



Monophthongisation of English Diphthongs by Native Speakers of Pashto

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Abstract- Studies on the pronunciation of English sounds by speakers of diverse languages have discovered many phonological variants from Standard English. The present qualitative study focuses on variations in the pronunciation of English diphthongs, produced as monophthongs, by Pashto speakers. To this end, in the present study, 20 native Pashto speakers read out words built on the target diphthongs at initial, medial and final levels followed or preceded by voiced and voiceless sounds. PRAAT was used to record and analyze data and to show diphthongal movement through spectrogram and first formants. The findings indicate that all theselected English diphthongs are articulated with variations at different levels. Besides, the common features in the process of monophthongisation of English diphthongs by Pashto speakers are also discovered in the form of lengthening of the first or second element of a diphthong, deletion of one of the elements of diphthongs orinsertion of a sound between the two elements of diphthongs. The study concludes that this process of monophthongization in the form of insertion, deletion or lengthening of one of the two elements of diphthongs is basically variations in the form of features. All these features add to the uniqueness of English used by Pashto speakers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Keywords: English, Pashto, diphthong, monophthongisation

I. INTRODUCTION

Pashto is an Eastern Indo-Iranian language with speakers ranging from forty to fifty million. Pashto is mostly and dominantly used in Iran, Afghanistan and most of the areas in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan. Pashto is also the national language of Afghanistan and the provincial language of Pakistan. It is broadly divided into two major dialects: hard mostly with /kh/ and soft dialects mostly with /sh/. The soft, also known as the Southern dialect (commonly known as Khattak dialect) spoken in the southern part of KP., and the hard dialect, also known as Yousafzai dialect (Peshawari), spoken in the areas of north Pakistan i.e. Mardan, Sawat and Peshawar, etc.

English in Pakistan is used simultaneously with local/native languages like Urdu, Punjabi and Pahari, etc. through a nativized make-up in the form of code-mixing, code-switching, hybridization and loanwords, etc. Similarly, Pashto speakers also use English in Pashtucized manners. In order to explore how the native speakers of Pashto language use English language in KP, the study of their use of English carries high significance. The Phonological deviations from Standard English diphthongs of Pashto speakers are prominent and can be easily identified in their speech. An example of this is the difference between uttering the same English word 'day' by Pashto speakers as /de:/ and by English speakers as /dei/. Similarly, age is pronounced /eidz/ and face /feis/ by English while /ædʒ/ and /fæs/ by most of the Pashto speakers.

The phonological variations in the use of English are an important aspect of the current research which aims to highlight English diphthongs used as monophthongs by native Pashto speakers. Taking the study, the target of the proposed study is the users of Pashto language i.e., the user of soft and hard dialects of Pashto and their use of English diphthongs. English in KP develops under the Pashtun context with the unique influence of Pashto language. Keeping in view this fact, the present study explores variations in English diphthongs as a variety of English affected by Pashto in KP.

Most of the researchers have discussed Pakistani English in the context of Urdu and Punjabi (Boumgardner, 1996, Riaz 2015, Bilal, 2012 and Rahman, 2008) while Pakistani English in the context of other regional languages i.e. Pashto, Sindhi, Balochi, etc. has been over looked. The phonological differences in the use of

English diphthongs by native speakers of Pashto suggest that there may be considerable variations within Pakistani English an example of this is the pronunciation of 'tight' as /tʃajit/ instead of /tʃait/. Besides highlighting English diphthongs used as monophthongs, the study also focuses on the process and features of monophthongisation. To highlight phonological variations in the form of the process of monophthongisation is the task of linguist or language researcher and hence, of the present study. In the proposed study, the researchers explore the use of English by Pashto speakers for those phonological variations (and features of monophthongisation) of diphthongs, which lead towards monophthongisation of English.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Exploring phonological variations in English from the perspective of monophthongisation is an important aspect of phonology. Study on these variations carries high significance both at national and international levels. Monophthongisation of English diphthongs has been explored by Labov (1972), Hickey (2004), Rahim and Manan (2014), Utulu (2014), Setter, Ryder and Mok, Mousa (2015), Kadenge (2009), Watt, Szabo, Billy and Kaseem (2013), Amos (2011) and Sheikh (2012).

While throwing light on the diphthongs of Irish English, Hickey (2004, p.4) asserts that 'Irish English had not progressed through the major long vowel shift e.g., the pronunciation of *bakehouse* as /ba:khu:s/, *town* as /tu:n/ etc. are still common in use. He explores that even the present-day Irish English shows no traces of these un-shifted vowels for the reason that these un-shifted vowels are now replaced by a process 'supraregionalisation' (Hickey 2004, p.20). In supraregionalisation specific features of a variety are replaced by more general norms to be accepted by a wider community while using English. Hickey (2004, p.20-22) summarizes vowels of Irish English (supraregionalisation) and reflects the use of /e:ɪ/ instead of /eə/, /i:ɪ/ instead /iə/, /ou/ or /o:/ instead of /əʊ/, /e/ instead of /ei/. In the light of these variations, Hickey (2004, p.1) regards Irish English as the simplest and convenient variety in its own way. Simplification in the use of diphthongs reflects monophthongisation of these vowel sounds as the glide between vowels of diphthongs cannot be clearly noticed. The same process of monophthongisation is presented by Pillai (2014), who explored diphthongs by analyzing words on the structure of consonant vowel consonant (CVC) sounds i.e. *bide* /ai/, *bayed* /ei/, *boyd* /ɔi/, *bode* /əʊ/, *bout* /aʊ/ *beard* /iə/, *bear* /eə/ and *poor* /uə/. During the analysis of all these words with special focus on diphthongs, it was found that only /ai/ diphthong had a larger diphthongal movement in Irish English whereas the same diphthong as investigated by Labov (1972), has a very minute glide (/əi/ instead of /ai/) in the English used by the residents of Vineyard. This movement (glide) between the two elements of the rest of the diphthongs in Irish English was so less that it was recorded with negative (-) numerals. For reconfirmation of the result, these diphthongs were plotted on Formant 1 (F1) and Formant 2 (F2) charts and it was found that in the production of these diphthongs there is hardly any movement/glide from one sound to the other sound reconfirming the previous study of diphthongs being produced as monophthongs.

