːnəkɪ] 'dried'
[u] in the initial syllable of a polysyllabic word corresponds to [o] before [a] in the next syllable.

eg: [uːnəkɪ] [ɔːnəkɪ] 'dried'
[pʊkɑ] [pɔkɑ] 'smoke'

This change is a problem for English speakers as they are not familiar with such changes.
No diphthongs and vowel sequences begin a word in Malayalam. Sometimes when an initial vowel is followed by [ʏ] English people use a diphthong or a vowel sequence in that position. If the consonant [y] or [v] comes just after the initial vowel they pronounce it as a non-nucleus part of diphthong.

eg: [ai k j ə m] for [a y k y a m] 'unity'
[a u ə ə ə j ə m] for [a v u ə ə ə r y a m] 'kindness'

In quick colloquial speech the initial vowel of many words is omitted by the Malayalam speakers and the geminated nasals are heard as the initial sound.

eg: [ni i ɪ t ə s] for [ni i ɪ t ə s] 'what then?'
[ni a ɪ l] for [ni a ɪ l] 'that day'

This is a problem for English speakers in speaking Malayalam.

6.4.1.2 Consonant Beginning

Malayalam consonants [p, t, k, c] and their aspirated sounds, [pʰ, tʰ, kʰ, cʰ] can begin a word.

Malayalam unaspirated sounds are pronounced as aspirated sounds in the initial position by the English speakers.

Aspiration of English and Malayalam is different in function. Malayalam aspiration is distinctive, hence when unaspirated sounds are pronounced with aspiration by the English speakers, the hearers are confused. Aspirated [pʰ] is used by the English speakers for the unaspirated and aspirated [p].
in the initial position, [tʃ] is used for Malayalam initial [c] and [ch].

eg: [pʰ ə nə m] for [pə nə m] 'money'
    and [pʰ a nə m] 'hood'
    [tʃ æ jə] for [caː yə] 'tea'
    and [cʰ aː yə] 'image'

English people substitute [θ] for [t], and [tʃ] for [c] in the initial position.

eg: [θ æ dɪ] for [tə tɪ] 'wood'
    [tʃ æ dɪ] for [cə tɪ] 'plant'

Malayalam [d] and [j] are replaced by [ð] and [dz] respectively in the initial position.

eg: [ð æ sɪ vi] for [də sɪ vi] 'goddess'
    [dz iː və n] for [j iː və n] 'life'

All Malayalam fricatives [s, ʃ, s] and [h] can begin a word. Among these fricatives [ʃ] poses a difficult problem for English people. They substitute [ʃ] in the initial position.

eg: [ʃ æ nə tɪ] for [sə nə tɪ] 'peace'
    [ʃ iː lə] for [silə] 'rack'

Malayalam has six nasals, out of which three
[np, n, ñ] can begin a word. [n] and [ñ] cause difficulty for English speakers. They substitute voiced alveolar nasal
[n] for the dental nasal [ŋ]

eg: [n iː] for [ŋ iː] 'you'
\[ \ddot{n} \] is a difficult sound for them, as it has no analogue in English. They substitute a cluster \([ n d z ]\)
or \([ n ]\).

\begin{itemize}
  \item [\textit{eg}]: \([ n d z \ddot{n} ]\) \textit{for} \([ n \ddot{n} n ]\) \textit{for} \([ \ddot{n} a: n ]\) 'I'.
\end{itemize}

English people substitute labio-dental \([ v ]\) for Malayalam labio-dental semivowel \([ v ]\) to begin a word.

\begin{itemize}
  \item [\textit{eg}]: \([ v \ddot{a} i ]\) \textit{for} \([ v a \ddot{a} i ]\) 'stick'.
\end{itemize}

Malayalam \([ x ]\) and \([ \ddot{x} ]\) can begin a word. Voiced alveolar strill \([ x ]\) is difficult for English speakers so they substitute voiced retroflex alveolar continuant \([ \ddot{x} ]\).

\begin{itemize}
  \item [\textit{eg}]: \([ x \ddot{a} n i ]\) \textit{for} \([ x a: n i ]\) 'queen'.
\end{itemize}

6.4.2. Final Elements

6.4.2.1. Vowel Ending

All vowels can end a word in Malayalam except \([ o ]\). English speakers fail to pronounce the final Malayalam \([ i ]\) with tenseness. They use a lax \([ i ]\).

