

## Conference Paper

# Phonological Analysis of English Vowel Pronunciation

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**ORCID:***Ambalegin Ambalegin*: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2611-9507>**Abstract**

This phonological analysis investigated the English vowel sounds as the central phenomena represented by letters descriptively and qualitatively. It was supported by the theories proposed by Finegan, Hayes, Kreidler, Skandera & Burleigh, Roach and Yule. The method of data collection was observational by identifying the English articulation. The articulatory phonetic identity method was used to analyze the data with competence in differentiating. The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary was used as a standard form of British pronunciation (Received Pronunciation) to compare the sounds produced and differentiate the English alphabet letters. Some patterns of English vowel pronunciation were found, i.e. <r> positioned as a close syllable lengthens [ɑ:, ɔ:, ɜ:] and produces schwa, and does so similarly in diphthong. Double semivowels do not perform triphthong. The letters i, u, w and y produce triphthong when they are combined with vowels.

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## 1. Introduction

The ability to speak is synonymous with knowing the language since the speaking is the most basic means of communication (Celce-Murcia, 2001). The elements of oral communication including pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension are the most important basic of speaking (Ambalegin et al., 2017). While involving conversation, every language has its own way to pronounce in order to have the message easily. Poor pronunciation could make the meaning conveyed different and cause errors. Good pronunciation might support the good communication, and good communication brings the good quality of a language. However, the sound of phoneme is not the same throughout languages. A sound might be a phoneme in a language but might not be so in another language (Ambalegin & Arianto, 2020). In some languages, there is a same relationship between spelling and pronunciation, and there is the same number of phonemes used in the language as there are letters in the alphabet (Kelly,

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2004, p. 7). It is known as a phonetic language due to a one-to-one relationship between spelling and pronunciation. In Indonesian, every letter in the alphabet represents one sound and each letter would be a phonetic symbol and each sound has its appropriate symbol. The only the letter e has fortis e and lenis e. For example, the letters *b,u,k,* and *u* form the word *buku* (book). The word *buku* is pronounced as the letters of the alphabet as /bʊkʊ/. The letter e is pronounced in the word *bebek* as /bebek/. The letter sound in the alphabet is as the same as in the word when is pronounced. In other words, Indonesian has consistent sound while pronouncing, for example, the letter u is pronounced as /ʊ/ and does not change at any place, and so do the other letters.

Some linguistic developments, along with the advent of technology through the internet, a higher demand of global position of English for native and non-native speakers serves a wider scope of communication (Porras-Piorac, 2019). Since English could not be separated from the technology, English has been plodding along to the other languages. On behalf of the development of technology, English interferes Indonesian. Undeniably, English has been welcomed as an additional language by Indonesian native speakers. According to Kachruvian Circle related to the use of English in communication, there are three circles; inner, outer, and expanding circle (Kilickaya, 2009), and Indonesia is circled in expanding circle (non-dependent) where English is learnt as EFL (Crystal, 2003). As a foreign language, English is also much closer to the people as they can see, read, and listen because English is a global language with reference to the roles and users of English worldwide (Low, 2015). However, English is everywhere, and it is familiar in Indonesia. English is said anywhere nowadays in the society. Unfortunately, there was some English mispronunciation indicated in society. Some of the mispronunciation made were influenced by the L1 because all non-English native speakers bring their mother tongue-like accent to the English pronunciation (Ambalegin & Suryani, 2018)

The phenomena of English mispronunciation occur in society. Ambalegin & Arianto (2019, p. 107) captured some English mispronunciation such *invite*, *examine*, *paste*, *entrepreneur*, *mild*, *paradise*, *online*, *mouse*, *finger*, *support*, and *orchid* were pronounced as /ɪnfɪt/, /eksəmaɪn/, /pʌste/, /entɜrprenəʔ/, /mɪl/, /pʌrʌdɪs/, /ɒnlɪn/, /mɒs/, /fɪŋgɜʔ/, /sʊpɔʔt/, and /ɔʔtɪt/. Seidlhofer (as cited in Carter & Nunan, 2001, p. 61) formulated that the errors of non-English native speakers' English pronunciation from different language backgrounds made are systematic and not accidental. Moreover, people just learn new words, but they do not want to learn how to say it correctly. In fact, English is learnt in formal schools since lower high school level. Then, teaching pronunciation is the most fundamentally important for the EFL learners (Ambalegin & Hulu, 2019). The ability of speaking English embodies the correctness of pronunciation

and intonation and directly affects the intelligible communication in conversation (Zhang & Yin, 2009). But many English teachers do not count on it, then many teaching materials still do not make clear, finally pronunciation is just one tiny piece of the whole course credits (Ambalegin & Hulu, 2019).