Similarly, Utulu (2014) researched /ei/ and /əʊ/ diphthongs in final open syllables in a variety of Nigerian English. He analyzed the speech of educated Urhobo English and highlighted not only the absence of glide but also the lengthening process of the first sounds e.g. *slow* is pronounced as /slɔ:/ and *day* as /de:/. These transcriptions show both monophthongisation and lengthening process in the speech of educated Urhobo English speakers. The study was only confined to the analysis of only /ei/ and /əʊ/ diphthongs and ignores the rest of English diphthongs. The study also associates two reasons with the lengthening of monophthongised diphthongs i.e., the need to preserve the weight of the deleted /i/ and /u/ sounds and to reflect a component of the falling frequency contour of English final open syllable. These two factors are generalized to the process of lengthening monophthongisation of diphthongs in most of the varieties of English language (Utulu. 2014). However, the generalization of these two factors for lengthening simplified (monophthongised) diphthongs of English cannot be generalized to most of the varieties of English. Sometimes, historical preservation and sometimes historical shift also serve as a factor for such simplification as highlighted by Labov (1972) while tracing the pronunciation of /ai/ as /əi/ (preservation) and change of /æʊ/ into /əʊ/ (shift).

When Thomas Mayhew first took possession of his newly purchased property of Martha's Vineyard in 1642, he brought with him the pronunciation /əi/ in *right*, *pride*, *wife* and *wine*. The later history of this vowel in America indicates that /əi/ continued to be the favored form well into the 19th century. (Labov. 1972, p.10)

In this way, variation from the standard is sometimes due to the factor of historical shift/change or evolution of a new version of sound from the existing one. As asserted by Labov (1972), "The principal new England form of /əʊ/ stood out against a background of rural and repressive /æʊ/"(p.11). It can be asserted that the causes of variations in any variety of language may be historical preservation of a sound/word, a shift in language, contact with other languages or providing an alternative to maintain the weight of deleted sound, etc. It can also be assumed from the studies of Rahim and Manan (2014), Utulu (2014), Mousa (2015), Billy and Kaseem,(2013), Amos (2011) and Sheikh (2012)that the simplification/monophthongisation of English sounds is mostly due to the influence of indigenous languages. Such influence is also traced by Setter (2015) while working on Hong Kong English (HKE). As he asserts that "HKE is undoubtedly influenced by Cantonese, which is the first language of HKE speakers"(p.1). In his study, he explored the pronunciation of English /əʊ/ diphthong by the native speakers of Cantonese. It was found that these users of English tend to pronounce the proposed diphthong /əʊ/ as /ɔ:/ monophthong. Besides the exploration of the mentioned diphthong use as monophthong, the study highlights the negative impact of this variation "production of GOAT containing a vowel more similar to BrE THOUGHT could lead to loss of distinction between minimal pairs such as bowl/ball and coat/caught" (Setter 2015, p.2). Such undistinguishable minimal pairs may temporarily lead to misunderstanding of message/communication. Anyhow, their study explores the impact of indigenous language on the use of learning a second language and concluded the process of monophthongisation of diphthongs in the use of English by the native speakers of Cantonese.

The present study is based on the Phonological variations in terms of monophthongisation of English diphthongs by non-native English users (native speakers of Pashto). The study regards the work of Utulu (2014) as a theoretical framework as it analyses phonological variations from the perspective of the monophthongisation of English diphthongs. Utulu (2014) defines monophthongisation as phonological process where one of the two elements of a diphthong normally the second element is deleted. While exploring the process of monophthongisation in the English speech of Nigerians (Urhobo), Utulu (2014) highlighted that the two English diphthongs /ei/ and /əʊ/ as in 'day' and 'goat' are monophthongised and pronounced as /de:/ and /gɔ:t/ instead of /dei/ and /gəʊt/. He also claimed that this process of monophthongisation is found in non-native Asian and African Englishes as well. However, Utulu's (2014) study is confined only to the above mentioned two English diphthongs and the present study focuses on the evaluation of the proposed variations (monophthongisation of English diphthongs) in all the eight English diphthongs. As the proposed study is from the perspective of variations in terms of world Englishes, these variations will be regarded as unique characteristics of English as used by Pashto speakers. The present study aims not only to highlight the variant English diphthongs used as monophthongs but also explores certain ways and features of the process of monophthongisation and hence explores that monophthongisation is not only confined to the deletion of one of the elements of diphthongs but goes beyond it. Based on variations in English diphthongs by native Pashto speakers, the present study takes the works of Utulu (2014) as a theoretical framework. The proposed framework is expanded to deal with the process and features of monophthongisation of all English diphthongs by native Pashto speakers.

III. METHODOLOGY

As the focus of the proposed study is just to highlight variations in the pronunciations of diphthongs by native Pashto speakers, other phonological features and paralingual features were ignored. For this purpose, a word list containing the proposed diphthongs was taken from Pillai (2014). A word list, containing the target diphthongs, was developed and refined to cover the objectives of the current investigation. This word list was deliberately developed after the selection of relevant words as according to Pillai (2014) there is no standard word list for the investigation of diphthongs. The word list contained target diphthongs while considering two aspects: the position of target diphthongs and the kind of following or preceding sound i.e. voiced and voiceless. The aim behind such structure was to keep complete objectivity and to confirm the authenticity of variations, if there are any, in the use of English diphthongs by the native speakers of Pashto.