As \([ e: ]\) does not end a word in English, English speakers substitute \([ e i ]\).

\begin{itemize}
  \item [\textit{eg}]: \([ p e i ]\) \textit{for} \([ p e i ]\) 'madness'.
\end{itemize}

\([ a ]\) and \([ a: ]\) are realised as \([ e ]\) and \([ a: ]\) respectively in the final position.

\begin{itemize}
  \item [\textit{eg}]: \([ p a n a ]\) \textit{for} \([ p a n a ]\) 'palm tree'.
  \item [\textit{eg}]: \([ v a: ]\) \textit{for} \([ v a: ]\) 'come'.
\end{itemize}
English does not have [ oː ] to end a word hence they substitute [ oː ] or [ o u ] for Malayalam [ oː ]
eg: [ p oː ] or [ p o u ] for [ p oː ] 'go'

In English and Malayalam [ uː ] can end a word but [ u ] cannot end a word in English. So English people substitute
[ uː ] for Malayalam [ u ] in the final position.
eg: [ p u j uː ] for [ p u ɻ u ] 'worm'

The most difficult of all final vowels is
Malayalam [ uː ] for English speakers. English people omit
that vowel and pronounce the consonant without a vowel in
the final position.
eg: [ k aː d ] for [ k aː T u ] 'forest'
[ m aː tʃ ] for [ m aː c u ] 'roof'
[ p aː tʃ ] for [ p aː tʃ u ] 'song'

The reason for such a difficulty is that Malayalam final
consonants have vocalic release whereas English consonants
do not. Even Malayalam [ l, l, n, n ] and [ r ] also can be
pronounced with vocalic release.
eg: [ v aː l ] or [ v aː l u ] 'sword'
[ v aː l ] or [ v aː l u ] 'tail'
[ c aː r ] or [ c aː r u ] 'juice'

This is not possible in English. English people simply
avoid the vowel and pronounce the consonant as it is in their
language. Though in the alphabet there are two diphthongs
[a i] and [a u] in Malayalam, they can be structured as
[a y] and [a v]. English people face less difficulty to
realise it as [a i] and [a u] in the final position.

Though no vowel sequence ends a word in Malayalam, English
speakers use them in the final position.

eg: [ka i e] for [k a y a] 'coir'

6.4.2.2. Consonant Ending

Malayalam voiceless stops do not occur in the
final position, they take an [u] so that they have vocalic
release. English speakers omit the final [u] and pronounce
the consonants as it is in their language.

eg: [p o θ] for [p o t: u] 'hole'

[m a p] for [m a: p: u] 'pardon'

[v a k] for [v a k: u] 'edge'

[m o t] for [m o t: u] 'bud'

Voiced stops [b] and [g] are similar in both languages
but in the final position they are fully released followed by [u] in Malayalam. Malayalam voiced [g] is a difficult
sound for English speakers. They omit [u] and realise
[g] as [v].

eg: [vi no g] for [vi no: g u] 'a name'

English speakers substitute [tʃ] without [u]
in the final position for Malayalam [c] followed by [u].

[ʃ tʃ] for [ʃ c: u] 'snail'
Malayalam [s, ʂ] have vocalic release in the final position. English speakers realize them as [s] and [ʂ]. [ʂ] is most difficult of the fricatives for English people. They substitute [ʂ] without [wu] release.

eg: [k ʂː] for [k aː ʂ wʊ] 'money'

Among nasals [n] is difficult for English speakers in the final position. They substitute [n]. English speakers substitute [ŋ ɡ] and [n ʣ] for geminated [ŋː] and [ŋː] with vocalic release in Malayalam final position.

eg: [t eŋ ɡ] for [t e ŋː wʊ] 'coconut palm'

[ mʷ n ʣ] for [m a ŋː wʊ] 'snow'

Malayalam [ɾ, l, l, n, ɳ] can be pronounced with or without [wu] finally. Sometimes when [wu] is added they are geminated. This gemination is not observed by the English people.

