

**PHONOLOGICAL INTERFERENCE OF KOREAN IN DAVID KIM'S  
INTERVIEW ENTITLED *I THOUGHT.. I CAN'T BE A MUSLIM!***

**A GRADUATING PAPER**

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for Gaining a Bachelor's Degree in English Literature



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kami menyatakan bahwa skripsi tersebut sudah dapat diajukan pada sidang Munaqosyah untuk memenuhi salah satu syarat memperoleh gelar Sarjana Sastra Inggris.

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## A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

I certify that this graduate paper is definitely my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of this graduating paper. Other researcher's opinion or finding included in this research is quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards.

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## **MOTTO**

Just go with the flow. Never Expect! If you fail, work harder to succeed.

(YJH)



## **DEDICATION**

This graduating paper is dedicated to:

- Myself who always keep going and never give up no matter how hard the situation is.
- My family, especially my beloved parents, grandparents, and brother.
- All my friends who always support me.



**Phonological Interference of Korean in David Kim's Interview Entitled *I Thought.. I Can't Be A Muslim!***

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**ABSTRACT**

Phonological interference is one of language interference that frequently happens since it is related to pronunciation, the essential aspect of learning language. Using the theory of phonological interference, this research tries to analyze the phonological interference that happens in David Kim when he was interviewed by Towards Eternity YouTube channel on June 15, 2022. It also analyzes how Korean phonological system affect the English pronunciation of David Kim, focusing on consonant sounds. The researcher assumes that David Kim's first language influences the way he speaks English. Using the qualitative method, the researcher compares the David Kim pronunciation with English IPA (Standard British and Standard American) transcription. The researcher finds there are two phonological interference that happen in David Kim, such as under-differentiation of phonemes and actual phoneme substitution. The under-differentiation of phonemes happens when David is confused to differentiate between /l/ and /r/ sounds since these two sounds share same phoneme in Korean but contrast in English. Meanwhile, the actual phoneme substitution occurs when David substitutes the /f/ sound with /p/ sound and vice versa, the /v/ sound with /b/ sound and vice versa, the /d/ sound with /θ/ sound, and the /z/ sound with the /dʒ/ or /t/ sound. The result shows that David frequently mispronounces consonants that do not appear in Korean or the consonants that share the same phoneme in Korean but contrast in English.

Keywords: *Language Interference, Phonological Interference, Different Pronunciation*

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## **Phonological Interference of Korean in David Kim's Interview Entitled *I Thought.. I Can't Be A Muslim!***

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### **ABSTRAK**

Interferensi fonologis merupakan salah satu interferensi bahasa yang sering terjadi karena berkaitan dengan pengucapan, yang merupakan aspek penting dalam belajar bahasa. Dengan menggunakan teori interferensi fonologis, penelitian ini mencoba menganalisis interferensi fonologis yang terjadi pada David Kim ketika ia diwawancarai oleh saluran YouTube Towards Eternity pada tanggal 15 Juni 2022. Penelitian ini juga menganalisis bagaimana sistem fonologi bahasa Korea memengaruhi pengucapan bahasa Inggris David Kim, berfokus pada bunyi konsonan. Peneliti berasumsi bahwa bahasa pertama David Kim mempengaruhi cara dia berbicara bahasa Inggris. Dengan menggunakan metode kualitatif, peneliti membandingkan pengucapan David Kim dengan transkripsi bahasa Inggris IPA (Standard British dan Standard American). Peneliti menemukan ada dua interferensi fonologis yang terjadi pada diri David Kim, yaitu *under-differentiation of phoneme* dan *actual phoneme substitutions*. *Under-differentiation of phonemes* terjadi ketika David bingung membedakan bunyi /l/ dan /r/ karena kedua bunyi tersebut adalah satu fonem yang sama dalam bahasa Korea sedangkan kontras dalam bahasa Inggris. Sementara itu, *actual phoneme substitution* terjadi ketika David mengganti bunyi /f/ dengan bunyi /p/ dan sebaliknya, bunyi /v/ dengan bunyi /b/ dan sebaliknya, bunyi /d/ dengan bunyi /θ/, dan bunyi /z/ dengan bunyi /dʒ/ atau /t/. Hasil dari analisis menunjukkan bahwa David sering salah mengucapkan konsonan yang tidak muncul dalam bahasa Korea atau konsonan yang memiliki fonem yang sama dalam bahasa Korea namun berbeda dalam bahasa Inggris.