The alphabet is universal. There are enough symbols so that every sound in every human language could be represented. The alphabet is unambiguous. Every sound would have one symbol, and every symbol one sound (Fasold & Connor-Linton, 2006). There are 5 vowel and 21 consonant letters when writing, but contrarily, there are 12 vowel sounds, 8 diphthong sounds, 5 triphthong sounds, and 24 consonant sounds when speaking English (Kelly, 2004; Kreidler, 1993; Roach, 2012). English pronunciation does not have a fixed pattern. Ladefoged, (2006) stated that most of the sound symbols are the same letter used in spelling in the English words, but there are a few different. English shows the inconsistency of pronunciation (Ambalegin & Arianto, 2019). Pronunciation book for EFL learners showed only the phonetic symbols but does not show the appearance of a sound in different letters. It is very important to know how one sound exists in different letters. Thus, this study investigated the appearance of vowel sounds in different letter by grouping some letter into one single vowel sound. Learning to pronounce a language is a very complex task and, as with any other complex learning tasks, the learning process can be facilitated if the task is structured in some way and if the learners aware of what is involved (Kenworthy, 1987).

## 2. Literature Review

Human speech is like the playing of a wind instrument. Different speech sounds, in any language, are made by moving a column of air through part of the upper body and creating various kinds of vibration and noise as the air moves. Different kinds of speech sounds, different manners of articulating, are different ways of manipulating the air stream. It is recognized six kinds of speech sounds: vowels, glides, nasals, liquids, fricatives, and stops (Bauer, 2012; Kreidler, 2004).

In the production, or articulation, of a segment the vocal organs have some particular configuration; the lips are rounded or stretched, the tongue is low in the mouth or not, it has a flat surface or not, air is escaping through the mouth or through the nose or not escaping at all, the vocal cords are vibrating or not, etc. Each such position or movement is an articulatory feature. These features always occur in simultaneous bundles; no segment can consist of a single feature (Kreidler, 2004). Segmentally, there

are 12 monophthongs, 8 diphthongs, and 5 triphthongs in British English pronunciation (Low, 2015).

## 2.1. Pure Vowels

(Kreidler, 2004) defined vowels as;

1. [+ syllabic], capable of carrying stress and pitch
2. [– consonantal], made without impeding the air flow
3. [+ continuant], articulated with air going continuously out from the mouth
4. [+ sonorant], made with regular patterns of vibration
5. [+ voice], produced with vocal cords vibrating
6. [– sibilant], produced with a flat tongue surface.

Vowels or monophthongs have an open vocal tract, in which the tongue does not touch the upper surface of the vocal tract at any particular place and the term place of articulation isn't really appropriate (Katamba, 1989). There is no obstruction to the flow of air as it passes from the larynx to the lips when vowels are produced (Finegan, 2015; Roach, 2012). Vowels differ from consonants in that they do not have “places of articulation,” that is, points of major constriction in the vocal tract. Rather, the vocal tract as a whole act as a resonating chamber. Modifying the shape of this chamber using movements of the tongue, jaw, and lips causes different timbres to be imparted to the basic sound produced at the vocal cords (Hayes, 2009).

Skandera & Burleigh (2005) stated that there are 5 long vowels and 7 short vowels; which are /i:/, /u:/, /ɜ:/, /ɑ:/, /ɔ:/ and /ɪ/, /ʊ/, /e/, /ə/, /æ/, /ʌ/, /ɒ/. Vowel which articulated with weak breath force is said as lax vowel and vowel which is produced with more energy is said as tense vowel. Kelly (2004) also stated that based on the characteristics of the articulation, there are three categories vowel sounds; closed vowel sounds (/i:/ /ɪ/ /ʊ/ /u:/), mid vowel sounds (/e/ /ə/ /ɜ:/ /ɔ:/), and open vowel sounds (/æ/ /ʌ/ /ɑ:/ /ɒ/).

## 2.2. Gliding Vowels

A gliding vowel or diphthong is a sequence of two vowels that functions as a single sound. A diphthong forms just one syllable, whereas a two-vowel sequence forms two (Hayes, 2009). Diphthongs sound consist of a movement or glide from one vowel to

another. There is no obstruction to the flow of air as it passes from the larynx to the lips when diphthong is produced (Roach, 2012). Skandera & Burleigh (2005) divided diphthongs into centering and closing diphthongs. Centering diphthongs move towards schwa /ɪə/, /ʊə/, /eə/, and closing diphthongs move toward a closer vowel /eɪ/, /aɪ/, /ɔɪ/, /əʊ/, /aʊ/.

### 2.3. Triple Vowels

Triple vowels or triphthongs consist of three sounds; /eɪə/, /aɪə/, /ɔɪə/, /əʊə/, /aʊə/ (Skandera & Burleigh, 2005). Triphthong is a glide from one vowel to another and then to a third, all produced rapidly and without interruption. Triphthong is composed of five closing diphthongs with schwa added; [eɪ+ə], [aɪ+ə], [ɔɪ+ə], [əʊ+ə], [aʊ+ə] (Roach, 2012).

### 2.4. Previous Studies

Ambalegin & Suryani (2018) presented the study of the influence of mother tongue on English vowel pronunciation of Batak Toba adults in The 1st Annual International Conference on Language and Literature (AICLL) 2018. The study concluded that mother tongue like-accent is able to affect the ability to pronounce foreign language words. The Batak Toba-neses are not able to pronounce a few English vowel sounds. It is caused by the difference of phonological system. Batak Toba-neses are not able to pronounce the English vowel sounds /æ/, /ɜ:/, and /ɔ:/ as these sounds do not exist in Batak Toba language. Mostly Batak Toba language has short vowel sounds. Thus, the adult Batak Toba-neses do not pronounce English words correctly, due to the mother tongue-like accent interference.

