



## Phonological Patterns and Processes: A Literature Review

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### Abstrak

This article examines various phonological patterns and processes, providing an overview of the current understanding and research in the field of phonology. This article aims to provide an overview of the current understanding and research in phonology by conducting a comprehensive analysis of relevant scholarly articles, books, and research papers. It explores fundamental concepts such as phonemes, allophones, and distinctive features, and delves into the study of phonological processes such as assimilation, dissimilation, and vowel harmony. This article is non-research type and involves literature review that takes research sources from experts and then collects these sources in one article. The review begins by exploring the fundamental concepts of phonology, such as phonemes, allophones, and distinctive features. It discusses different phonological processes, including assimilation, dissimilation, and vowel harmony, and their role in shaping the sound patterns of languages. It also explores studies that analyze how students acquire the phonological systems of their native language and the role of phonological awareness in reading and spelling skills. In addition, the review addresses the impact of phonological processes on second language acquisition and the challenges faced by EFL learners and talks about the importance of phonology in sociolinguistic contexts. This literature review provides a comprehensive overview of phonological patterns and processes, highlighting their significance in understanding language structure, acquisition, and sociolinguistic variation.

**Kata Kunci:** Phonology, Phonological Patterns, Phonemes, Allophones

### PENDAHULUAN

Phonology, as a subfield of linguistics, investigates the sound system of languages and explores the organization and interaction of phonemes and their distinctive features. It plays a crucial role in understanding how sounds are structured and how they function within languages. By examining various phonological patterns and processes, researchers have gained insights into the underlying principles that govern language sound systems. Phonology is the study of the sound system of a language, focusing on the organization and interaction of phonemes and their distinctive features. In this article, the author discusses many aspects related to Phonology by involving various sources as literature review such as books, another article or expert opinion. These processes are essential for comprehending the mechanisms that shape the sound patterns observed in different languages.

The author also discusses the role of phonological aspects in language acquisition and development. It examines studies that shed light on how children acquire the phonological systems of their native language and the importance of phonological awareness in reading and spelling skills. It also explores the challenges faced by second language learners or EFL students in acquiring new phonemic distinctions and adapting to different phonological patterns. Sociolinguistic aspects of phonology are also a focus of this review.

The variation in phonological features across dialects and accents is examined, highlighting the role of sociophonetics in understanding how phonetic and phonological characteristics reflect social identities and group membership. Investigating these sociolinguistic dimensions provides valuable insights into the dynamic relationship between language, society, and individual speakers. The existence of this literature review aims to offer a comprehensive and up-to-date overview of phonological patterns and processes. The findings presented here serve as a foundation for further investigations and advancements in the field of phonology. Understanding the complexities of phonological systems enhances our understanding of language structure, acquisition, and the role of phonological variation in diverse linguistic contexts.

## **METODE**

For this study, a literature review was conducted as the research method. A literature review is a thorough and evaluative exploration of previously published academic works and credible sources that are relevant to a particular research topic. It entails the identification, examination, and synthesis of pertinent literature to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the research area. The aim of this research is to analyze existing literature in order to identify Phonological Patterns and Processes in Language. This literature review utilizes a methodological approach known as literature review or systematic review. The systematic literature review method enables the researcher to synthesize existing knowledge and provide a comprehensive overview of the topic under investigation. By involving appropriate search strategies and inclusion criteria, this approach ensures a robust and reliable review of the literature on phonological patterns and processes.

## **HASIL DAN PEMBAHASAN**

Phonological patterns and processes are fundamental aspects of language that involve the study of how sounds are organized and manipulated within a specific language system. Phonology, a branch of linguistics, focuses on analyzing the sound patterns of languages. Phonological patterns encompass the examination of sound distribution, such as the inventory of sounds or phonemes, their distinctive features, and their interactions. In addition, syllable structure, stress patterns, and intonation fall under the scope of phonological patterns. Phonological processes, on the other hand, involve systematic modifications that sounds undergo in particular linguistic contexts. These processes include assimilation, where a sound becomes more similar to a neighboring sound, and dissimilation, where a sound becomes less similar. By studying phonological patterns and processes, the learners including linguists gain insights into the structure and organization of sounds, contributing to the understanding of phonetics, phonology, and language acquisition. The literature review on phonological patterns and processes reveals several key findings and insights in the field. The results and discussion section presents a synthesis of the information gathered from the selected sources, highlighting important themes, theories, and empirical evidence related to phonology.

