

# Absence of syllabic consonant in Pakistani English

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## Abstract

*The study will investigate the absence of syllabic consonants in Pakistani English. The study pays attention to the phonological environment in which the absence of a syllabic consonant takes place. To check this phenomenon, samples have been collected from an educated community which has enough background knowledge of Linguistics. We analyzed this phenomenon in all those words which have "LE, sound at the end. Spectrograms have been materialized in order to show the feature of vowel insertion in syllabic consonant and make it a regular syllable. The study proves that the Pakistani English speakers speak any word which has syllabic consonant in it, by converting it into a regular syllable. This study is useful because it proves this phenomenon scientifically that the feature of syllabic consonant is absent in Pakistani English. It boosts perception based opinion after the scientific results by using the PRAAT and thus validates last claims.*

*The study is beneficial to set the standard of Pakistani English. The study will help those scholars to set the standard of Pakistani English. When they are going to introduce a new emerging variety of Penglish, this phenomenon would be helpful in setting the spellings of all those words having syllabic consonant in it according to the need and accent of Pakistanis.*

Keywords: Pakistani English, syllabic consonant, Linguistics, insertion, pronunciation, Praat.

## Introduction

Languages play an important role in all communities. Before the Languages were made functional in the newly founded human society, gestures were used to communicate. Language is the basic need of human beings. We need words even to think. We can't think without a Language. There are so many languages in the world. Different languages demonstrate slight variations in the number of users in different speech communities. Different languages have been consumed in different time span. Each language has its own value. There are so many languages which were once functional in earlier times, but now they are considered dead languages. Each language has multiple numbers of users and communities who use that language in their own way. In early times, people were reported to be normally monolingual, but now a days, there are a few communities which are monolingual. Most of the nations are bilingual or multilingual. Pakistan is also a multilingual country where most of the people consume more than two languages.

In today's world, English has become the most popular language and use for communication at worldwide level because of colonial influences according to (Hickey, 2004), the requirement match at international level, the English Language has attracted communities and users all around the world.

This study represents the syllabic consonant in Pakistani English. In previous studies of southern British English proposed, all syllabic consonants must be analyzed in uniform order or manner (Gussmann 1991, Gimson 1989, Chomsky and Halle 1968:354, Wells 1995). Data selected to analyze are different in its nature. The concept of syllabic consonant is absent in Pakistani English. Even the communities quiet familiar with this concept are not

conscious of it in their usage of language. Syllabic consonant in Pakistani English behaves differently according to the phonological structures. These different structures which we get from Praat are different in many ways with one another.

The study is organized to check following aspects:

What is the actual concept of syllabic consonant in other varieties of English where English is used as a native Language?

What is concept of syllabic consonant in those countries especially in Pakistan where English is not used as a native Language?

Absence of syllabic consonant in Pakistani English is one of the major issues in pronunciation. The purpose of the study is to check this phenomenon in those people who are aware of Linguistics but still have a problem when they pronounce these words which have syllabic consonant in it. We have collected some data in audio form to check this phenomenon. Why Pakistanis insert vowel in all those words which have syllabic consonant "LE"? How native language (Urdu) effects the pronunciation of those words which have syllabic consonant in it?

Syllabic consonant is absent in Pakistani English. Effect of native Language (Urdu) is present when we utter the words of English. Pakistanis convert syllabic consonant into a regular syllable.

The study will find out the presence and absence of syllabic consonants in Pakistani English. The study will investigate the attitude of speaker when they pronounce the words having syllabic consonant in it. Study investigates how native Language (Urdu) effects the pronunciation of those words which have syllabic consonant in it. Study will help those scholars who set Pakistani English at international level.

Just the city of Faisalabad is chosen for examining. Instructed people group is chosen for examining. PHD and MS researchers have been chosen for examining. Just those researchers are viewed as valid for examining who have enough foundation information of Linguistics.