Ambalegin & Arianto (2019) discussed the English pronunciation inconsistency in The 2nd Annual International Conference on Language and Literature (AICLL) 2019. This study formulated that (1) one letter can be produced by more than one sound, and one sound can be represented by more than one letter; (2) The same letter of English alphabet does not always produce the same sound; (3) The same sound is not always produced by the same letter of English alphabet; (4) Some letters of English alphabet indicated in words are not produced as sounds; <r, e, gh, c, h, g, t, b, l, s, h, d, k, w, b, lo, g, m, p, u, o, l, z, a>; and (5) The sound is produced where there is no letter of English alphabet; /j, w/.

The previous studies have the same issues as the present study that it is about English pronunciation and the theory use, but the difference is about the problem analyzed.

The present study identified the English sounds represented by the letters and the base-letter-pattern of how the sound produced.

### 3. Research Method

It is a descriptive qualitative research (Creswell, 2003). The English vowel sounds is the central phenomena being the data (Creswell, 2012). Method of collecting the data was observational method by heard-identifying the English articulation (Sudaryanto, 2015). The method of analyzing the data was articulatory phonetic identity method with competence in differentiating technique (Sudaryanto, 2015). In analyzing the data, the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary as a standard form of British pronunciation (Received Pronunciation) was used to compare the sound produced and differentiate the English Alphabet letters which have the same pronunciation of English sounds by presenting the phonetic symbols. The presence of a single phonetic symbol in one fixed patterned letters was concluded as one pattern of English pronunciation.

### 4. Result and Discussion

#### 4.1. Result

1. The pronunciation of English alphabets is not sometimes pronounced in English words or speech sounds.
2. The English vowel sounds change due to the influence of the letters after or before the sounds or letters.
3. Each English alphabet cannot represent one fixed vowel sound due to the English pronunciation inconsistency
4. The English alphabets a, i, u, e, and o represent speech sounds /eɪ, aɪ, ju: i:, əʊ/
5. There are some patterns found in English vowel pronunciation.
  - (a) /i:/ is pronounced in double e, final syllable sound -C<e>C<e>, -and C<i>C<e>
  - (b) /ɪ/ is pronounced in morpheme plural form -ies, morpheme -ed followed by /t/, /k/, or /d/ close syllable, and final syllable sound -C<a>C<e>
  - (c) /e/ is pronounced in one syllable word C<e>C
  - (d) /ʌ/ is pronounced in one syllable word C<o>C<e>

- (e) /ɒ/ is pronounced in one syllable word C<o>C
- (f) /ɔ:/ is pronounced when a meets ll (/l/) in one syllable word, a meets w (silent /w/) in one syllable word, o meets r (equivocal) in one syllable sound.
- (g) /ə/ is pronounced in morpheme noun form -or and morpheme adjective form -ous.
- (h) r positioned as close syllable influences to lengthen [ɑ:, ɔ:, ɜ:] and to produce schwa, so does in diphthong
- (i) /eɪ/ is pronounced in one syllable word C<a>C<e>
- (j) /aɪ/ is pronounced in one syllable word C<i>C<e>
- (k) /ʊə/ is pronounced in one syllable word C<u> <r> <e>
- (l) /eə/ is pronounced in one syllable word C<a> <r> <e>, CVV<r>
- (m) /əʊ/ is from letter o pronunciation, and /əʊ/ is pronounced when there is syllable with o
- (n) /iə/ is pronounced in one syllable word C<e> <e> <r>
- (o) Double semivowel will not perform triphthong.
- (p) Letter i, u, w, y produce triphthong when they are combined with vowels.

6. English vowel pronunciation mostly has no fixed pattern.

## 4.2. Discussion

### 4.2.1. Monophthongs

1. /i:/ is pronounced by the letters ee, ea, ie, ei. e, i, eo, ey, (ua)y
  - (a) <ee> is pronounced as /i:/ seen in words such as see /si:/, deed /di:d/, need /ni:d/
  - (b) <ea> is pronounced as /i:/ seen in words such as eat /i:t/, beat /bi:t/, neat /ni:t/, eagle /i:gl/
  - (c) <ie> is pronounced as /i:/ seen in words such as yield /ji:ld/, field /fi:ld/, shield /ʃi:ld/
  - (d) <ei> is pronounced as /i:/ seen in words such as siege /si:dʒ/, receipt /ri:si:t/, deceive /disi:v/
  - (e) <e> is pronounced as /i:/ seen in words such as complete /kʌmpli:t/, Jesus, /dʒi:zəs/, supreme /su:pri:m/, scene /si:n/

- (f) <i> is pronounced as /i:/ seen in words such as police /pəli:s/, machine /məʃi:n/, magazine /mægəzi:n/, ski /ski:/, kiwi /ki:wi:/
- (g) <eo> is pronounced as /i:/ seen in words such as people /pi:pl/, peony /pi:əni/
- (h) <ey> is pronounced as /i:/ seen in word such as key /ki:/
- (i) <uay> is pronounced as /i:/ seen in word such as quay /ki:/

