

Review of: "Are non-native speakers' English pronunciation similar?: Evidence through PRAAT recording software"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The motivation and goal of the study were convincing, but the way it was written out and the method used were inappropriate. The paper was written very roughly without proof reading, and the sentences contained many grammatical errors and word choices were often inappropriate.

1. Introduction/background: The focus was on cultural differences, but it was not clear how the differences in culture would yield the result in which direction. What is more proper for the purpose of the study would be rather than explaining the extent of English used in the educational system, it would be how the cultural difference toward English and language background differences would yield different results in the English pronunciation. The explanation about Praat usage in research seemed unnecessary as well.
2. Methods: The number of participants were very limited. Additionally, it was not clear what the qualitative interview results would yield and what the quantitative Praat results would yield. Particularly, what the author would measure using Praat was not discussed.
3. Result: Praat result was not comprehensible. Most of the time, it was not clear what the author was trying to measure and compare. Moreover, the scientific terms such as fundamental frequency, stop burst, VOT, frication duration, etc. were not used. The acoustic information was aligned with phonetic transcription, but I had an impression that the author might have transcribed them phonetically based on what the author heard rather than based on acoustic analysis.
4. Discussion: Based on flawed method and result yielding process, any discussion made based on the result could be errorful. This paper is not at the publishable level.