eg: [k ɾː l] for [k aː lː wʊ] 'stone'

[k ɾː l] for [k aː lː wʊ] 'today'

[p ɾː n] for [p ɾː nː wʊ] 'gold'

[k ɾː n] for [k aː ŋː wʊ] 'eye'

Words ending in [y] are made into diphthong ending words by English speakers.

eg: [θ a i] for [t a y] 'small plant'

Malayalam [ɾ] can end a word and English people drop it as [ɾ] does not occur in the final position in English.

eg: [k a s] for [k aː sː] 'dark cloud'

[tʃ ʊɾ] for [tʃ oɾ] 'boiled rice'
6.4.3. **Juncture**

Malayalam juncture can be understood from three points:

(a) Based on what comes in the juncture: when two words are joined together it is called an external juncture, when two morphs are joined together it is called an internal juncture.

(b) Based on the nature of sounds that come finally and initially: vowel + vowel, vowel + consonant, consonant + vowel and consonant + consonant.

(c) Based on the nature of the change that takes place—like elision, addition, gemination and assimilation.

If a word ends in [u] or [ωι] and meets the initial vowel of the second word, [ωι] is dropped off.

eg: [v a n: u] + [i l: a] [v a n: i l: a] 'did not come'

[n a l: a t u] + [a: n u] [n a l: a t a: n u]

'it's good'

Addition takes place when the final sound of word₁ and initial sound of word₂ are [e] and [i] or [a] and [i]. [y] comes in between.

eg: [i v i t e] + [i l: a] [i v i t e y i l: a] 'not here'

[k a l a] + [i l: a] [k a l a y i l: a] 'no art'

When the final sound of word₁ and initial sound of word₂ are [u] and [a:], [v] comes in between.

eg: [p o τ u] + [a: y i] [p o τ u v a: y i] 'in common'
If word$_1$ and word$_2$ are united by a close juncture (open juncture and close juncture exist in Malayalam) the word-initial voiceless stop of word$_2$ becomes geminated.

eg: \[ m a l a ] + [ k a: l a m ] \rightarrow [ m a l a k a: l a m ]

'rainy season'

These rules regarding juncture in Malayalam create problems for English speakers. They do not observe these rules. English speakers substitute diphthongs or vowel sequences in the union of \([ e ] + [ i ] , [ a ] + [ i ], [ a ] + [ u ] , \) and \([ u ] + [ a ] \)

eg: \[ i v i d e i e ] \rightarrow \[ i v i t e y i l i a \] 'not here'

\[ k l a i e ] \rightarrow \[ k a l a y i l i a ] \) 'no art'

\[ p o \delta u a i ] \rightarrow \[ p o \delta u v a: y i ] \) 'in common'

Gemination due to juncture also is not observed by the English speakers. They use the voiceless stop of the word$_2$ in the following example without gemination.

eg: \[ m a j e k : a : l e m ] \rightarrow \[ m a l a k : a : l a m ]

'rainy season'
6.5. Influence of the Mother Tongue

English people are naturally familiar with the sound system of their own mother tongue English. It is a hard job so far as an Englishman is concerned to understand a different sound system of a foreign language. When an Englishman listens to a foreign language he hears only the sounds in his own native language. When he tries to pronounce the sounds of foreign language he simply transfers his own language sounds. The differences of sounds in the foreign language are not perceived by him. That is why when English speakers try to learn Malayalam they transfer English sounds. For example, voiceless stops in English have aspiration in the initial position, so when they pronounce Malayalam words having initial voiceless stops they aspirate them. At the same time Malayalam aspirated stops and English aspirated stops cannot be similar. It shows that when English speakers try to learn Malayalam they may come across some sounds which are not familiar to them and they may substitute sounds from their own language for such sounds.