Furthermore, the study is qualitative in nature and deals with the investigation and description of variant English diphthongs used by Pashto speakers. Following the method of Pillai (2014), used for the monophthongs and diphthongs of Malysaian English, the collection and analysis of data are based on the use of PRAAT 5.3. PRAAT was used in the present study not only to record the proposed data but also to "listen to the sound files and see wavelength and spectrogram simultaneously" (Pillai, 2014. p.64).

IV. ANALYSIS

This section demonstrates the process of monophthongisation of English diphthongs in the English speech of native Pashto speakers. Here the analysis of data is carried out on the basis of the formula Rate of Change (ROC) (Pillai, 2014). Both tables and screenshots of the proposed data are presented. The variant diphthongs are represented in the form of screenshots including wavelength, spectrogram and first Formants (F1). Besides ROC, data is also analyzed and presented in the form of tables which contain the target diphthongs at initial, medial and final levels preceded and followed by voiceless and voiced sounds. The table includes both standard transcriptions of target words and variant transcription as well. Every variant diphthong is then described in the light of the mentioned ROC values and screenshots in this chapter.

To depict glide from one vowel to another in the production of diphthongs, the Rate of Change (ROC) formula is applied in the present study. The same formula is also applied by Pillai(2004, p.14). The higher the ROC causes the more glide in diphthongs. The lower ROC value, the less diphthongal movement and a diphthong is produced more like a monophthong. In common sense, diphthongs are produced with movement from one sound to another, so we expect the glide to be clearly visible on the spectrogram of PRAAT. Table 1 shows the ROC values of the diphthongs. The following formula is used with reference to Pillai (2014) to measure the ROC in the production of diphthongs in the present study.

$$F1_{end} - F1_{start} / \text{Duration (seconds)} = \text{ROC (Hz/second)}$$

Table 1: Diphthongs with positive and negative ROC

Diphthongs	Words	ROC Hz/Sec
/eə/	Chair	787
/iə/	Fear	1679
/ʊə/	Poor	1463
/aʊ/	Shout	-86
/əʊ/	Phone	-465

According to Pillai (2014), negative F1 ROC values are the indicators of a rising trajectory and show a movement which starts from a lower target, /e/, /a/, /ə/ and /ɔ/ to a higher one, /i/ or /ʊ/. The centering diphthongs have positive F1 ROC values which indicate downwards trajectory from a higher vowel, /i/, /e/ /ʊ/ towards /ə/.

The description and analysis of the target diphthongs which reflect variations in the pronunciation of native Pashto speakers in the light of the above mentioned ROC table and PRAAT picture with wavelength, spectrogram and First Formants (F1) are following.

The diphthongs /eə/and /iə/ have positive ROC which reflects downward glide and have diphthongal movement. Three kinds of variations can be examined in the analysis of these two diphthongs.The first variation is in the form of the insertion of new sound and the second variation is the omission of the second element of the diphthongs and the third variation is the lengthening of the first element of the target diphthongs. The native speakers of Pashto language introduce a new sound i.e. /j/ between the two vowel sounds of stated diphthongs. Thus the insertion of /j/ sound lead to variations in the English diphthongs by Pashto speakers.The diphthongs /eə/ and /iə/ are pronounced as /ejə/ and /ijə/ by Pashto speakers. Words like chair and fear are pronounced as /tʃejər/ and/fijər/ instead of /tʃeə/ and /fiə/ (SBE) by native Pashto speakers. The spectrograms of these words are given below:

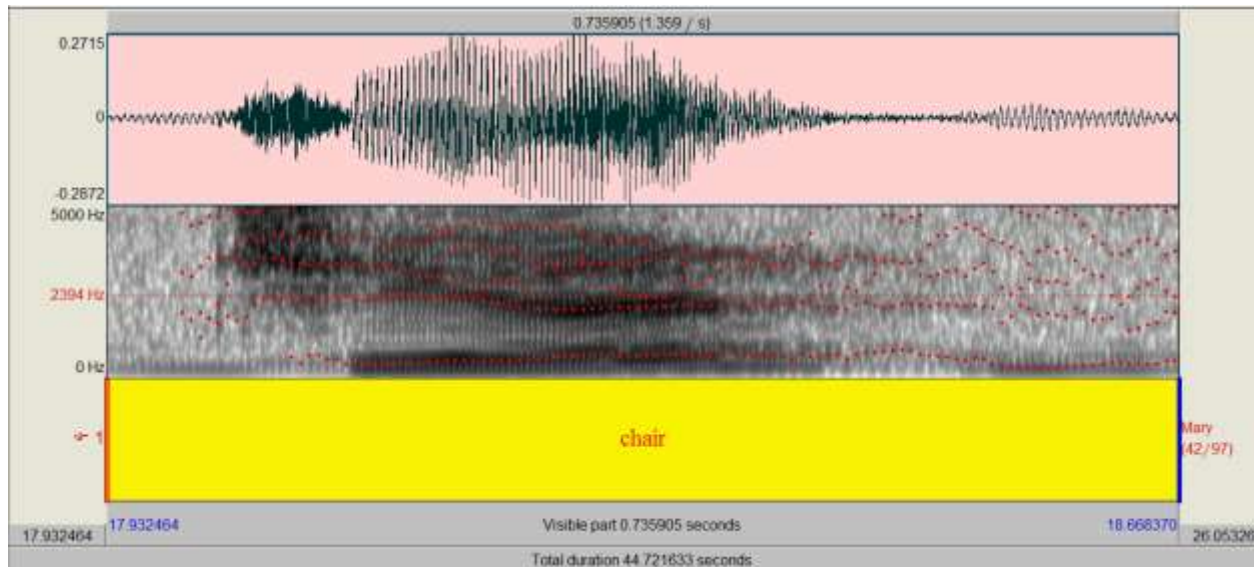


Figure 1: Spectrogram for the diphthong /eə/ in the word “chair”