2. /ɪ/ is pronounced by the letters i, y, e, ie, a, o, u, ui, oe

- (a) <i> is pronounced as /ɪ/ seen in words such as rich /rɪtʃ/, sit /sɪt/, hit /hɪt/, immigrant /ɪmɪgrənt/, inch /ɪntʃ/, incident /ɪnɪsɪdənt/
- (b) <y> is pronounced as /ɪ/ seen in words such as city /sɪti/, sorry /sɒri/, symbol /sɪmbl/, lorry /lɒri/, bury /berɪ/, any /eni/, rhythm /rɪðm/
- (c) <e> is pronounced as /ɪ/ seen in words such as wicked /wɪkɪd/, naked /neɪkɪd/, visited /vɪzɪtɪd/, pretty /prɪti/, wicket /wɪkɪt/
- (d) <ie> is pronounced as /ɪ/ seen in words such as ladies /leɪdɪs/, sieve /sɪv/, studies /stʌdɪs/
- (e) <a> is pronounced as /ɪ/ seen in words such as village /vɪlɪdʒ/, manage /mænɪdʒ/, garage /gærɪdʒ/
- (f) <o> is pronounced as /ɪ/ seen in word such as women /wɪmɪn/
- (g) <u> is pronounced as /ɪ/ seen in words such as busy /bɪzi/, lettuce /letɪs/, minute /mɪnɪt/
- (h) <ui> is pronounced as /ɪ/ seen in words such as biscuit /bɪskɪt/, circuit /sɜ:kɪt/, build /bɪld/, guilt /gɪlt/
- (i) <oe> is pronounced as /ɪ/ seen in words such as oesophagus: /ɪsəfəgəs/, oedema: /ɪdi:mə/

3. /e/ is pronounced by the letters e, a, eo, ea, ei, u, ai, ie

- (a) <e> is pronounced as /e/ seen in words such as egg /eg/ set /set/, get /get/, beg /beg/, pet /pet/
- (b) <a> is pronounced as /e/ seen in words such as any /eni/, many /meni/, Thames /tems/, ate /et/
- (c) <eo> is pronounced as /e/ seen in word such as leopard,
- (d) <ea> is pronounced as /e/ seen in words such as realm /relm/, dead /ded/, head /hed/, measure /meʒər/



- (e) <ei> is pronounced as /e/ seen in word such as leisure /leɪʒər/
- (f) <u> is pronounced as /e/ seen in word such as bury /berɪ/
- (g) <ai> is pronounced as /e/ seen in words such as said /sed/, again /əgeɪn/
- (h) <ie> is pronounced as /e/ seen in words such as friend /fre:nd/

4. /æ/ is pronounced by the letters a, ai, ua

- (a) <a> is pronounced as /æ/ seen in words such as hat /hæt/, man /mæn/, cash /kæʃ/, cap /kæp/, gallop /gæləp/, mad /mæd/
- (b) <ai> is pronounced as /æ/ seen in words such as plaid /plæd/
- (c) <ua> is pronounced as /æ/ seen in word such as guarantee /gæərənti:/

5. /ʌ/ is pronounced by the letters o, oo, u, ou, oe

- (a) <o> is pronounced as /ʌ/ seen in words such as come /kʌm/, won /wʌn/, among /əməŋ/, done /dʌn/
- (b) <oo> is pronounced as /ʌ/ seen in words such as flood /flʌd/, blood /blʌd/
- (c) <u> is pronounced as /ʌ/ seen in words such as sun /sʌn/, hut /hʌt/, cut /cʌt/, Sunday /sʌndeɪ/
- (d) <ou> is pronounced as /ʌ/ seen in words such as rough /rʌf/, trouble /trʌbl/, country /kʌntri/, young /jʌŋ/
- (e) <oe> is pronounced as /ʌ/ seen in word such as does /dʌs/

6. /ɑ:/ is pronounced by the letters a(r), au, e(r), ea(r)

- (a) <a(r)> is pronounced as /ɑ:/ seen in words such as pass /pɑ:s/, last /lɑ:st/, art /ɑ:rt/, arch /ɑ:rtʃ/, archeology /ɑ:kɪlədʒi/, calm /kɑ:m/
- (b) <au> is pronounced as /ɑ:/ seen in word such as aunt /ɑ:nt/
- (c) <er> is pronounced as /ɑ:/ seen in word such as clerk /klɑ:k/
- (d) <ea(r)> is pronounced as /ɑ:/ seen in words such as hear /hɑ:t/, hearth /hɑ:θ/

7. /ɒ/ is pronounced by the letters o, au, (w)a, ou, ow(l),

- (a) <o> is pronounced as /ɒ/ seen in words such as sorry /sɒri/, dog /dɒg/, pot /pɒt/, hot /hɒt/
- (b) <au> is pronounced as /ɒ/ seen in words such as because /bɪkɒz/, qualify /kwɒlɪfaɪ/, Australia /ɒstreɪliə/, audience /ɒdiəns/

