Errors in Pronunciation of Consonants by Learners of English as a Foreign Language

Our previous research, presented at ICPP 2011, focused only on final stop consonants of Indonesian EFL. Meanwhile, we, the researchers, want to develop our research into a wider context. This paper draws on a study investigating the errors in pronunciation of consonants made by EFL and possible explanations of these errors. There is a limited amount of previous research on pronunciation errors made by Indonesian EFL learners. In this study consonantal phoneme pronunciation error data was collected using three different types of tasks namely interview, response test and participant observation, and analyzed using broad IPA phonetic transcription.

The findings indicate that for these language segmental errors are largely limited to final stops [p], [b], [t], [d], [k], [g], final sibilants [s], [z], [iz] initial and final affricates [d3], [t \int] and interdentals [Θ] or [\check{O}]. The most common error the students made is that the students usually imitate their native language in pronuncing the words, such as when producing the word *three* the students commonly pronounced [tri:] instead of [Θ ri:]. In other cases, some final sibilant sounds are not pronunced in a correct manner, for example the word *watches* is pronounced [wot \int es] instead of [wot \int iz]. As a result, those errors are influenced by their native dialect.