

Accent Modification Intake Form (AMIF): Piloting a Pronunciation Resource

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INTRODUCTION

- Foreign language (non-native) accent
 - Everyone speaks with an accent
 - Accentedness*: the extent of a foreign accent in one's speech (Derwing & Munro, 2005)
- Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) are trained to provide linguistic/communication intervention and to follow the guidelines of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)
- Scope of practice per ASHA: SLPs can provide accent-modification intervention (ASHA, n.d.)
- Accentedness is a "language difference" not a disorder.
 - SLPs are taught this, but not much else
- Gap: need a practical resource to assess client needs and start intervention
 - Gurevich & Bugel (2023) developed such a resource
- Additional Definitions for this topic:
 - Influencing language (IL)*: typically, the speaker's native language or any language that affects the target language
 - Target language (TL)*: the language that is being influenced; the one that is affected by accentedness
 - International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA): set of phonetic symbols that correspond to sounds in the world's languages

The Accent Modification Intake Form (AMIF)

- Example of Hebrew-to-English Inventory: English is the TL, Hebrew is the IL

Consonants

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	glottal
Plosive	p b			t d		ʈ ɖ	c ɟ	k ɡ	q ɢ		ʔ
Nasal	m	ɱ		n		ɳ	ɲ	ŋ	ɴ		
Trill	ʙ			ʀ					ʁ		
Tap/flap				ɾ		ɽ					
Fricative	ɸ β	f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ	ʂ ʐ	ç ʝ	x ɣ	χ ʁ	ħ ʕ	h ʕ
Lateral fricative				ɬ ɮ							ɮ
Approximant	ɹ	ʋ		ɹ		ɻ	j	ɰ			
Lateral approximant				l		ɭ	ʎ	ʟ			

Vowels

	Front		Central		Back	
Close	i	y	ɨ	ɯ	ɯ	u
Close-mid	e	ø	e	ø	ɤ	o
Open-mid	ɛ	œ	ɜ	ɞ	ɔ	ɔ
Open	a	æ	ɐ	ɐ	ɑ	ɑ

From Gurevich & Bugel 2023

Legend

- Gray cells: English (TL) speech sounds
- Crossed out: English sounds not in Hebrew
- White cells: not English
- Circled: Hebrew (IL) sounds not in English
- White cells not circled: ignore, not in TL or IL

DEVELOPMENT & USE

- Founded on Contrastive Analysis Theory (e.g., Khansir & Pakdel, 2019; Wardhaugh, 1970)
- The AMIF can help train pronunciation
- Helps identify TL sounds missing from a speaker's IL
- Helps predict how missing sounds may be "handled"
- Intended for Accent modification/control, piloted on foreign language teaching

METHOD

- IRB-2021-1887
- University foreign language (FL) instructors trained in the use of the AMIF, prepared for their specific TL/IL needs
 - Training was via zoom
- Participants (N=8) asked to use the resource in their classes in Spring 2023
- Suggestions for use provided post training
- Debrief by email



RESULTS/CONCLUSIONS

- In short: the pilot was not productive
- Results suggest that additional training is needed for FL professionals who teach
 - Particularly in the use of the international phonetic alphabet (IPA)
- It appears that individuals seeking accent modification intervention and university foreign language teachers (and presumably, students) have differing levels of interest and goals for pronunciation
- Given that foreign accents are known to impact social interactions, we call for renewed attention to FL pronunciation in second language teaching and learning
- We conclude that specificity (using the tool for its specific purpose) should guide our future piloting of the AMIF.

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