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Abstract

This paper explores teaching English pronunciation and its significance in the EFL classroom. The aim of this paper is to examine the complexities of learning and teaching English Language Pronunciation among 8th grade Students. My research in English pronunciation was carried out using recent publications: books, Internet documents and research articles. Questionnaires were provided to both English teachers and students to collect vital information on the importance of teaching and learning English pronunciation. I approach this subject on the basis as an experienced teacher in continuing English Language education for 8th Grade Students. The results of this research bring better understanding of the lack of education in teaching correct English Pronunciation and how the use of technology can be used to significantly improve English pronunciation in among EFL students.

Key Words: English pronunciation, technology, EFL students.

1. Introduction of Topic, Its Significance and General Research

Question

Pronunciation is an important part of teaching English language. Mastering pronunciation is important to enhance communication and is essential in the acquisition of a foreign language. As a veteran EFL teacher, I have come across learners' inability to pronounce English words accurately and as a result many learners can be easily misunderstood. One of the reasons for this is that in foreign language learning, learners usually find the target language pronunciation difficult because its sounds do not always correspond to the ones found in their mother tongue language. Another reason lies in the absence of some particular sounds in the native tongue's sound inventory (Cakir & Bytar, 2014). The age of the learners also has a great influence on pronouncing the sounds accurately. There is a period during which language can be acquired more easily and after that period it becomes much more difficult. Therefore, it is recommended that pronunciation should be taught to children as early as possible (Gil, Larios & Balibrea, 2017). Gilakjani & Ahmadi (2011) stated, "If we learn a second language in childhood, we learn to speak it fluently and without a 'foreign accent'; if we learn in adulthood, it is very unlikely that we will attain a native accent" (p.74). Thus, this research is focused on eighth graders and not on high school students.

1.1. Definition of Pronunciation

Pronunciation is one of the most important features of an individual's speech. I have been teaching English for the past twenty years and have noticed that pronunciation is an integral part of communication but unfortunately my colleagues and I have never taught it explicitly, probably, because it is one of the most difficult challenges that language teachers and learners face. I believe that teaching or improving pronunciation in EFL classes should