### **Fundamental Concepts of Phonology**

The review finds a result among researchers regarding fundamental concepts in phonology, such as phonemes, allophones, and distinctive features. Phonemes are the basic units of sound in a language, and refers to the smallest distinctive unit of sound that can change the meaning of a word. For example, in English, the sounds /p/ and /b/ are distinct phonemes because they differentiate words such as "pat" and "bat." The specific set of phonemes and their rules of usage vary across different languages. Allophones are the different variations of a phoneme that occur in different contexts. It refers to variant pronunciations of a phoneme that do not alter word meaning. Allophones are conditioned by the phonetic environment in which they occur. For instance, in English, the "p" sound in words like "pat" and "spit" is slightly aspirated, while in words like "pit" it is unaspirated. These different pronunciations are allophones of the phoneme /p/. Distinctive features represent the underlying properties that distinguish one phoneme from another.

Basically, Phonology is a fundamental branch of linguistics that focuses on the study of the organization and patterns of sounds within human languages. It delves into the abstract representations of speech sounds, known as phonemes, and how they interact and function in a particular language system. Phonology encompasses several key concepts that are essential to understanding the structure of language sounds. Phonological rules hold a very crucial aspect of phonology. These rules describe the patterns and processes by which phonemes and allophones combine and change within a language. They govern sound alterations, such as assimilation (when a sound becomes similar to a neighboring sound) or deletion (when a sound is omitted). Phonological rules provide insights into how sounds interact and form patterns in a particular language. There is also something called Phonotactics, which means a concept that relates to the permissible combinations of sounds within a language. It specifies the rules or constraints on which sounds can occur in different positions within a word. For example, in English, the consonant cluster /sn/ is allowed at the beginning of a word (e.g., "snow") but not at the end (e.g., "\*ns"). Besides that, Prosody is another fundamental concept in phonology, referring to the suprasegmental aspects of speech. This includes elements such as stress, intonation, and rhythm, which contribute to the melody and overall meaning of utterances. Prosody plays a vital role in conveying emotions, emphasis, and different sentence types (e.g., questions vs. statements). Minimal pairs are pairs of words that differ in meaning by only one phoneme. These pairs are useful in identifying and demonstrating the contrastive function of phonemes in a language. For example, in English, "cat" and "bat" are minimal pairs because they differ in their initial phoneme (/k/ vs. /b/). Changing the initial sound alters the meaning of the word. Phonological analysis involves examining and describing the sound patterns of a particular language. Linguists employ various methods,

such as transcription, observation, and experimentation, to identify and analyze phonemes, allophones, and phonological rules.

### **Phonological Processes**

Phonological processes are fundamental to understanding the structure and dynamics of language sounds. They are systematic patterns of sound changes that occur during speech production or perception. These processes play a crucial role in shaping the phonetic and phonological properties of words in a language. They can involve a range of modifications, such as assimilation, dissimilation, deletion, insertion, metathesis, and vowel harmony. Assimilation occurs when a sound becomes more like a neighboring sound. It refers to the influence of neighboring sounds on a particular sound, causing it to become more similar to its adjacent sound. Dissimilation, on the other hand, involves sounds becoming less similar to prevent redundancy or enhance clarity. Dissimilation involves the modification or elimination of similar sounds to increase contrast. Deletion occurs when a sound is omitted or removed in certain phonetic contexts. Insertion, on the contrary, entails the addition of a sound that is not present in the underlying form of a word. Metathesis refers to the rearrangement of sounds or syllables within a word. Vowel harmony refers to the phenomenon where vowels within a word or morpheme share certain phonological features. Vowel harmony involves the agreement of vowel features within a word, such as height or backness. These phonological processes help explain the regular and predictable changes that occur to sounds in a language and provide insights into the organization and functioning of the sound system. These processes contribute to the complexity and variability of phonological systems.