It has been declared by such a large number of scientists that when L2 clients of any dialect confront any consonant bunches, which is not worthy in their first language, they give reaction mostly in two ways. It is possible that they erase any consonant from the consonant bunch or embed a vowel to maintain a strategic distance from the group and make it worthy as per the sentence structure of their local dialect (Abrahamsson, 1999; Hall, 2006; Davidson, 2003; Penner, 2009; Iverson, Ekanayake, Hamann, Sennema & Evans, 2008). The phenomena of insertion is called epenthesis.

A syllabic consonant can be defined as a phonetic element that normally patterns to be a consonant, but a syllable may be filled as a slot by it. Pakistani English is an assortment which is not quite the same as different assortments at numerous etymological levels. Hickey (2004) examines its checked linguistic phonological, and lexical elements which have such a variety of contrasts from different assortments of English. Kachru (1992) details these "deviations" on phonological/phonetic level and further elaborates three cases of phonological deviations. An addition of a vowel sounds is considered to be a customary component of Pakistani English and he alludes to Rahman (1990), to support his argument. He says two types of epenthesis, firstly consonant groups in the onset position are kept away from by the addition of a powerless vowel and also a vowel is included at introductory word limit position, and therefore, the syllable structure is changed. Mahboob and Ahmar (2004) additionally discussed about a similar marvel in their point by point investigation of Pakistani English. Hickey likewise alludes to a similar wonder and indicates it to be the impact of national or regional language; Urdu and Punjabi dialects on Pakistani English. In any case, these are common speculations, and do not support examine grounded conclusions. Among

the various repair systems accessible to the clients of L2, epenthesis is accepted to be the most normally utilized procedure to make illicit consonant bunches licit in the linguistic use of clients' local dialect (Davidson, 2003).

Insertion and deletion is a common phenomenon in so many words of L2. People try to ease the language by inserting or deleting consonants or vowels. It is just because of the effect of native language. In this study, the researchers attempt to find out the basic reason of absence of syllabic consonant and find the reason why Pakistanis are not able to pronounce those words accurately which have syllabic consonant in it. Study also locates the way of pronunciation of those words by Pakistani speakers. Either they inserting or deleting something when they pronounce those words which have syllabic consonant in it.

### **Research methodology**

To authenticate the hypothesis, there is a need to investigate the feature of insertion in those words having "LE" sound at the end. We are supposed to study the phonological environment of the learners and for this purpose; the researchers collected the sample of forty words with "LE" sound at the end. All these words are chosen from the latest version of The Oxford Dictionary. All these sample words were randomly chosen. It is observed that all the lexis chosen connote to the common usage and used in daily routine by local Pakistani English speakers.

All the population selected for the samples has a sufficient knowledge of linguistics. Present research falls into the realm of mix method research where we collected data from the limited number of people and select forty speakers having linguistics background. Twenty males were selected and twenty females were selected. Five males and five females are the teachers of linguistics. Five females and five males are Ph.D scholars in linguistics while ten females and ten males are the M. Phil scholars. To follow the research ethics, all the data samples were recorded in a Natural environment. Samples were recorded in a mobile so that genuine recordings were collected and guidance was not given to the sample population to avoid subjectivity or biased opinion. The element of noise or disturbance was carefully avoided but researches were not able to eliminate it fully by using technical meanings. So there might be an element of noise or disturbance in the recorded samples.

The recorded samples were analyzed by using PRAAT software and each sample word of individual speaker was keenly studied to check the phenomenon of insertion in those words which have syllabic consonant at the end. The results had been confirmed by studying this phenomenon for two times, so that the probability of any mistake can be minimized. The findings are discussed in next session.

The findings of this study is contrasted with the native language of Pakistan; Urdu. Urdu (national language of Pakistan) or Punjabi (regional language of the Punjab Province), being native Languages, used by a wide community of Pakistan, was selected as L1 and English Language as L2.

