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

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Thank you for the opportunity to read your preliminary work in the area of English pronunciation by non-native speakers. The idea struck me as an interesting one, and I was excited to read about your method and results.

I regard this work as preliminary at this stage and I think you need now to address five core issues.

i. First, I would like to see greater clarity around your research question. Please try to frame this really clearly and provide an indication of what that is question based on? In other words, why might you *expect* to see any differences in pronunciation from these two cultures? In this regard I am interested less in the history of the country and more perhaps in the method of teaching in each area.

ii. Second, you state an intention to explore pronunciation in more speakers and this is critical. Without this, you and your readers cannot determine whether any differences in pronunciation are driven by individual differences between these 2 speakers or whether there is any evidence for any systematic difference in pronunciation across the two cultures. I would see value in having a *group* of female speakers from China and Bangladesh (if you wish to stick with these two ethnicities once the above question is addressed). Ideally, they would be matched for age and length of time in the US (if that is where they are recruited from) so that extraneous influences are minimized. I would also be interested to see a comparison between each of these two populations with a native English speaker population. Such a comparison might help to indicate how closely each non-native group approximated the intended speech signal rather than merely how the two non-native groups differed.

iii. Third, you presented your work as a mixed-methods exploration of pronunciation differences but unfortunately you did not describe your interview protocol, or any qualitative results based perhaps on a thematic analysis. My inclination would be to drop the qualitative aspect of your study entirely rather than provide the readers with more detail on this missing element because I would struggle to see how the speakers' insights would contribute to the question at hand.

iv. Fourth, in order to do a thorough job of the quantitative analysis using PRAAT, I would encourage you to identify your measures and your predictions about those measures so that the reader can then see if those predictions are met. This should go beyond any analysis of available PRAAT measures such as fundamental frequency as it doesn't really matter to your question that speakers have different vocal pitches. I agree with previous reviewers who indicate that you have perhaps provided more of a visual analysis of waveforms (which in the case of Speaker B's sentence, did not capture the entirety of the utterance). This is a shame as it indicates to me some need to lift your PRAAT skills.

v. Finally, please be clearer as to the value and implications of your work. How, for example, might your results influence the way that English is taught in China or Bangladesh? If you cannot connect your results with this application then perhaps you should pull back from such a bold suggestion.

Other more minor recommendations have been articulated by previous reviewers and they provide you with really good advice which I hope is helpful to you. Consider in particular the selection of the utterances (think, I thought that thing) the latter of which is a very curious phrase (from a native English speaker perspective). You should also be mindful of repetition and lack of relevance in your writing, and refrain from simple definitions or descriptions of software or the value of a research design. Please ensure that your writing is scrutinized for spelling, punctuation and grammar to help the reader moving forwards.