

SCHWA INSERTION IN KOREAN PRONUNCIATION IN ANDERSEN'S "A LITTLE MATCH GIRL"

Christien Tiyuni Tirtayasa
Universitas Sanata Dharma, Yogyakarta
(tirtayasa529@gmail.com)

Abstract. *K-Pop* known as Korean Pop is one of the famous phenomena in the world. It is obvious when some of the singers, actors and public figures, provide the lyrics in a song and conversations in a drama into English. Somehow, the word in English pronounced by Korean people will sound different from the way English people pronounce the word, thus making some words not clearly understood. This phenomenon usually happens when one language has different system from other languages. English and Korean have different systems in phonology. It is simple to recognize that when Koreans pronounce the English words, they need to insert certain sound to ease the pronunciation. The phenomenon of *schwa* insertion in Korean pronunciation is interesting to discuss, for it will show not only the reason why *schwa* insertion is a must but also what effect is created by the insertion. Phonology is expected to throw a light on how a certain sound can be inserted in a word under the influence of certain sound system. Using phonology features and phonology rules can help the reader understand why certain sound can be inserted into some words, how the environment of the sound will influence the other word, thus a certain sound is needed in the word. The paper examines this phenomenon in phonology by analysing the insertion of *schwa* in Korean speakers' pronunciation. In the end, the paper is expected to show the *schwa* insertion in Korean pronunciation and the effect created by the insertion.

Keywords: phonology, *schwa* insertion, phonetic

Abstrak. *Korean Pop* atau yang awam disebut *K-Pop* adalah salah satu fenomena yang menarik perhatian dunia. Fenomena meluasnya *K-Pop* di kancah dunia kemudian menjadi sangat jelas ketika beberapa dari aktor dan aktris, penyanyi, dan mereka yang berkecimpung dalam industri hiburan, menyediakan lirik lagu dan beberapa percakapan di dalam sebuah drama ke dalam Bahasa Inggris. Kendati demikian, kata-kata Bahasa Inggris yang dilafalkan oleh orang Korea akan terdengar berbeda dari pelafalan yang dilafalkan oleh mereka yang menggunakan Inggris sebagai bahasa ibunya. Karena itu, beberapa kata Bahasa Inggris yang dilafalkan akan sulit dipahami oleh pendengar. Peristiwa ini biasanya terjadi ketika suatu bahasa memiliki perbedaan dalam sistem fonetiknya. Ketika orang Korea mengucapkan beberapa kata dalam Bahasa Inggris, mereka akan menginsersikan bunyi tertentu untuk memudahkan pelafalan kata tersebut. Dalam penelitian yang akan dibahas ini, penginsersian bunyi *schwa* akan menjadi topik utama. Insersi bunyi *schwa* ini cukup menarik untuk di bahas karena akan menjelaskan mengapa *schwa* menjadi keharusan tetapi juga efek apa yang akan ditimbulkan dari penginsersian tersebut. Fonologi adalah cabang ilmu dari linguistik yang dapat menjelaskan peristiwa yang berkaitan dengan pelafalan bunyi pada bahasa. Analisa dari peristiwa insersi bunyi ini dapat ditelaah dengan menggunakan fitur fonetik dan ketetapan fonologi. Kedua alat ini diharapkan mampu menjelaskan fenomena insersi bunyi dan kondisi apa yang dapat menyebabkan insersi terjadi. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk meneliti fenomena fonologi ini dengan menganalisa insersi bunyi *schwa* yang dilafalkan oleh orang Korea.

Kata kunci: fonetik, fonologi, insersi *schwa*

INTRODUCTION

English has become the most important language around the world. This statement is supported by the theory of sociolinguistics in which the use of English is to clarify some words in other language to be understood by other people as cross-cultural communication (Holmes, 2013). This is due to the fact that English has spread around the globe so that it becomes the so-called 'lingua franca' of the international language. English as a lingua franca, according to Holmes, is a language used for communication between people whose first languages differ (2013, p. 83). The phenomenon of world Englishes reinforces the idea of English as a lingua franca, in which English is a foreign language in the expanding circle. According to Holmes (2013), there are 3 circles of English such as, inner circle (English being the first language), outer circle (English being used as a second language), and expanding circle (English being an additional language for education, tourism, and many more). Nevertheless, not all people in the expanding circle are able to speak English and produce sound which is intelligible and understandable as native English speakers are.