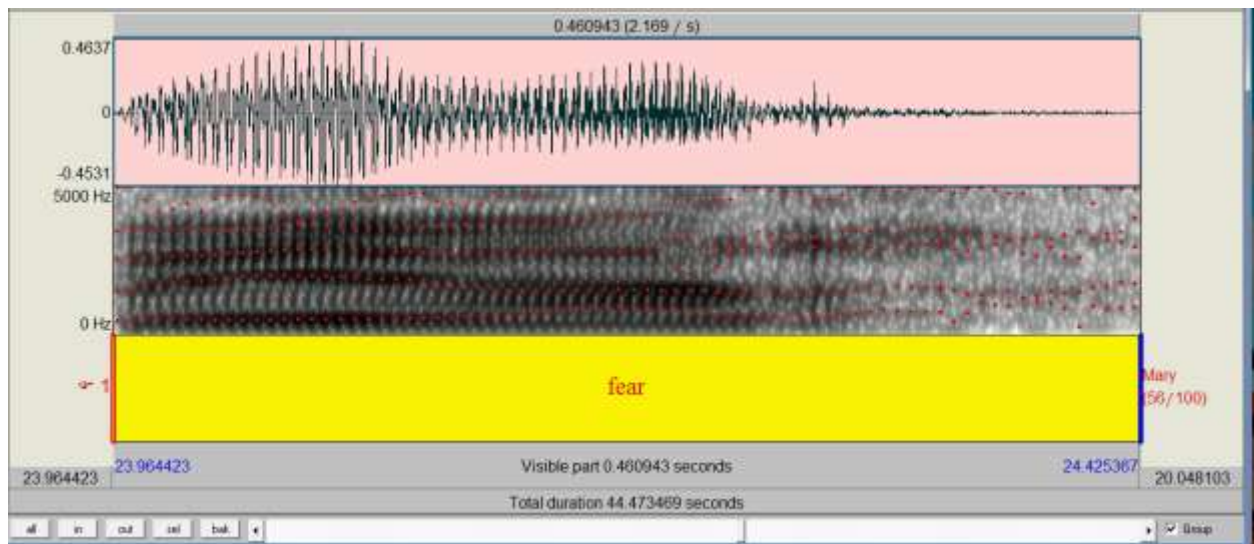


Figure 2: Spectrogram for the diphthong /iə/ in the word “fear”

The insertion of /j/ between the elements of these two diphthongs eliminates and interrupts the actual glide and this interruption causes diphthongs to be pronounced as monophthong. Pashto speakers of English also pronounce /r/ if it comes at the end of the word and replaces schwa of the diphthong. Words like dear and fair are pronounced as /dijər/ and /fejər/ by native Pashto speakers. This pronunciation of /r/ reflects the rhotic nature of this variety of English but in the present study the focus is only on the presence and absence of glide (which determines the nature of vowels e.g., monophthongs and diphthongs) between the two elements of English diphthongs so rhotic or non-rhotic features of the proposed variety must be exempted from the present study.

The second and third kinds of variations i.e. the omission of the second element and the lengthening of the first element of the proposed diphthong can be easily examined in words like sharing and layering in the English speech of native Pashto speakers. The diphthong /eə/ is pronounced as /e/ with some length by Pashto speakers and the stated words are pronounced as /je:riŋ/ and /le:riŋ/ by native Pashto speakers. The spectrograms of these words are exempted from any kind of diphthongal trajectory because of the elision of the second element of the proposed diphthong. In such cases, no glide can be created and this absence of glide

either due to the omission of one of the elements of a diphthong or due to the insertion of new sound between the elements of diphthong leads to the process of monophthongisation of English diphthongs.

The spectrogram, wave length, text grid and F1 of /eə/ as in sharing

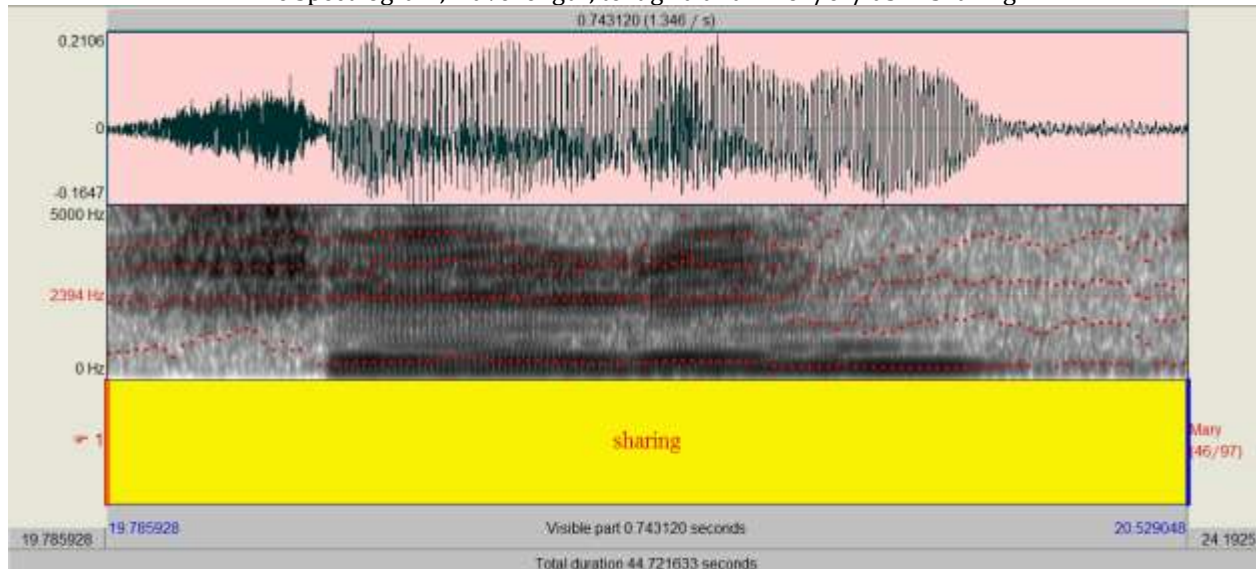


Figure 3: Spectrogram for the diphthong /eə/ in the word “sharing”

The spectrogram clearly reflects that there is no diphthongal movement in the production of the target word based on the proposed diphthong /eə/. There is no visible glide and the F1 formants are straight enough to indicate the absence of trajectory in the production of the proposed diphthong. It is also important to mention that the darker shade in the spectrogram represents voiced sounds and since all vowels are voiced, glide can be easily observed if it is there in the production of diphthongs. In the above spectrogram, no glide can be observed and this must mean the use of monophthong instead of a diphthong.