## Experimental analysis

Recordings are collected of the selected words as shown below:

Absorbable	Affordable	Fable	Accountable
Apple	Sparkle	stumble	Axle
Sprinkle	Bubble	Buckle	Bridle
Bundle	Cable	Capable	Candle
Castle	Changeable	Circle	Cattle
Crackle	Couple	Crumble	Cuddle
Dimple	Eagle	Battle	Fettle
Fimble	Google	Pickle	Capable

## Results and discussion

It is observed that even the people having linguistics background insert vowel when they pronounce these words. As shown in the table below.

Words	British pronunciation	Pakistani pronunciation
Absorbable	/abs:>:babl/	/abs:>:babal/
Apple	/mpl/	/repal/
Sprinkle	/spril]kl/	/spril]kall
Bundle	BAdll	BAdal/
Castle	/Ka:sl/	/Ka:sall
Dimple	/Dimpl/	/Dimpal/
Affordable	/af:>:dabl/	/af:>:daball
Sparkle	/spa:rk/	/spa:rkall
Bubble	BAbl	BAball
Cable	/Keibl/	/Keibal/
Changeable	/ feid abl/	/ feid abal/
Couple	lkAbl/	lkAball
Eagle	/i:gl/	/i:gall
Google	/gu:gl/	/gu:gall
Fable	/fe1bl/	/fe1ball
stumble	/st:A.mbl	/st:A.mball
Buckle	/bAkll	/bAkall
Capable	/keipabl/	!keipaball
Circle	/s3:kl	/s3:kall
Crumble	/krAmbl/	/krAmball
Battle	/bmtl/	lbmtall
Pickle	IPikll	IP1kall
Accountable	/akauntabl/	/akauntaball
Axle	/reksl/	/reksall
Bridle	/bnudl/	/bnudal/
Candle	/Krendl/	/Krendall
Cattle	lkmtl/	lkmtal/
Cuddle	lkAdl/	lkAdall
Fettle	/fetl/	/fetal/
humble	!hAmbl/	!hAmball

Transcription shows that there is no concept of syllabic consonant in Pakistani English. People convert syllabic consonant into the regular syllable by inserting a vowel in it as also shown in the table above. The words having syllabic consonant in them are converted into a regular syllable like in the word cable, humble and other words, Pakistani educated community insert /a/ sound in them. All the educated community including those scholars and faculty members who have enough knowledge of Linguistics is prone to transform the phonological feature of the word in such a pattern. They are quite familiar with the concept of syllabic consonant but they are also not able to pronounce those words having syllabic consonant in them without inserting a vowel sound.

This phenomenon is studied in those people who have sufficient knowledge of Linguistics and belong to an educated community as mentioned in the data of people in sampling and population.

Native languages always have a strong impact on learning languages at the later stage of acquisition, mostly the second or third language. In Pakistan, English is the second or the third language. Normally the people of Pakistan learn their first language from their parent which is usually different. National language of Pakistan i.e. Urdu is learned as a second language. First language of the children are according to their place of living for example in Punjab children normally learn Punjabi as their first language. In Sindh, children normally learn Sindhi as their first language. Same is the case with Baluchistan and KPK, the first language is Balochi and Pashtu respectively. In all provinces of Pakistan, National Language is learned as a second language normally expect for a few ones. Punjab is the only province where national language is used as a first language because the educated and uneducated community takes language as a sign of status. Majority of the community try their level best to make their children learn Urdu as a first language.

In native language of Pakistan i.e. Urdu not even a single word is found having consonant cluster in it and there must be a vowel, maximum after two consonants and normally the ratio of vowels and consonants is equal in Urdu. In English, 4 consonants have also been observed in few cases and three or two consonants are very common in English language. There are a very few words in English which have equal ratio of vowels and consonant in them.

On the other side, Urdu doesn't have consonant clusters. People who learn Urdu or any other language as their native language are unable to pronounce those words having syllabic consonant in them. Their language acquisition device has been set in such a way that even if they are not consciously aware of this phenomenon, they are unable to pronounce those words. This is happened in a very few cases and normally the people of Pakistan, who are well aware of these rules of pronunciation of those words which have syllabic consonant in them, are also not able to pronounce those words correctly. The educated community of Pakistan is unable to pronounce those words correctly having syllabic consonant in them and they convert it into a regular syllable.