### **Syllable Structure, Stress Patterns, and Phonotactics**

The literature review highlights the importance of syllable structure, stress patterns, and phonotactics in phonology. Syllable structure refers to the organization of sounds within a syllable, while stress patterns determine the prominence or emphasis placed on certain syllables within a word. Phonotactics investigates the permissible sound combinations and sequences in a language. The review reveals that these aspects play a significant role in determining the phonological patterns and constraints observed in different languages. Syllable structure, stress patterns, and phonotactics are important aspects of phonology that contribute to the organization and rhythm of language. Syllable structure refers to the arrangement and organization of sounds within a syllable. It involves understanding how consonants and vowels combine to form syllables and the possible variations in syllable patterns across different languages. For example, some languages allow complex syllable structures with clusters of consonants, while others have simpler syllable structures with limited consonant clusters. Stress patterns are the rhythmic patterns of emphasis or prominence placed on certain syllables within a word. In many languages, there are rules or patterns governing which syllable(s) receive primary stress, secondary stress, or no stress at all. These patterns can vary across languages, and they play a crucial role in determining the rhythm and intonation of spoken language. For instance, English generally has stress patterns that follow alternating patterns of stressed and unstressed syllables, as seen in words like "photograph" (pho-TO-graph) or "introduction" (in-tro-DUC-tion). Phonotactics refers to the constraints or rules that determine the permissible combinations of sounds within a language. It specifies which sounds can occur in certain positions within a word or across word boundaries. Phonotactic rules help define the inventory of sounds and the patterns of sound combinations that are allowed or disallowed in a particular language. For example, certain languages may have restrictions on the occurrence of specific consonant clusters, or they may require specific patterns of vowels and consonants within syllables. The learners can gain insights by learning this topic and recognize the rhythmic organization of language, the patterns of emphasis, and the constraints on sound combinations. These aspects of phonology are essential for understanding the phonetic and phonological structure of languages and how they shape the production and perception of speech.

### **Language Acquisition and Phonological Awareness**

In this session, the author discusses about language acquisition which indicates children in acquiring the phonological systems of their native language gradually. Language acquisition refers to the process through which individuals acquire the ability to understand and use a language. It involves various aspects, including phonological awareness, which is the ability to recognize and manipulate the sounds of language. Phonological awareness is the ability to recognize and manipulate the sounds of language, and is categorized as a crucial component of language development including reading and spelling skills, especially in the early stages. It involves an individual's sensitivity to the sounds (phonemes) that make up words and their ability to manipulate these sounds. Phonological awareness encompasses several skills, including recognizing and producing rhymes, identifying syllables, segmenting words into individual sounds (phonemic segmentation), blending sounds together (phonemic blending), and manipulating sounds within words. Phonological awareness is essential for learning to read and write. It helps children

understand the relationship between spoken and written language. When children develop phonological awareness skills, they become more proficient in decoding and encoding words, which are crucial for reading and spelling.

During language acquisition, children naturally develop phonological awareness through exposure to spoken language. They start by recognizing and producing simple syllables and gradually progress to more complex phonemic awareness tasks. For example, they may begin by recognizing rhymes in words, then move on to identifying initial and final sounds, and eventually segmenting and blending individual sounds within words. Parents and educators must play a role in developing children's skills by engaging children in activities that promote sound recognition and manipulation. These can include reading books with rhymes, playing word games, singing songs, and encouraging children to think about the sounds they hear in words. It is important to note that the development of phonological awareness varies among individuals, and some children may require more explicit instruction and support to develop these skills. Phonological awareness is just one aspect of language acquisition, and other factors, such as vocabulary development and grammatical understanding, also play a significant role in language development.