For the diphthong /ʊə/ the ROC is also positive and has a higher value which indicates a diphthongal movement. The point that is noted during the collection and analysis of data on PRAAT, the researcher came across another unexpected variation i.e. the insertion of /w/ sound between the /ʊ/ and /ə/ of /ʊə/. Thus the words built on this diphthong are produced with variation by Pashto speakers. The insertion of /w/ between the elements of diphthongs removes the glide and results in the pronunciation of monophthong instead of a diphthong. Words pronounced as /krʊəl/ becomes /krʊwəl/ and /tʊərɪst/ is pronounced as /tʊwərɪst/ in the context of Pashto language.

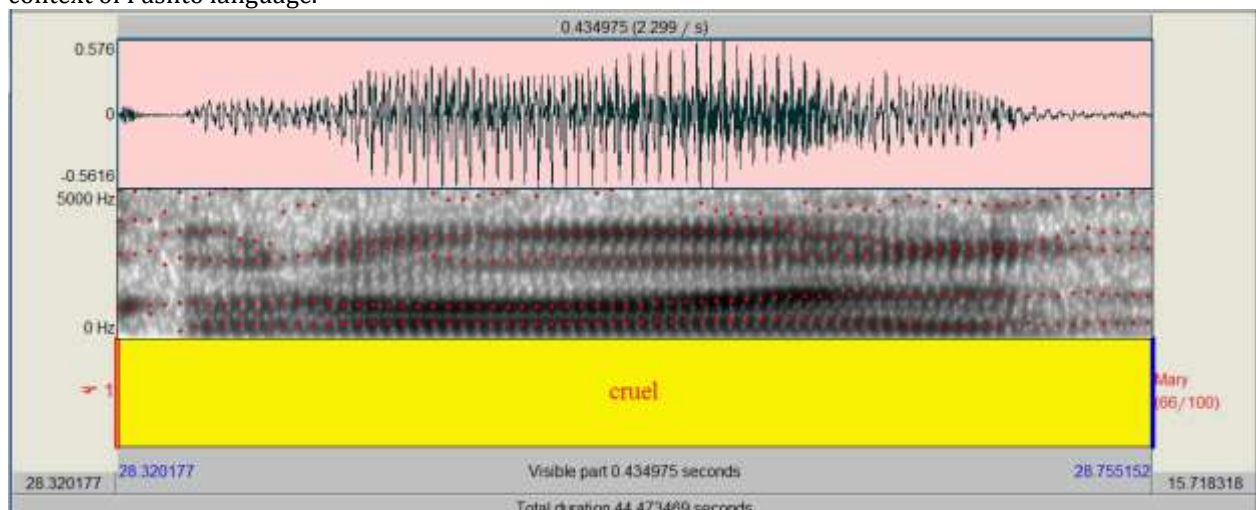


Figure 4: Spectrogram for the diphthong /ʊə/ in the word “cruel”

The diphthong /aʊ/ has a negative ROC which shows rising glide in its production by Pashto speakers but this ROC is very small and it may be the cause of the interruption of a sound between the two elements of diphthong during its pronunciation. The target diphthong is used at three levels i.e. word-initial, final and medial. At the final level, the target diphthong is interrupted by /w/ sound and is pronounced as /awʊ/, with variation, in words like how, cow and now, etc. But at initial and medial levels, this diphthong is pronounced with a more unique variation by Pashto speakers. They not only tend to insert /w/ sound between /a/ and /ʊ/ in /aʊ/ but (besides this insertion of /w/) the target speakers also lengthen the duration of the pronunciation of /ʊ/ at word-initial and medial level. Thus the words with /aʊ/ at initial and medial levels are pronounced with /awʊ:/ (interrupting diphthongal movement). The pronunciation of words built on /aʊ/ as in out, doubt and shout are pronounced as /awʊ:t/ /dawʊ:t/ and /ʃawʊ:t/ by Pashto speakers. It is to be mentioned once again that the above stated variation in the pronunciation of Pashto speakers is only at word medial and initial levels. At word final level, like how, cow and now, etc. only the insertion of /w/ (a form of variation) can be found in the English use of native Pashto speakers.