- (c) <a> is pronounced as /ɒ/ seen in words such as what /wɒt/, was /wɒz/, swan /swɒn/, want /wɒnt/
- (d) <ou> is pronounced as /ɒ/ seen in words such as cough /kɒf/, trough /tɒf/
- (e) <ow> is pronounced as /ɒ/ seen in word such as knowledge /nɒlɪdʒ/
8. /ɔ:/ is pronounced by the letters a(w), ou, au, a, o(r), oo(r), oa(r), ou(r), oa
- (a) <a(w)> is pronounced as /ɔ:/ seen in words such as law /lɔ:/, saw /sɔ:/, lawn /lɔ:n/, dawn /dɔ:n/, yawn /jɔ:n/
- (b) <ou> is pronounced as /ɔ:/ seen in word such as bought /bɔ:t/
- (c) <au> is pronounced as /ɔ:/ seen in words such as taught /tɔ:t/, taunt /tɔ:nt/, taurine /tɔ:ri:n/, taurus /tɔ:rəs/
- (d) <a> is pronounced as /ɔ:/ seen in words such as all /ɔ:l/, also /ɔ:lsəʊ/, wall /wɔ:l/, ball /bɔ:l/
- (e) <o(r)> is pronounced as /ɔ:/ seen in words such as horse /hɔ:s/, cord /kɔ:d/, sword /sɔ:d/, born /bɔ:n/, shore /ʃɔ:(r)/, snore /snɔ:(r)/, more /mɔ:(r)/, before /bɪfɔ:(r)/
- (f) <oo(r)> is pronounced as /ɔ:/ seen in words such as door /dɔ:(r)/, floor /flɔ:(r)/
- (g) <oa(r)> is pronounced as /ɔ:/ seen in word such as hoarse /hɔ:s/
- (h) <ou(r)> is pronounced as /ɔ:/ seen in words such as pour /pɔ:(r)/, four /fɔ:(r)/, court /kɔ:(r)/, course /kɔ:s/
- (i) <oa> is pronounced as /ɔ:/ seen in words such as broad /brɔ:d/, boar /bɔ:(r)/
9. /ʊ/ is pronounced by the letters o, oo, u, ou,
- (a) <o> is pronounced as /ʊ/ seen in words such as woman /wʊmən/, wolf /wʊlf/, bosom /bʊzəm/
- (b) <oo> is pronounced as /ʊ/ seen in words such as good /gʊd/, book /bʊk/, foot /fʊt/
- (c) <u> is pronounced as /ʊ/ seen in words such as full /fʊl/, put /pʊt/, push /pʊʃ/
- (d) <ou> is pronounced as /ʊ/ seen in words such as could /kʊd/, should /ʃʊd/, would /wʊd/
10. /u:/ is pronounced by the letters o, oo, ou, ew, ue, eu, oe, ui, u, ie,
- (a) <o> is pronounced as /u:/ seen in words such as who /hu:/ whose /hu:z/, do /du:/, move /mu:v/

- (b) <oo> is pronounced as /u:/ seen in words such as fool /fu:l/, spoon /spu:n/, food fu:d/, moon /mu:n/
- (c) <ou> is pronounced as /u:/ seen in words such as soup /su:p/, you /ju:/, group /gru:p/, wound /wu:nd/
- (d) <ew> is pronounced as /u:/ seen in words such as few /fju:/, chew /tʃu:/, flew /flu:/
- (e) <ue> is pronounced as /u:/ seen in words such as blue /blu:/, clue /klu:/, queue /kju:/
- (f) <eu> is pronounced as /u:/ seen in word such as feudal /fju:dl/
- (g) <ie> is pronounced as /u:/ seen in word such as view /vju:/
- (h) <oe> is pronounced as /u:/ seen in word such as shoe /ʃu:/
- (i) <ui> is pronounced as /u:/ seen in words such as fruit /fru:t/, juice /dʒu:s/, suit /su:t/
- (j) <u> is pronounced as /u:/ seen in words such as flu /flu:/, rude /ru:d/, June /dʒu:n/
11. /ɜ:/ is pronounced by the letters o(r), ou(r), i(r), y(r), e(r), u(r), ea(r)
- (a) <o(r)> is pronounced as /ɜ:/ seen in words such as word /wɜ:d/, world /wɜ:ld/
- (b) <ou(r)>, is pronounced as /ɜ:/ seen in words such as scourage /skɜ:dʒ/, bourbon /bɜ:bən/
- (c) <i(r)> is pronounced as /ɜ:/ seen in words such as bird /bɜ:d/, girl /gɜ:l/, gird /gɜ:d/
- (d) <y(r)> is pronounced as /ɜ:/ seen in words such as myrtle /mɜ:tl/ myrrh /mɜ:(r)/
- (e) <e(r)> is pronounced as /ɜ:/ seen in words such as serve /sɜ:v/, herb /hɜ:b/, her /hɜ:(r)/
- (f) <u(r)> is pronounced as /ɜ:/ seen in words such as fur /fɜ:/ / furniture /fɜ:nɪʃə(r)/, murmur /mɜ:mə(r)/
- (g) <ea(r)> is pronounced as /ɜ:/ seen in words such as eath /ɜ:θ/, pearl /pɜ:l/
12. /ə/ is pronounced by the letters i, (l)e, a, u, o, ar, ai, e(r), o(r), ou(s).
- (a) <i> is pronounced as /ə/ seen in words such as possible /pɒsəbl/
- (b) <er> is pronounced as /ə/ seen in words such as mother /mʌðə(r)/, father /fʌðə(r)/