Kata Kunci: *Interferensi Bahasa, Interferensi Fonologi, Perbedaan Pengucapan*



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>COVER .....</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>NOTA DINAS.....</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>VALIDATION.....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT.....</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>MOTTO .....</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>DEDICATION.....</b>	<b>vi</b>
<b>ABSTRACT.....</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>ABSTRAK .....</b>	<b>viii</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....</b>	<b>ix</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS.....</b>	<b>xi</b>
<b>LIST OF TABLES .....</b>	<b>xiii</b>
<b>CHAPTER I.....</b>	<b>14</b>
1.1 Background of Study .....	14
1.2 Research Question .....	17
1.3 Objectives of the Study .....	17
1.4 Scope of the Study .....	18
1.5 Significance of the Study .....	18
1.6 Literature Review .....	19
1.7 Theoretical Framework .....	21
1.8 Method of Research.....	22
1.8.1 Type of Research .....	22
1.8.2 Data Sources .....	22
1.8.3 Data Collection Technique .....	22
1.8.4 Data Analysis Technique .....	23
1.9 Paper Organization .....	24
<b>CHAPTER II.....</b>	<b>25</b>

2.1 Language Interference .....	25
2.1.1 Phonological Interference .....	26
2.2 English Phoneme .....	28
2.2.1 Places of Articulation.....	31
2.2.2 Manner of Articulation .....	32
2.2.3 English Phoneme Distribution .....	33
2.3 Korean Phoneme .....	33
2.3.1 Place of Articulation .....	36
2.3.2 Manner of Articulation .....	36
2.3.3 Korean Phoneme Distribution .....	36
2.4 The Difference between English Phonemes and Korean Phonemes .....	37
<b>CHAPTER III .....</b>	<b>40</b>
3.1 Research Findings .....	40
3.2 Discussion .....	69
<b>CHAPTER IV .....</b>	<b>74</b>
4.1 Conclusion.....	74
4.2 Suggestion .....	75
<b>REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>APPENDICES .....</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>CURRICULUM VITAE.....</b>	<b>87</b>

## LIST OF TABLES

<b>Table 1. English Phonemes and Their Graphemes .....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Table 2. Korean Phonemes and Their Graphemes .....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Table 3. Comparison of Korean and English Consonant Sounds.....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Table 4. Comparison of Korean and English Consonant Sounds.....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Table 5. Differentiation of Phoneme /p/ in the Beginning of Words .....</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Table 6. Differentiation of Phoneme /p/ in the Middle of Words .....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Table 7. Differentiation of Phoneme /p/ in the End of Words .....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Table 8. Differentiation of Phoneme /b/ in the Beginning of Words .....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Table 9. Differentiation of Phoneme /b/ in the Middle of Words .....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Table 10. Differentiation of Phoneme /b/ in the End of Words .....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Table 11. Differentiation of Phoneme /l/ in the Beginning of Words .....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Table 12. Differentiation of Phoneme /l/ in the Middle of Words.....</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Table 13. Differentiation of Phoneme /l/ in the End of Words .....</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Table 14. Differentiation of Phoneme /r/ in the Beginning of Words.....</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Table 15. Differentiation of Phoneme /r/ in the Middle of Words .....</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Table 16. Differentiation of Phoneme /r/ in the End of Words.....</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Table 17. Differentiation of Phoneme /z/ in the Middle of Words .....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Table 18. Differentiation of Phoneme /z/ in the End of Words.....</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Table 19. Differentiation of Phoneme /d/ in the Beginning of Words .....</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Table 20. Differentiation of Phoneme /d/ in the Middle of Words.....</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Table 21. Differentiation of Phoneme /d/ in the End of Words .....</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Table 22. Differentiation of Phoneme /v/ in the Beginning of Words .....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Table 23. Differentiation of Phoneme /v/ in the Middle of Words .....</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Table 24. Differentiation of Phoneme /v/ in the End of Words .....</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Table 25. Differentiation of Phoneme /f/ in the Beginning of Words .....</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Table 26. Differentiation of Phoneme /f/ in the Middle of Words .....</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Table 27. Differentiation of Phoneme /f/ in the End of Words.....</b>	<b>68</b>

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background of Study**

Learning how to pronounce phonemes correctly is essential because it may cause miss perception if people pronounce it differently. Pronouncing correctly enables a person to differentiate between sounds which can result in a clear speech that can be easily comprehended in communication. That is why mastering pronunciation is important, so people can communicate well with others, especially in English. Allen (1960, p. 35) mentions that pronunciation is a crucial element of language that significantly contributes to speak English better. Yates and Zielinski (2009, p. 11) also state that pronunciation is essential since it does not matter how good vocabulary or grammar of the learners, it is useless if no one can understand when they speak.

English learners can use phonetic transcription to learn how to pronounce phonemes correctly because it shows how a word or phrase is pronounced (Irawan and Tampubolon, 2020, p. 2). However, some non-native English speakers find it hard to pronounce some English phonemes correctly because of the phoneme differentiation in every language. Carruthers (1987, p. 191) states that sounds of the new language that do not appear in the learner's native language, and the distinction of distribution between the native language and the target language becomes the reasons why learning another language's pronunciation is difficult. For instance, according to English IPA, English has 44 sounds while according to Kim (2015, p. 18), Korean has 36 phonemes. The phoneme differentiation of these two languages makes Korean people find it hard



to pronounce some English phonemes correctly, and it happens to David Kim, a Korean native speaker, when he was interviewed by Towards Eternity YouTube channel on June 15, 2022.