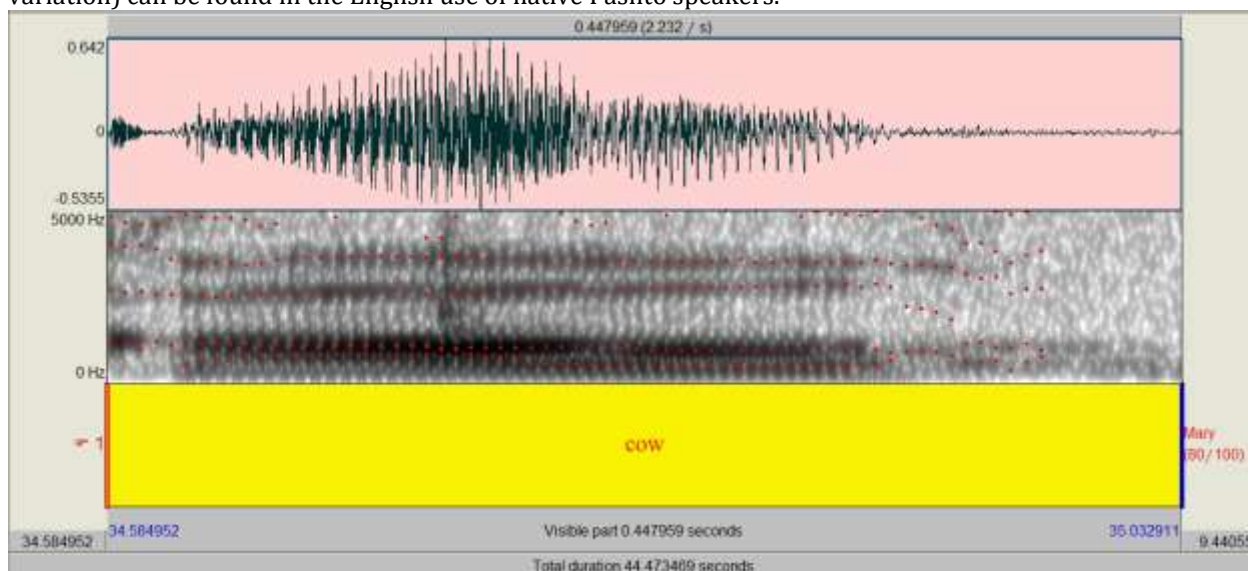


Figure 5: Spectrogram for the diphthong /aʊ/ in the word “cow”

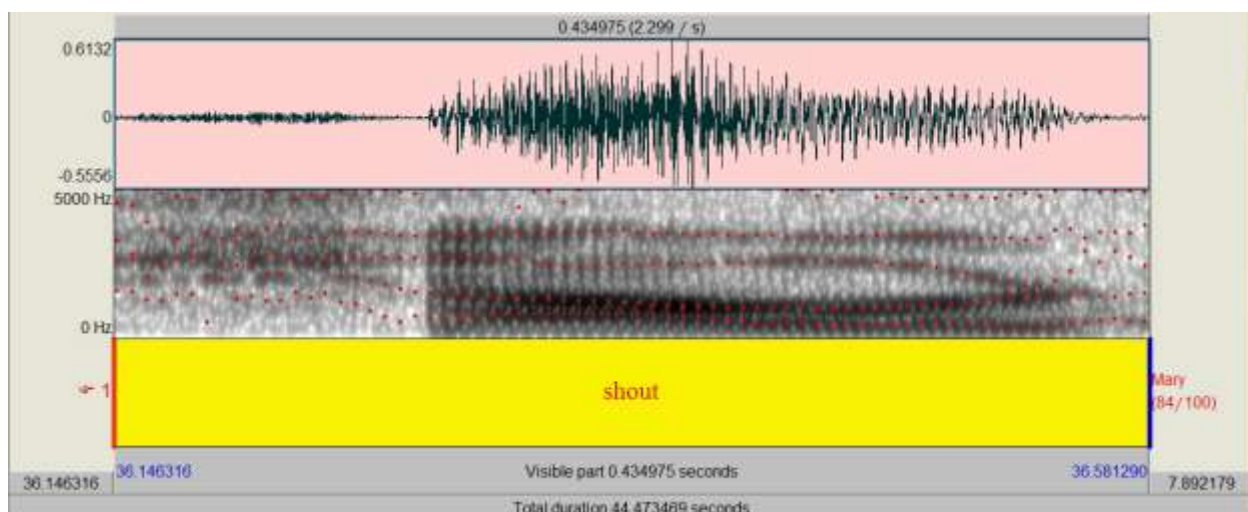


Figure 6: Spectrogram for the diphthong /aʊ/ in the word “shout”

The diphthong /əʊ/ has a negative ROC and small value which reflects again (like /ei/) least or no diphthongal trajectory. There is hardly any movement between the elements in the production of this diphthong by native Pashto speakers. They tend to produce this (/ əʊ /) diphthong closer to the

monophthong /ɔ/ and with a more length. Thus /əʊ/ becomes /ɔ:/ in the pronunciation of words like open, old, show and window, etc. by Pashto speakers.

The spectrogram, wavelength, text grid and F1 of open pronounced as /ɔ:pən/ and windows as /windɔ:z/ by native Pashto speakers.