- (c) <a> is pronounced as /ə/ seen in words such as woman /wʊmən/, about /əbaʊt/, among /əməŋ/, particular /pətɪkjələ(r)/
- (d) <u> is pronounced as /ə/ seen in words such as possum /pɒsəm/, suppose /səpəʊz/, conjugal /kɒnədʒl/
- (e) <o(r)> is pronounced as /ə/ seen in words such as oblige /əblaɪdʒ/, doctor /dɒktə(r)/, dictator /dɪktətə(r)/
- (f) <ou(s)> is pronounced as /ə/ seen in words such as famous /feɪməs/, dangerous /deɪndʒərəs/
- (g) ai is pronounced as /ə/ seen in words such as fountain /faʊntən/, mountain /maʊntən/

#### 4.2.2. Diphthongs

1. /eɪ/ is pronounced by the letters a (a-e) (a-i) (a-tion), a(i)e, a(y), ea, e(y)

- (a) The combination of (a-e) seen in words such as able /eɪbl/, ace, /eɪs/, age /eɪdʒ/, amaze /əmeɪz/, (a-i) alien /eɪliən/, April /eɪprəl/ (a-o) major /meɪdʒə(r)/ chaotic /keɪtɪk/, (a-tion) accommodation əkɒmədeɪʃn/, accumulation /əku:mjəleɪʃn/, pronunciation /prənʌnsi:eɪʃn/
- (b) <-ay> is pronounced as /eɪ/ seen in words such as astray /əstreɪ/, say /seɪ/, delay /dɪleɪ/, always /ɔ:lweɪz/, layout /leɪəʊt/
- (c) <ai> is pronounced as /eɪ/ seen in words such as aim /eɪm/, claim /kleɪm/, again /əgeɪn/, hail /heɪl/, afraid /əfreɪt/, claim /kleɪm/
- (d) <e> is pronounced as /eɪ/ seen in words such as ballet /bæleɪ/, cafe /kæfeɪ/
- (e) <ea> is pronounced as /eɪ/ seen in words such as break /breɪk/, great /greɪt/
- (f) <ey> is pronounced as /eɪ/ seen in words such as hey /heɪ/, obey /əbeɪ/

2. /aɪ/ is pronounced by the letters i, i(e), y, y(e), a(i), u(y), (u)i

- (a) <i> is pronounced as /aɪ/ seen in words such as ice /aɪs/, icon /aɪkən/, idea /aɪdɪə/, high /haɪ/, biography /baɪ'ɒgrəfi/
- (b) The combination of (i-e) seen in words such as bibe /baɪbl/, advice, ədvaɪs/, clime /klaɪm/, arise /əraɪz/, fertilizer /fɜ:təlaɪzə(r)/, lie /laɪ/, die /daɪ/, tie /taɪ/, pie /paɪ/
- (c) The combination of <i> - /ə/ seen in words such as virus /vaɪrəs/ arrival /əraɪvəl/ minus /maɪnəs/

- (d) <y> is pronounced as /aɪ/ seen in words such as July /dʒʊlaɪ/, why /waɪ/, by /baɪ/, try /traɪ/, cyber /saɪbə(r)/, cycle /saɪkl/, style /staɪl/, dynamic /daɪnæmɪk/
- (e) <-ye> is pronounced as /aɪ/ seen in words such as dye /daɪ/, bye /baɪ/, eye /aɪ/, rye /raɪ/, wye /waɪ/
- (f) <uy> is pronounced as /aɪ/ seen in words such as buy /baɪ/, guy /gaɪ/
- (g) <ui> is pronounced as /aɪ/ seen in words such as guide /gaɪd/, guise /gaɪz/, disguise /dɪsgaɪz/
- (h) <ai> is pronounced as /aɪ/ seen in word such as aisle /aɪl/

3. /ʊə/ is pronounced by the letters u(re), u(r), u(ou), u(a), oo

- (a) <u(re)> is pronounced as /ʊə/ seen in words such as sure /ʃʊə(r)/, endure /ɪndʊə(r)/, lure /lʊə(r)/, pure /pʊə(r)/
- (b) <u(r)>, is pronounced as /ʊə/ seen in words such as urine /jʊərɪn/, urology /jʊərələdʒɪ/, urdu /ʊədʊ/, uranus /jʊərənəs/
- (c) <u(ou)> is pronounced as /ʊə/ seen in words such as ambiguous /æmbɪɡjʊəs/, continuous /kənʃɪnjʊəs/
- (d) <u(a)> is pronounced as /ʊə/ seen in words such as annual /ænjʊəl/, casual /kæʒʊəl/, eventual /ɪventʃʊəl/, gradual /grædʒʊəl/, graduate /grædʒʊət/
- (e) <oo> is pronounced as /ʊə/ seen in words such as poor /pʊə(r)/, moore /mʊə(r)/