For non-native speakers in non-English speaking countries, one of the problems is the way of pronouncing certain words in English. In Stephen Crane's *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets*, for instance, there is a sound changing from [θ] into [d], [ɑ] into [a] and the insertion of glottal sound [h] after a vowel, as seen in the conversation as follows, "The little girl cried out: 'Ah, Tommie, come ahn. Dere's Jimmie and fader. Don't be a pullin' me back.'" (Crane, 1996).

This research is going to discuss the pronunciation of English words by Korean speakers as the object of the research due the fact that 'Korean fever' has spread all over the world through their drama, music, dance, fashion, and many more, as stated by *Los Angeles Times* in its article in 2012 that "K-pop enters American pop consciousness" For some, either music or drama, the lyric or conversation will be given in English words. In *Playfull Kiss*, a Korean drama in 2012, for instance, some of English words are shown in the conversation, such *christmas*, *black*, and *coffee*. The words are pronounced differently from British or American variety due to the phonological phenomenon of sound changing.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

a) Review of Related Studies

To support the research there are three related studies are reviewed. The first related studies are from the research about "English Schwa Insertion Before Liquids and Phonological Opacity" written by Martin Kramer (2006). This research discusses the phenomenon of schwa insertion before liquids and phonological opacity with particular attention to microvariation across different accents of English. Kramer, analyses the interaction of schwa and *r* in Eastern Massachusetts English as its differences from the particular English British. Kramer provides the comparison of phonetic transcription of British English and Eastern Massachusetts English varieties. The result of the comparisons then focuses on the discussion of liquid in coda position, the loss of *r* as it is in the final position of the syllable.

Kramer's research is to provide optimal theory of the insertion of schwa and the loss and intrusion of post-vocalic *r* and to show the development theory of phonological opacity. Kramer's research is interesting since it has the discussion of schwa insertion in certain English words specially in Eastern Massachusetts English variety. However, his research stops only at the discussion of the schwa insertion in some words, the *r* loss after schwa insertion, without showing other possible effects caused by the insertion. Moreover, Kramer's research does not mention how the data are collected, whether the data are a population or sample from Eastern Massachusetts English variety.

In Kramer's thesis he finds that the loss of post-vocalic *r* is the result of schwa insertion while this present research will discuss the pronunciation more of English words spoken by Korean speakers. In addition, the present research focuses on schwa insertion in Korean pronunciation and how schwa insertion affects the words after the process of insertion happens.

Different from the research conducted by Yuniar(2013) in her article discussing "Korean Phonological Interference in Indonesian Language as Second Language", the present research discusses Korean pronunciation of English words in Andersen's "A Little Match Girl".

Furthermore, Yuniar's research focuses on how Korean speakers pronounce the Indonesian words by showing the differences of phonological rule and consonants inventory of Korean and Bahasa Indonesia. The research tries to provide the phenomena in Korean pronunciation such as gemination, aspiration, devoicing, insertion, and deletion. One of the phenomena that is discussed in her research is the phenomenon of insertion, and she finds that most of Korean speakers will insert schwa into some of Indonesian words. She divides the insertion into two types consonant cluster and consonants codas. The present research will develop Yuniar's research in the scope of schwa insertion in Korean pronunciation of English words.

METHODOLOGY

This research employs two methods, i.e. survey and library methods. Library methodology, according to George is a methodology based on the data provided by expert's opinion(2008, p. 6). This method then is used to collect the experts opinion related to Korean pronunciation. Another method is survey method, which typically used to collect the data from a group of people in certain area, region, or places(George, 2008). There are 3 data from 3 respondents analysed in this research. The data are the results of pronunciation of Andersen's "The Little Match Girl" produced by 3 Korean speakers. The data are sample survey and questionnaire. Sample is the selected respondents chosen to be the representative of the population (Kothari, 2004).

For the data collection, there are 3 paragraphs of "A Little Match Girl" given to 3 Korean speakers. They should record the pronunciation using a smartphone and the pronunciation is sent back to the researcher. The recording is considered as the result of pronunciation. The pronunciation then is transcribed into a phonetic transcription based on Korean pronunciation. Since the study analyses *schwa* insertion, the words taken

only the words with possibility *schwa* insertion. The pronunciation is compared with the English pronunciation based on Oxford Dictionary of the 8th edition.