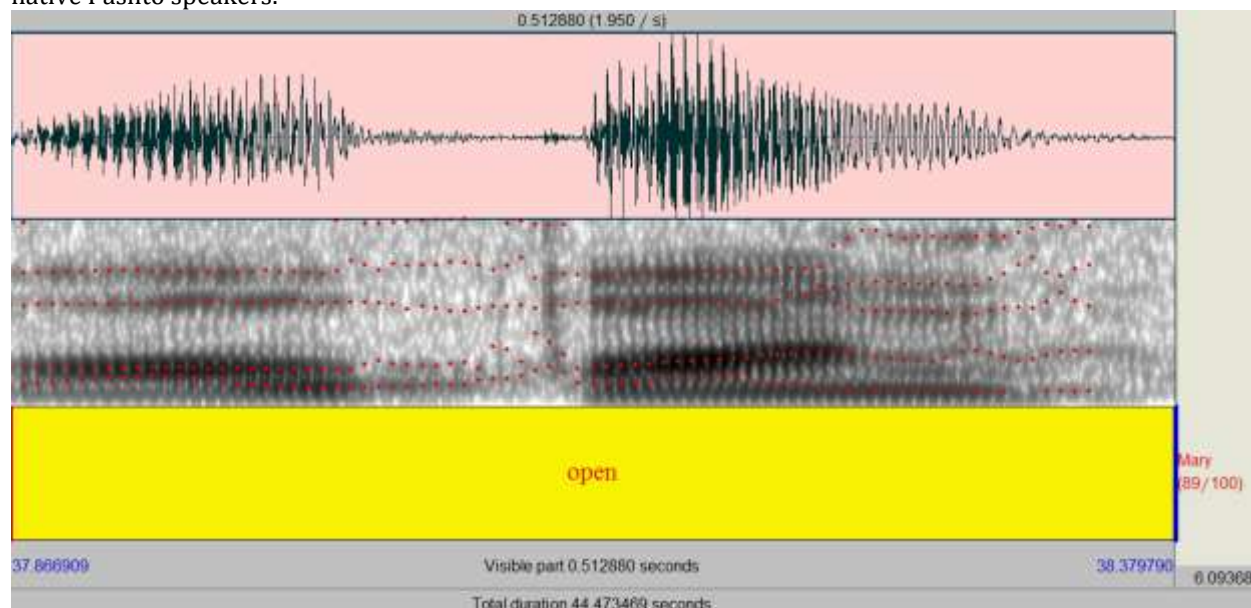


Figure 7: Spectrogram for the diphthong /əʊ/ in the word “open”

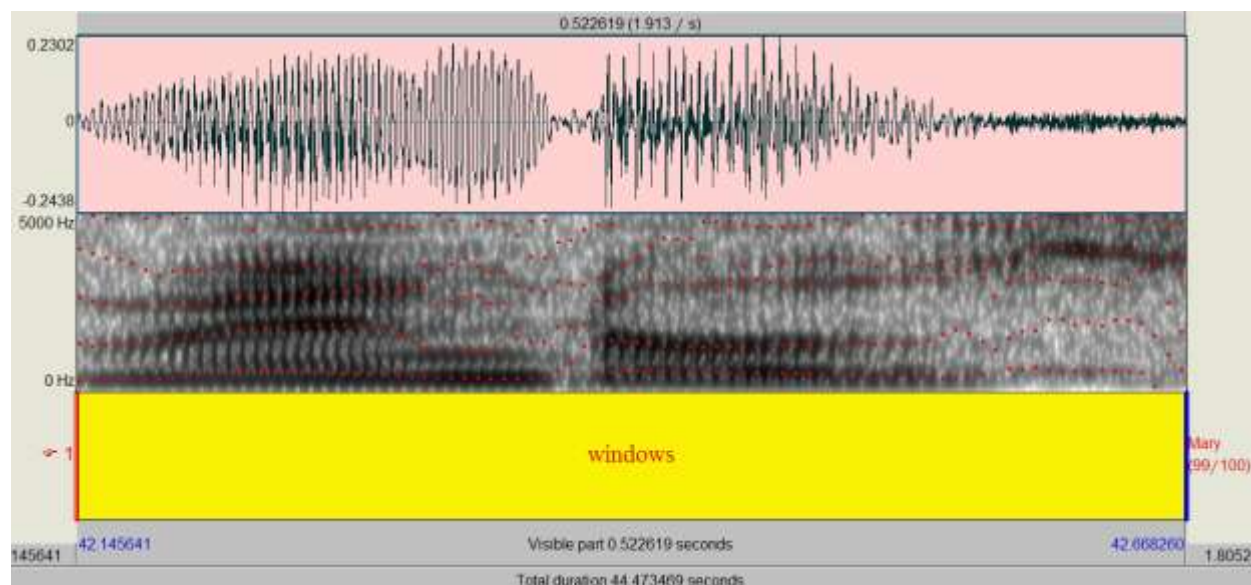


Figure 8: Spectrogram for the diphthong /əʊ/ in the word “windows”

In these spectrograms no diphthongal movement (glide between the elements of diphthong) is visible. This means that diphthong /əʊ/ is pronounced as monophthong.

All these empirical processes for the identification of the pronunciation of diphthongs (as monophthongs) in the English speech of native Pashto speakers prove the process of monophthongisation of English diphthongs. English diphthongs are used with variations and these variations become the unique features of English used in KP by Pashto speakers.

The process of monophthongisation is also demonstrated in the form of words and their analysis given in the following table

Table 2: List of of monophthongised diphthongs

Diphthongs	Initial position Followed by Voiceless Voiced	Final position Followed by Voiceless Voiced	Medial position Followed by Voiceless Voiced	Variant Pronunciation Common variations Hard + Soft = Pashto
/eə/ R.P H.D S.D	Air airy /eə/ /eə/ /ejər/ /ejəri:/ /ejər/ /ejəri:/	Chair their /tʃeə/ /ðeə/ /tʃejər/ /ðejər/ /tʃejər/ /ðejər/	Sharing layering /ʃeəriŋ/ /leəriŋ/ /ʃe:riŋ/ /le:riŋ/ /ʃe:riŋ/ /le:riŋ/	/ejər/ /ejəri:/ /tʃejər/ /ðejər/ /ʃe:riŋ/ /le:riŋ/
/iə/ R.P H.D S.D	Ear year /iə/ /iə/ /ijər/ /ijər/ /ijər/ /ijər/	Fear dear /fiə//diə/ /fijər/ /dijər/ /fijər/ /dijər/	Peers museum /piəz//mju:ziəm/ /pijərz//mju:zijəm/ /pijərz//mju:zijəm/	/ijər/ fijər/ /dijər/ pijərz//mju:zijəm/
/ʊə/ R.P H.D S.D	Sure cruel /ʃʊə//krʊə/ /ʃʊwər/ /krʊwəl/ /ʃʊwər/ /krʊwəl/	Poor doer /pʊə//dʊə/ /pʊwər/ /dʊwər/ /pʊwər/ /dʊwər/	Tourist manual /tuərist//mænjuəl/ /tuwərist//mænʊwəl/ /tuwərist//mænʊwəl/	/ʃʊwər/ /krʊwəl/ /pʊwər/ /dʊwər/ /tuwərist/ /mænʊwəl/
/aʊ/ R.P H.D S.D	Out owl /aʊt//aʊl/ /awʊ:t/ /awʊ:l/ /awʊ:t/ /awʊ:l/	Cow now /kaʊ//naʊ/ /kawʊ/ /nawʊ/ /kawʊ/ /nawʊ/	Shout doubt /ʃaʊt//daʊt/ /ʃawʊ:t/ /dawʊ:t/ /ʃawʊ:t/ /dawʊ:t/	/awʊ:t/ /awʊ:l/ /kawʊ/ /nawʊ/ /ʃawʊ:t/ /dawʊ:t/
/əʊ/ R.P H.D S.D	Open old /əʊpən/ /əʊld/ /ɔ:pən/ /ɔ:ld/ /ɔ:pən/ /ɔ:ld/	Show slow /ʃəʊ//sləʊ/ /ʃɔ:/ /slɔ:/ /ʃɔ:/ /slɔ:/	Phone windows /fəʊn/ /windəʊz /fɔ:n/ /windɔ:z/ /fɔ:n/ /windɔ:z/	/ɔ:pən/ /ɔ:ld/ /ʃɔ:/ /slɔ:/ /fɔ:n/ /windɔ:z/