4. /ɔɪ/ is pronounced by the letters oy, oi

- (a) <oi> is pronounced as /ɔɪ/ seen in words such as oyster /ɔɪtə(r)/, boy /bɔɪ/ soy /sɔɪ/ joy /dʒɔɪ/, annoy /ənoɪ/ employ, /ɪmplɔɪ/, enjoy /ɪndʒɔɪ/
- (b) <oi> is pronounced as /ɔɪ/ seen in words such as oil /ɔɪl/, boil /bɔɪl/, join /dʒɔɪn/, choice /tʃɔɪs/, foil /fɔɪl/, exploit /ɪksplɔɪt/, moist /mɔɪst/

5. /eə/ is pronounced by the letters a(r)e, ai(r), ea(r), e(r)e

- (a) <a> is pronounced as /eə/ seen in words such as air /eə(r)/, are /eə(r)/, ay /eə(r)/
- (b) <e> is pronounced as /eə/ seen in words such as ere /eə(r)/, heir /eə(r)/
- (c) The combination of (a-(r)e) is pronounced as /eə/ seen in words such as share /ʃeə(r)/, care /keə(r)/, ware /weə(r)/
- (d) The combination of (a-i(r)) is pronounced as /eə/ seen in words such as fair /feə(r)/, chair /tʃeə(r)/, hair /heə(r)/, stair /steə(r)/

- (e) The combination of (ea(r)) is pronounced as /eə/ seen in words such as bear /beə(r)/, wear /weə(r)/, swear /sweə(r)/
- (f) The combination of e(r)e is pronounced as /eə/ seen in words such as where /weə(r)/
6. /əʊ/ is pronounced by the letters o, oa ou, oe, o(w)
- (a) <o> is pronounced as /əʊ/ seen in words such as go /gəʊ/, no /nəʊ/, cold /kəʊld/, post /pəʊst/, close kləʊz/, drove /drəʊv/, home /həʊm/, phone /fəʊn/
- (b) <ow> is pronounced as /əʊ/ seen in words such as show /ʃəʊ/, slow /sləʊ/, know /nəʊ/, low /ləʊ/
- (c) <ou> is pronounced as /əʊ/ seen in words such as dough /dəʊ/, slaugh /sləʊ/
- (d) <oa> is pronounced as /əʊ/ seen in words such as coat /kəʊt/, goat /gəʊt/, boat /bəʊt/
- (e) <oe> is pronounced as /əʊ/ seen in words such as toe /təʊ/, hoe /həʊ/
7. /aʊ/ is pronounced by the letters o(w), ou,
- (a) <ow> is pronounced as /aʊ/ seen in words such as owl /aʊl/, crowd /kraʊd/, frown /fraʊn/, browser braʊzə(r)/, allow /əlaʊ/ how /haʊ/, bow /baʊ/, cow /kaʊ/, now /naʊ/, clown /klaʊn/
- (b) <ou> is pronounced as /aʊ/ seen in words such as ounce /aʊns/, ouch /aʊtʃ/, out /aʊt/, couch /kaʊtʃ/, cloud /klaʊd/, foul /faʊl/, found /faʊnd/, blouse /blaʊs/, fountain /faʊntən/, plough /plaʊ/
8. /ɪə/ is pronounced by the letters ee(r), ia, ie, iu, ea, e, io, an
- (a) <ee> is pronounced as /ɪə/ seen in words such as deer /dɪə(r)/, beer /bɪə(r)/, career /kəɪə(r)/, engineer /endʒɪnɪə(r)/,
- (b) <ie> is pronounced as /ɪə/ seen in words such as alien /əliən/, audience /ɔːdɪəns/, barrier /bæɪə(r)/, frontier /frʌntɪə(r)/
- (c) <ia> is pronounced as /ɪə/ seen in words such as aerial /eəriəl/, bacteria /bæktɪəriə/ cafeteria /kæfətɪəriə/
- (d) <a(n)> is pronounced as /ɪə/ seen in words such as comedian /kəmiːdiən/, European /jʊərəpiən/
- (e) <iu> is pronounced as /ɪə/ seen in words such as aluminium /æljəmɪniəm/, condominium /kɒndəmiɪniəm/

- (f) <ea> is pronounced as /ɪə/ seen in words such as appear, /əpɪə(r)/, cerea /sɪəɪə/, Korea /kəɪə/
- (g) <e> is pronounced as /ɪə/ seen in words such as era /ɪəə/, bacteria /bæktɪəɪə/, cafeteria /kæfətɪəɪə/, cerea /sɪəɪə/, coherent /kəʊhɪəɪənt/
- (h) <ao> is pronounced as /ɪə/ seen in words such as exterior /ɪkstɪəɪə(r)/, champion /tʃæmpɪən/, gabion /geɪbɪən/

### 4.2.3. Triphthongs

1. /aɪə/ is pronounced by the letters ir/ə/, io, ie, ia

- (a) The combination of (i-r-ə/) is pronounced as /aɪə/ seen in words such as hire /haɪə(r)/, fire /faɪə(r)/, iron /aɪən/
- (b) <ia> is pronounced as /aɪə/ seen in words such as liar /laɪə(r)/, trial /traɪəl/ reliable /rɪlaɪəbl/, diaper /daɪəpə(r)/, diamond /daɪəmənd/
- (c) <io> is pronounced as /aɪə/ seen in words such as lion /laɪən/, riot /raɪət/, violence /vaɪələns/
- (d) <ie> is pronounced as /aɪə/ seen in words such as science /saɪəns/, anxiety /ænzəɪəti/, diet /daɪət/

