

Department of English

College of Education for Humanities

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***VOWEL SHORTENING IN ENGLISH
AS RECOGNIZED BY IRAQI EFL LEARNERS***

AT THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL :

A PERCEPTUAL STUDY

A THEISIS

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BY

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Abstract

The present study investigates the ability of Iraqi EFL learners at the university level in recognizing vowel shortening in English . It comprises five chapters . The first three chapters are theoretical ; whereas the fourth chapter is practical . The fifth chapter presents the conclusions of the study beside some recommendations and suggestions .

Chapter One is an introductory chapter . It contains a basic introduction to the entire study , the problem of the study , the objectives of the study, the hypotheses of the study , the procedures of the study, the limits of the study ,thesis layout and key words.

Chapter Two shows the previous studies that have dealt with the subjects of vowel duration and its effect on recognition process , and the pronunciation of strong and weak forms . It outlines Iraqi , Arabic , and English studies .

Chapter Three displays the theoretical background of the study . It discusses some basic features of English vowel sounds , vowels versus consonants , the anatomy of a vowel , cardinal vowels , pure vowels and their articulatory and auditory features .It also shows vowel shortening in English and some related topics such as the syllable , stress , and cases of vowel shortening .

Chapter Four is devoted to describe the test conducted by the researcher as well as showing the results of the subjects' performance in the test . It introduces the objectives of the test , some basic details about the stimuli , subjects , CD – tape recording , the answer sheet , test distribution , the jury , validity and reliability of the test and synthesis software . It also presents the statistical analysis and discussion of the results .