In the above table, the fifth column contains those words built on target English diphthongs which are pronounced with variations from SBE. These variations are basically based on the variant production of English diphthongs by native Pashto speakers. The table reflects that all eight English diphthongs are pronounced with variations in different forms (elision, insertion, lengthening and replacement of sounds). These different forms of variations cause the process of monophthongisation of English diphthongs in the English speech of native Pashto speakers.

Emerging features of English in KP

From the analysis of the above words, the features of monophthongisation of English diphthongs pronounced by the representative participants of Pashtuns are mentioned here. The process of omission is applied in the use of /əʊ/ diphthong which is the most common variant diphthong but the process exceeds the elision of one of the two elements of the stated diphthong. In the production of /əʊ/ diphthong, both the vowels are omitted and replaced by the short vowel sound /ɔ/ (as in clock and not). Words like phone and slow are pronounced as /slɔ:/ and /fɔ:n/ instead of /sləʊ/ and /fəʊn/. So, once again an English diphthong is used as monophthong by native Pashto speakers in their use of English. These elisions of one or both of the elements of diphthongs have already emerged and can be identified easily in the English speech of Pashto speakers. Besides these two visible and audible variations in the use of diphthong by Pashto speakers, some more unique variations can be found in their use of English. These variations are based on the insertion of a new sound between the two elements of the target diphthongs. The most commonly inserted sounds between the diphthongs are /j/ and /w/ sounds. /w/ sound is most commonly inserted between /ʊə/ and /aʊ/ diphthongs. Words built on these diphthongs are pronounced as /ʃʊwər/ /krʊwəl//pʊwər/ /dʊwər/ and /awʊt/ /nawʊ//ʃawʊ:t/ and /dawʊ:t/ etc. The insertion of /w/ between /aʊ/ also lengthens the second

element of /au/ diphthong and is highlighted in the above examples i.e. /faut/ becomes /fawu:t/ and /daut/ becomes /dawu:t/.

Another variation in the English speech of Pashto speakers is the insertion of /j/ sound/. /j/ is most commonly inserted between the elements of /eə/ and /iə/ diphthongs. So the words built on these diphthongs are pronounced as /tʃejər/ / ejər/, fijər/ and /dijər/. /j/ is sometime inserted between /ai/ as in /bajit/ and /tajit/, etc. These features of pronunciations are rapidly emerging in the use of English by Pashto speakers. Though the present study was limited few English diphthongs only, some more variations can also be found commonly in the general use of English sounds both in vowels and consonants. In this regard, the pronunciation of /r/ in the English speech of native Pashto speakers can be taken as an example. When /r/ comes at the end of the words, instead of replacing it with schwa sound, Pashto speakers tend to pronounce it clearly. This pronunciation of /r/ is not replaced by the second element of /eə/ or /iə/ and hence, eliminates the glide which causes the diphthongal movement during the production of the diphthong. As a result, the diphthong is produced as monophthong. But this feature goes in the direction of the rhotic or non-rhotic nature of the variety of English used by native Pashto speakers and such features are not the part and focus of the present study. The present study focuses and is confined only to the variations in the use of English diphthongs used as monophthongs by native Pashto speakers and such features cannot be ignored due to their audacity in the English speech of Pashto speakers. In this way, it can be clearly stated that Pashto speakers are nativising the use of English diphthongs because the way they are used in English by their native users is not found in the English speech of native Pashto speakers. This process of nativization provides them (the native speakers of Pashto) the right to become the stakeholder of English. Thus, the use of English as a native, second or foreign language provides the legitimate legacy of its ownership. The same point is highlighted by Kadenge (2009, p.156) who states that 'this (use) underpins its legitimate ownership'. The use of English by native Pashto speakers with the above stated variations reflects the features of English used in KP. These features in the form of insertion of a sound between the two elements of diphthongs, the deletion of one or both of the elements of diphthongs or the lengthening process of one of the elements of diphthong cause the monophthongisation of English diphthongs by native Pashto speakers. These features are rapidly emerging in the use of English by the young generation as data was collected from students at the graduate level of their studies. The emergences of these variant features add to the uniqueness of English used in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by native Pashto speakers and such uniqueness leads to the emergence of a new variety of (English) language with its own unique characteristics. The legitimate variety of English nourished in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa can definitely be claimed by keeping in view the above stated features obtained from the analysis of data in the form of recording of words built on the target diphthongs from native Pashto speakers.

V. CONCLUSION

It was observed in the pronunciation of English diphthongs by Pashto speakers that instigated/inspired the present study. The present study is significant as it explores how the pronunciation of English diphthongs by native Pashto speakers varies from the Standard English pronunciation resulting in monophthongisation of English. The study may help familiarize the global audience with the unique phonetic features of native Pashto speakers. Taking the study as precedent, it will help triggering research in other local languages. It would be an initiation of the new dimension of research in the field of English language variations in Pakistan.

VI. REFERENCES

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