English people do not have the habit of pronouncing [i, iː] and [ə] with an onglide [y]. So when they speak Malayalam they do not use them.

eg: [i p o l] for [y i p o l] "now"
    [iː t i] for [y iː t i] "rose wood"
    [ə n ə] for [y e n t u] "what"
In the word final position English has a lax [i], so the word final [i] of Malayalam also is pronounced lax by them. Malayalam final [e] and [e:] are substituted by [e i] because [e] do not occur word finally in English. Malayalam [a] is heard as [ɔ] or [ʌ] by the English people.

eg: [pʌdʌm] for [pətəm] ‘picture’
Malayalam [a:] is heard as [ɔ:] or [ʌ:].

eg: [kə:l] for [kə:l] ‘leg’
Malayalam [o] and [o:] are heard as [o] and [ɔ] by Englishmen.

eg: [o t i] for [o t i] ‘stuck’
[ɔ:le] for [ɔ:le] ‘palm leaf’
[u] is restricted in English to the initial position. So they pronounce Malayalam initial [u] as [ju]

eg: [juːtə] for [uːta] ‘close’

English people never hear the Malayalam [u]—like vowel in the final position, as it does not exist in their language. They use weak forms of vowels while Malayalam vowels have no distinction into weak and strong.

Though there are no diphthongs and vowel sequences in Malayalam, English speakers use them when they speak Malayalam, because they are frequent in their language.

eg: [kəiə] for [kəyər] ‘coir’
[məiə] for [məyə] ‘peacock’
[nəiəθ] for [nəyəθ] ‘weaving’
English speakers stress Malayalam words according to the English rules. Syllable prominence in Malayalam depends on the quality of vowel. English people do not observe the vowel length in Malayalam.

English people aspirate Malayalam unaspirated [p] and [k] in the initial position. Malayalam aspirated [pʰ, tʰ, cʰ] are substituted by English [f, θ, tʃ] respectively.

*eg: [f ə 1 ə m] for [pʰ ə 1 ə m] 'result'
[θ ə nə m] for [tʰ ə nə m] 'money'
[tʃ ə jə] for [cʰ ə jə] 'image'*

[t] is not available in English, so they substitute their [t]. English people cannot find equivalent sound for Malayalam [d] and [♯] so they take sounds [♂] and [d] respectively from their language. Malayalam sound [g] cannot be heard by English speakers and they hear it as [ʃ]

*eg: [ʃ ə n i] for [g ə n i] 'saturated'*

Only one sound [n] is available in English for Malayalam nasals [n, ñ, n̄]

*eg: [n ə m ə m] for [n ə m ə m] 'name'
[m ə n i] for [m ə n i] 'bell'*

Geminated [nː] and [nː] are replaced by clusters [n dʒ] and [n ɡ].

*eg: [k u n dʒ] for [k u nː u] 'child'
[k ə l ə l ː] for [t ə l ə a] 'coconut'
[θ e i n ɡ e]*
English speakers do not hear the Malayalam laterals [ l ] and [ r ] instead they use [ j ] and [ l ] respectively.

eg: [ k u j i ] for [ k u l i ] 'ditch'
    [ k a l i ] for [ k a l i ] 'play'

Malayalam [ v ], when it occurs as the second member in a cluster is replaced by the English [ w ] with its peculiar lip rounding.

eg: [ s w a m i ] for [ s v a m i ] 'munk'

In Malayalam there are non-syllabic consonants but when English people learn Malayalam they use syllabic consonants [ l, m ] and [ n ], because in their language these consonants are sometimes syllabic.

eg: [ v i t l ] for [ v i t i l ] 'at home'
    [ v a t n ] for [ v a t a n ] 'lunatic'

English consonants and clusters can occur freely in the final position. So when English people speak Malayalam they use consonants as well as clusters in the final position.

eg: [ v a n d ] for [ v a n d u ] 'beetle'
    [ p a n t ] for [ p a n t u ] 'ball'

English speakers generally do not pronounce [ r ] sound in their language so when they speak Malayalam they do not pronounce [ r ].

eg: [ i s t a ] for [ i s i a ] 'irritation'
    [ p o i ] for [ p o i r ] 'war'
Most of the Malayalam words have vocalic release in the final position. In English most of the consonants can occur in the final position without vocalic release. So English people pronounce Malayalam consonants without vocalic release in the final position.

eg: [p u t] for [p u t u] 'a dish'
    [t e p] for [c e p u] 'small box'
    [k a : d] for [k a : T u] 'forest'

...
Reference

2. Ibid, p. 63.