In order to make the data easier to read, a code is given to the data since the research treats the respondents' identity confidentially. The code represents Korean speakers or respondents. The research uses the letter **R** stands for Respondent, and it is followed by a number that represent the speaker. The code for the data is elaborated as follows:

- a. **R.1** for Korean Speaker 1
- b. **R.2** for Korean Speaker 2
- c. **R.3** for Korean Speaker 3

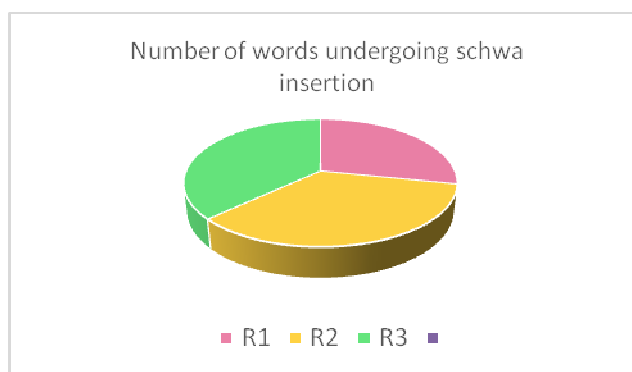
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The following part shows the analysis result, which is then discussed somewhat at length concerning the observation of the words undergone schwa insertion by Korean speakers, and the phonological environment influencing the occurrence of schwa insertion.

The result shows that respondent 1 (R1) makes schwa insertion in 14 words out of 267 words provided in the test sample, R2 16 words, and R3 22 words. The words undergoing schwa insertion are somewhat varied among the three respondents, meaning that some respondents share the same words, but in other occasions there are words not undergoing schwa insertion by some respondents.

The chart below describes the number of words undergoing schwa insertion by the three respondents.

Chart 1. Number of Words undergoing schwa insertion



The following table shows words undergo schwa insertion by 3 Korean speakers.

Table 1. Words undergoing schwa insertion by 3 Respondents.

No.	R1	R2	R3
1.	Terribly	Terribly	Terribly
2.	Nearly	Nearly	Nearly
3.	Quite	Trembling	Quite
4.	Trembling	Children	Children
5.	Children	Bundle	Trembling
6.	Slippers	Slippers	Slippers
7.	Bundle	Goose	Bundle
8.	Flakes	Scuffled	Flakes
9.	Smelt	Across	Smelt
10.	Christmas	Smelt	Scuffled
11.	Across	Christmas	Across
12.	Found	Cradle	Apron
13.	Evening	Apron	Goose
14.	Dark	Roast	Roast
15.		Flakes	Fair
16.		Deliciously	Snow
17.			Snowed
18.			Most
19.			True
20.			Whole
21.			Gleaming
22.			Christmas

The following part shows the phonological environment that influences schwa insertion. the words are provided in the table and are analysed using English Phonetic Transcription (EPT), Korean Pronunciation (KP), and Korean Pronunciation Transcription (KPT). The words are transcribed from EPT to KPT and the results show in what environment that schwa is inserted.

Table 2. Pronunciation by 1st respondent (R1)

No.	English Words Undergo Schwa Insertion (EWUSI)	English Phonetic Transcription (EPT)	Korean Pronunciation (KP)	Korean Pronunciation Transcription (KPT)
1.	Terribly	/tɛrəbli/	Teribely	/tɛrɪbɛli/
2.	Nearly	/niəli/	Nirely	/nirɛly/
3.	Quite	/kwait/	Kuaite	/k ^h uaietə/
4.	Dark	/dɑ:k/	Darke	/dɑrkə/