2. /eɪə/ is pronounced by the letters aye(r), ayo

- (a) <aye(r)> is pronounced as /eɪə/ seen in words such as layer, /leɪə(r)/, player /pleɪə(r)/
- (b) <ayo> is pronounced as /eɪə/ seen in words such as mayor meɪə(r)/, mayonnaise /meɪəneɪz/ bayonet /beɪənət/, crayon /creɪən/

3. /aʊə/ is pronounced by the letters ou(r), owe, owa(d)

- (a) <ou(r)> is pronounced as /aʊə / seen in words such as hour /aʊə(r)/, sour /saʊə(r)/ our /aʊə(r)/, flour /flaʊə(r)/
- (b) <owe> is pronounced as /aʊə/ seen in words such as power /paʊə(r)/, tower /taʊə(r)/ bowel /baʊəl/, flouer /flaʊə(r)/
- (c) <owa> is pronounced as /aʊə/ seen in word such as nowadays /naʊədeɪz/, rowan /raʊən/

4. /ɔɪə/ is pronounced by the letters oya

(a) <oya> is pronounced as /ɔɪə/ seen in words such as loyal /lɔɪəl/, royal /rɔɪəl/,  
soya /sɔɪə/

5. /əʊə/ is pronounced by the letters owe(r)

(a) <owe(r)> is pronounced as /əʊə/ seen in words such as lower /ləʊə(r)/, slower  
sləʊə(r)/, mower /məʊə(r)/

## 5. Conclusion

English pronunciation does not have a fixed pattern, and it shows the inconsistency of pronunciation. It makes the EL learners experience the incorrectness of pronunciation, for example lay /leɪ/ or effect /ɪfekt/ is pronounced as /laɪ/ or /əfekt/. While speaking, correct pronunciation is important to catch the correct meaning and avoid misunderstanding. By knowing the sounds represented by letters and the patterns how to pronounce makes easier to pronounce the English words.

English sounds are lettered by single, double and cluster. Monophthongally, /i:/ is sounded by ee, ea, ie, ei. e, i, eo, ey, (ua)y, /ɪ/ by i, y, e, ie, a, o, u, ui, oe, /e/ by e, a, eo, ea, ei, u, ai, ie /æ/ by a, ai, ua, /ʌ/ by o, oo, u, ou, oe, /ɑ:/ by a(r), au, e(r), ea(r), /ɒ/ by o, au, (w)a, ou, ow(l), /ɔ:/ by a(w), ou, au, a, o(r), oo(r), oa(r), ou(r), oa, /ʊ/ by o, oo, u, ou, /u:/ by o, oo, ou, ew, ue, eu, oe, ui, u, ie, /ɜ:/ by o(r), ou(r), i(r), y(r), e(r), u(r), ea(r), and /ə/ is sounded by i, (l)e, a, u, o, ar, ai, e(r), o(r), ou(s). Diphthongally, /eɪ/ is sounded by a(a-e) (a-i) (a-tion), a(i) e, a(y), ea, e(y), /aɪ/ by i, i(e), y, y(e), a(i), u(y), (u)i, /ʊə/ by u(re), u(r), u(ou), u(a), oo /ɔɪ/ by oi, oy, /eə/ by a(r)e, ai(r), ea(r), e(r)e /əʊ/ by o, oa ou, oe, o(w) /aʊ/ by o(w), ou, and /ɪə/ is sounded by ee(r), ia, ie, iu, ea, e, io, an. Triphthongally, /aɪə/ is sounded by ir/ə/, io, ie, /eɪə/ by aye(r), ayo, /əʊə/ by ou(r), owe, owa(d), /ɔɪə/ by oya, and /əʊə/ is sounded by owe(r).

/i:/ is pronounced in double e, final syllable sound -C<e>C<e>, -and C<i>C<e>. /ɪ/ is pronounced in morpheme plural form -ies, morpheme -ed followed by /t/, /k/, or /d/ close syllable, and final syllable sound -C<a>C<e>. /e/ is pronounced in one syllable word C<e>C. /ʌ/ is pronounced in one syllable word C<o>C<e>. /ɒ/ is pronounced in one syllable word C<o>C. /ɔ:/ is pronounced when a meets ll (/l/) in one syllable word, a meets w (silent /w/) in one syllable word, o meets r (equivocal) in one syllable sound. /ə/ is pronounced in morpheme noun form -or and morpheme adjective form -ous. r positioned as close syllable influences to lengthen [ɑ:, ɔ:, ɜ:] and to produce schwa, so does in diphthong. /eɪ/ is pronounced in one syllable word C<a>C<e>. /aɪ/ is pronounced in one syllable word C<i>C<e>. /ʊə/ is pronounced in one syllable word



C<u> <r> <e>. /eə/ is pronounced in one syllable word C<a> <r> <e>, CVV<r>. /əʊ/ is from letter o pronunciation, and /əʊ/ is pronounced when there is syllable with o. /iə/ is pronounced in one syllable word C<e> <e> <r>. Double semivowel will not perform triphthong. Letter i, u, w, y produce triphthong when they are combined with vowels.

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