

## Title

# Acoustic Analysis of Central Vowels of Pakistani English

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## Abstract

It is observed that Pakistani English (PE) is a different variety of English with its different linguistic systems due to its contact with local languages (Baumgardner, 1993; Baumgardner, Kennedy, & Shamim, 1993; Kennedy, 1993; Tallat, 1993, 2002, 2003). PE is an emerging variety of the greater family of Asian Englishes. The current study investigates the acoustic features of central vowels of PE with the question in focus whether they are realised as different phonemes or they have lost their identity like other Asian Englishes that tend to turn the reduced vowels into a full vowel or merge the central vowels i.e. /ə/, /ɜ:/ and /ʌ/ (Sailaja, 2009; Deterding, 2007; Bautista & Gonzalez, 2006; Gargesh, 2006; Kachru, 2005). Praat was used for the analysis and measurement of the formant values. 60 subjects (30 male and 30 female) were selected from among the working-professionals including teachers, doctors and lawyers from Sargodha with Punjabi as their L1. Isolated words were recorded using a career phrase. It was concluded that reduced vowels were absent in Pakistani English and that PE has one central vowel and that, too, a full vowel.

**Key words:** praat, acoustic analysis, central vowels, formants, Asian Englishes, Pakistani English

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**Brief Biography:**

Hafiz Ahmad Bilal is servicing as lecturer at Department of English, University of Sargodha. He is teaching Phonetics and Phonology, Discourse Analysis and ESP. He did his MPhil in Applied Linguistics in 2011 from GC University Faisalabad. His specialisation is in Acoustic Phonetics. His research is on acoustic features of Pakistani English, which is considered an emerging variety of Asian Englishes. He has presented a research paper regarding Pakistani English at 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the International Association for World Englishes (IAWE) at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia in 2011. A few of his research articles are also published on the same issue.