No.	English Words Undergo Schwa Insertion (EWUSI)	English Phonetic Transcription (EPT)	Korean Pronunciation (KP)	Korean Pronunciation Transcription (KPT)
5.	Trembling	/trɛmblɪŋ/	Terembling	/tərembəlɪŋ/
6.	Children	/tʃɪldrən/	Chilederen	/tʃɪlədərənə/
7.	Slippers	/slɪpəz/	Seliberese	/səlɪb ^h urəsə/
8.	Bundle	/bʌndl/	Phandele	/p ^h ʌndələ/
9.	Flakes	/fleɪks/	Pelekese	/p ^h ɪlək ^h əsə/
10.	Smelt	/smɛlt/	Semelte	/semɛltə/
11.	Across	/ə'krɒs/	Ekereouse	/ə'k ^h ərəʊsə/
12.	Christmas	/'krɪsməs/	Kherismase	/'kəriʃmʌsə/
13.	Evening	/'i:vənɪŋ/	Ivening	/'i:vənɪŋ/
14.	Found	/faʊnd/	Faunde	/faʊndə/

Table 3. Pronunciation by 2nd Respondent (R2)

No.	English Words Undergo Schwa Insertion (EWUSI)	English Phonetic Transcription (EPT)	Korean Pronunciation (KP)	Korean Pronunciation Transcription (KPT)
1.	Terribly	/tɛrəbli/	Teribely	/təriβəli/
2.	Nearly	/niəli/	Nirely	/niərəly/
3.	Quite	/kwɑɪt/	Kuaite	/k ^h uɑiɛtə/
4.	Children	/tʃɪldrən/	Chilederen	/tʃɪlədərənə/
5.	Trembling	/trɛmblɪŋ/	Terembling	/tərembəlɪŋ/
6.	Slippers	/slɪpəz/	Seliberese	/səlɪb ^h urəsə/
7.	Goose	/gu:s/	Guse	/gu:sə/
8.	Bundle	/bʌndl/	Phandele	/p ^h ʌndələ/
9.	Across	/ə'krɒs/	Ekerese	/ə'k ^h ərəʊsə/
10.	Smelt	/smɛlt/	Semelte	/semɛltə/
11.	Christmas	/'krɪsməs/	Kerismase	/'k ^h əriʃmʌsə/
12.	Cradle	/'kreɪdl/	Kereidele	/k ^h ərəidele/
13.	Apron	/'eɪprən/	Eiperene	/'eɪp ^h ərən/
14.	Roast	/rəʊst/	Reouste	/rəʊstə/
15.	Flakes	/fleɪks/	Pelekese	/p ^h ɪlək ^h əsə/
16.	Deliciously	/dɪ'liʃəsli/		/dɪ'liʃəsəli/

Table 4. Pronunciation by 3rd Respondent (R3)

No.	English Words Undergo Schwa Insertion (EWUSI)	English Phonetic Transcription (EPT)	Korean Pronunciation (KP)	Korean Pronunciation Transcription (KPT)
1.	Terribly	/tɛrəbli/	Teribely	/təribəli/
2.	Nearly	/niəli/	Nirely	/nirəly/
3.	Quite	/kwaɪt/	Kuaite	/k ^h uaietə/
4.	Apron	/'eɪprən/	Eiperene	/'eɪp ^h ərən/
5.	Trembling	/trɛmblɪŋ/	Terembeling	/tərembəlɪŋ/
6.	Children	/tʃɪldrən/	Chilederen	/tʃɪlədərənə/
7.	Slippers	/slɪpəz/	Seliberese	/səlib ^h urəsə/
8.	Bundle	/bʌndl/	Phandele	/p ^h ʌndələ/
9.	Flakes	/fleɪks/	Pelekese	/p ^h ɪlək ^h əsə/
10.	Smelt	/smɛlt/	Semelte	/semɛltə/
11.	Most	/məʊst/	Meuste	/məʊstə/
12.	Snow	/snəʊ/	Senowe	/sənəʊə/
13.	Snowed	/snəʊd/	Senowed	/sənəʊdə/
14.	Roast	/rəʊst/	Rouste	/rəʊstə/
15.	True	/tru:/	Teru	/təru:/
16.	Whole	/həʊl/	Howle	/həʊlə/
17.	Gleaming	/'gli:mɪŋ/	Geliming	/gəlɪmɪŋ/
18.	Across	/ə'krɒs/	Ekerouse	/ə'k ^h ərəʊsə/
19.	Scuffled	/'skʌflɪd/	Sekafelede	/səkʌfələdə/
20.	Christmas	/'krɪsməs/	Ƙerismase	/'k ^h ərɪsmʌsə/
21.	Goose	/gu:s/	Guse	/gu:sə/
22.	Fair	/feə/	Feire	/feɪrə/

There are several English words cause schwa insertion in seven environment. Each environment is elaborated in the following parts.