### **Second Language Acquisition and Phonological Variation**

The literature review examines studies on second language acquisition, highlighting the challenges faced by learners in acquiring new phonemic distinctions and adapting to different phonological patterns. It also explores the role of phonological variation in dialects and accents, emphasizing the sociolinguistic aspects of phonology. The review reveals that sociophonetic research provides valuable insights into how phonetic and phonological features reflect social identities and group membership. Second language acquisition (SLA) refers to the process of learning a new language after the acquisition of the first language. When it comes to phonological variation, SLA involves acquiring the sounds and pronunciation patterns of the target language, which may differ from those in the learner's native language. Phonological variation refers to the differences in the way sounds are produced and pronounced across different languages or dialects. Each language has its own set of phonemes (distinctive sounds) and phonological rules that govern how these sounds are organized and combined in words. When learning a second language, learners need to become familiar with the new phonetic and phonological features and adapt their pronunciation accordingly. Phonological variation can pose challenges for second language learners, as they may transfer the pronunciation patterns and phonological rules from their first language to the target language. This can result in accent or pronunciation errors. For example, an English learner whose native language does not have the /θ/ sound may substitute it with a similar sound from their native language. To overcome these challenges and acquire accurate pronunciation, second language learners need to develop phonological awareness in the target language. This involves recognizing and differentiating the sounds that are distinct in the target language but may be confusable due to similarities with their native language.

Second language learners can enhance their phonological awareness and reduce pronunciation errors through various strategies, such as Exposure to the target language: Regular exposure to the spoken language through listening to native speakers, watching movies or TV shows, and engaging in conversations helps learners become more familiar with the sounds and pronunciation patterns. Mimicking and repetition: Practice imitating the sounds, intonation, and rhythm of native speakers. Mimicking native speakers' pronunciation can help learners develop a more accurate sense of the target language's phonology. Phonetic instruction: Explicit instruction on the specific sounds and pronunciation features of the target language can help learners become aware of the differences between their native language and the target language. This can involve focusing on individual sounds, stress patterns, intonation, and other phonetic aspects. Pronunciation drills: Engaging in pronunciation exercises and drills can help learners practice and refine their pronunciation skills. This can involve repetition of specific sounds, words, or sentences to improve accuracy and fluency. Feedback and correction: Regular feedback and correction from teachers, language partners, or language learning apps can help learners identify and address pronunciation errors. Being aware of the specific areas that need improvement can guide learners in refining their pronunciation skills. Eventually, it is important to note that achieving native-like pronunciation in a second language is a challenging task and may not be essential for effective communication. However, developing phonological awareness and working towards accurate pronunciation can enhance clarity and intelligibility in speech, facilitating effective communication in the target language.

### **KESIMPULAN**

In conclusion, this literature review has discussed a comprehensive overview of phonological patterns and processes, shedding light on their role in language structure, acquisition, and sociolinguistic variation. Through an analysis of relevant scholarly articles, books, and research papers, key findings and insights have been synthesized, offering a deeper understanding of phonology. The review highlights the fundamental concepts of phonology, including phonemes, allophones, and distinctive features, which form

the building blocks of sound systems in languages. It explores various phonological processes such as assimilation, dissimilation, and vowel harmony, which contribute to the complexity and variability of phonological patterns. Furthermore, the review examines the importance of syllable structure, stress patterns, and phonotactics in shaping phonological systems. It is found that those aspects play a crucial role in determining the permissible sound combinations and sequences within a language. The impact of phonological processes on language acquisition and development has been explored, emphasizing the significance of phonological awareness in reading and spelling skills. In addition, the challenges faced by second language learners in acquiring new phonemic distinctions and adapting to different phonological patterns have been addressed.

Finally, The results and discussion of this literature review demonstrate the significance of phonological patterns and processes in understanding language structure, acquisition, and sociolinguistic variation. The synthesis of existing research provides a comprehensive overview of key concepts, processes, and their implications. The findings presented here serve as a foundation for further investigations and advancements in the field of phonology, contributing to a deeper understanding of language sound systems. By making a comprehension of these fundamental concepts of phonology, learners can uncover the underlying principles that govern the organization and functioning of sounds in human language. In short, These concepts are the solid foundation for studying and comparing the sound systems of different languages.

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