The phenomenon of insertion is also shown in appendix 1 or in appendix 2 that speakers insert vowel in a word having syllabic consonant to convert it into a regular syllable. The vowel sound in both appendixes is highlighted in pink color which clearly shows that here vowel has been inserted. Recordings have been collected from all the samples to check this phenomenon and all of them are not able to pronounce those words correctly having syllabic consonant in them. All most all the samples have a vowel been inserted before /ll/. The basic reason behind the incorrect pronunciation even after knowing the exact way of pronunciation is LAD. LAD of Pakistanis has been developed in such a way that they can't pronounce those words having syllabic consonant in them correctly. It is just because of the effect of native language.

All the recordings are passed through Praat to check this phenomenon. It has been analyzed by the researchers after passing the recordings from Praat that a vowel is inserted before /L/ two appendixes are also attached to prove this phenomenon. All the Praat results have been checked through peer checking by the researchers to make sure this fact about it or to avoid subjectivity.

## Conclusion

The study shows that Pakistani English speakers don't have the concept of syllabic consonant when they pronounce those words having syllabic consonant in it. They convert it into a regular syllable. The basic reason of this conversion of syllabic consonant into a regular syllable is the role of their native Language L1 when they speak L2. The structure of L1 matters a lot in pronouncing the L2. The L1 of Pakistani English speakers is Punjabi or Urdu, that is why they are not able to pronounce those words correctly having syllabic consonant in it because the concept of syllabic consonant is absent in their native Language and this is the basic reason of inserting vowel sound in those words of Pakistani English which have syllabic consonant in it.

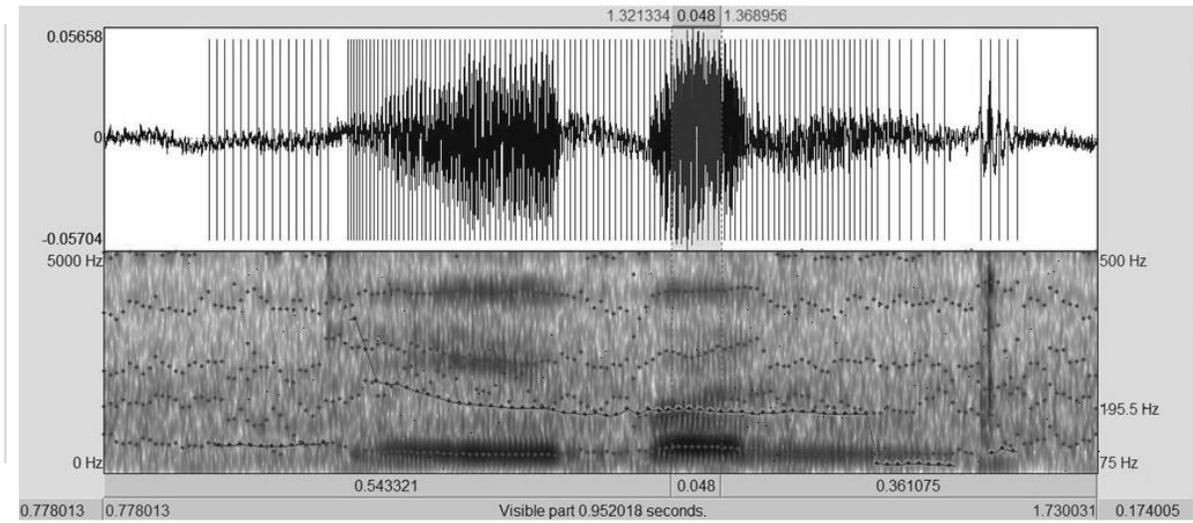
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# Appendix 1

Cable



# Appendix2

Dimple