1. Schwa inserted between bilabial voiced stop and liquid sound.

∅ → [ə] / [+bilabial voiced stop] _____ [+liquid]

a. Terribly /tɛrəbli/ → /təribəli/ schwa comes after /b/ and before /l/.

b. Trembling /trɛmblɪŋ/ → /tərembəlɪŋ/.

Schwa insertion happens in the words that have bilabial and liquid sound since in Korean phonological rule, bilabial stop and liquid cannot come together, thus there must be a vowel between them.

2. Schwa inserted between sibilant /s/ and liquid /l/.

∅ → ə / [+sibilant] _____ [+liquid]

Slippers /slɪpəz/ → /səlib^hərəsə/

3. Schwa inserted in between sibilant /s/ and bilabial nasal /m/.

- ∅ → ə / [+sibilant] _____ [+bilabial nasal]
Smelt /smɛlt/ → /semɛltə/

In English there are a lot of words begin with /s/ and followed by other consonants. It is called sequential constarint. Meanwhile in Korea, there is no rule for sibilant followed by other consonants.

4. Schwa inserted between alveolar voiced stop /d/ and liquid /l/.

- ∅ → ə / [+alveoral voiced stop] _____ [+liquid]
a. Bundle /bʌndl/ → /p^hʌndələ/
b. Children /tʃɪldrən/ → /tʃɪlədərənə/

5 Schwa inserted between bilabial voiceless stop and liquid.

- ∅ → ə / [+bilabial voiceless stop] _____ [+liquid]
a. apron /'eɪprən/ → /'eɪp^hərən/

According to Korean Phonological rule, the occurence of schwa insertion in certain English words is expected to happen due to the different phonological rule. In Korea, there is no consonant followed by other consonants, there must be a vowel between consonant and other consonant. Thus, it happens when bilabial followed by liquid.

6. Schwa inserted after velar sound /k/ in the final position.

- ∅ → ə / [+velar voiceless stop] _____
a. Dark /dɑ:k/ → /dʌrkə/

Even though Korean Pohonological rule states that, consonant cannot be followed by other consonants, in certain occasion, schwa insertion will happen in the words that have velar stop in the final position, as it is mentioned in the finding. The reason is because in Korean, no words end with velar voiceless stop. Thus, in the word “dark” there is schwa insertion in the final position. However, this finding is still continued due to the different treatment to the word “chic” and “cheek”: schwa insertion in the word “chic” whereas no insertion in the word “cheek”.

7. Schwa inserted after sibilant in the final position.

- ∅ → ə / [+sibilant] _____
a. Christmas
b. Across
c. Goose
d. Slippers

The final finding is schwa insertion after sibilant in the final position. Schwa is inserted in the final position after sibilant sound, because in Korean alphabet, there are certain sound representing one sound: “ss” represents /z/, “z” repressents /ch/ and so on. In the word “goose”, “christmas”, “slippers”, and “across”, schwa insertion happens because in Korean there is no word endingwith sibilant sounds.

CONCLUSION

Firstly, schwa insertion within English words are due to the different phonetic systems between Korean and English. In the finding, schwa insertion occurs most in the words that have bilabial sounds /b, p, m/; velar sounds /k, g/; sibilant sound /s/ and followed by liquid sounds /l, r/. In Korean phonetic system, these collaboration of sound cannot happen in one syllable, thus insertion of certain vowel is a must, so in this case Korean speakers insert schwa to pronounce the words.

Secondly, based on the findings, there is one effect caused by schwa insertion, i.e. the number of syllable increases. This happens if schwa is inserted into some words. It is different from other sounds when they are inserted. Since schwa is a vowel, it will increase the syllable.

In conclusion, schwa insertion occurs between the words followed by liquid sounds. They are bilabial voiced stop, velar, and sibilant. When the words end with velar and sibilant sounds, *schwa* insertion is also expected to happen in the end of the words. The effect caused by schwa insertion is the increase of the syllable. Since *schwa* is a vowel, it will increase the syllable.

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