As non-native English speaker, David pronounces English phonemes well. However, there are some phonemes that differentiate comparing to IPA (International English Alphabet). Fromkin et al. (2014, p. 194) state that speakers from different country may pronounce some English words differently because some phonemes might not be represented in their countries. For example, some speakers may pronounce the word *which* and *witch* identically because the initial of sound of both words are represented by [w]. This phenomenon is commonly happened to bilingual, and it is called interference.

Interference is a situation when bilinguals learn new language, the habit of their first language influence their second language. Derakhsan and Karimi (2015, p. 2113) examine the phenomenon of the change in the making of sounds as a result of learning second language influenced by habits in the speaker's mother language is called interference. When non-native speakers learn a new language, the patterns of their mother language influence the production of utterances for the target language, making pronunciation errors possible (Astuty, 2022, p. 54). Interference can happen not just in pronunciation, but it can happen at all linguistic field. According to Utami et al. (2017, p. 206), interference can occur in phonological, grammatical, lexical, and semantic systems.



This research focus on the phonological interference of Korean to English in David Kim's interview entitled *I Thought.. I Can't Be A Muslim*, focusing in the consonants. Using the theory of phonological interference by Weinrich (1968), this study aims to analyze the English phonemes differentiation of David Kim. The researcher assumes that those different pronunciations are affected by David's mother language, Korean. For example, Korean phonemes do not consist of the sound /v/, so Korean people hardly pronounce it in English speaking and pronounce it as /b/ instead. It influences Korean native speakers' pronunciation when they speak English. They recognize the /v/ sound as the /b/ sound, so they pronounce the English phoneme /v/ as the /b/ sound. Cho & Park (2006, p. 238) show the common replacement errors in Korean, such as /f/ is replaced by /p/, /v/ is replaced by /b/, /θ/ is replaced by /s/, /ð/ is replaced by /d/, /z/ is replaced by /tʃ/, and /ʒ/ replaced by /tʃ/.

Besides, the reason why Korean hardly pronounce some English phoneme because of the distribution of phonemes. There is differentiation of English and Korean pronunciation based on where the position of the phoneme is, in the initial, in the middle, or in the end of the word. For example, English pronounce /p/ sound as /p<sup>h</sup>/ no matter where the position of phoneme is, yet Korean pronounce /p/ sound in different way according to where the position of the phoneme is. Carr (2013, p. 84) states that native English speakers commonly pronounce both aspirated and unaspirated voiceless stops, such as in the words pool [ˈp<sup>h</sup>u:l] and appear [əˈp<sup>h</sup>ɪə]. Meanwhile, in Korean, aspirated and unaspirated voiceless stops might take place in the same place (at the first part of the word), such as in the words [p<sup>h</sup>ul] 'grass' and [pul] 'fire.'

It shows that not only the absence of English phoneme in Korean that might affect the differentiation of pronunciation, but also the distribution of phonemes can affect the way Korean speakers pronounce English phonemes. In this study, the researcher also analyzes the distribution of phonemes in David Kim to find the phonological interference type that happen in David Kim. The researcher assumes that the rules of phonological in the first language of David Kim, which is Korean affects the way he speaks second language, which is English. As Dulay et al., (1982, p. 112) state that the phonology of second language is built up using first language phonology as a base, so the language learners use it as a foundation for further learning, and it makes the second language learner's speech have a substratum of first language sounds.

### **1.2 Research Question**

In this study, the researcher has formulated several problems. The problems are:

1. What phonological interference happens in David Kim?
2. How does Korean phonological system interfere the English pronunciation of David Kim?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

To solve the problems, the researcher attempts to find the object of the study as follows:

1. To identify what phonological interference happens in David Kim.
2. To identify how Korean phonological system interfere David Kim's English pronunciation.

#### **1.4 Scope of the Study**

The scope of this study focuses on the phonological interference theory. This study uses the interference theory by analyzing the effects of the habit of the mother language on the second language. This research attempt to analyze the different pronunciations of English phoneme consonants by David Kim, and it also analyzes the effects of Korean as the mother language and English as the second language.

#### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

The researcher expects this study will be valuable and relevant in some aspects, theoretically and practically.

##### **1. Theoretically**

The researcher hopes that this study will benefit the readers. This research can be utilized as a source or a reference for readers, especially English students who are interested in analyzing phonological topics. The theory used in this study will give the readers more knowledge and understanding of the phonological system in language.

##### **2. Practically**

###### **a. For Readers,**

This study can help readers understand deeper about language interference, especially in phonological systems. Furthermore, it can be used as a reference to phonological analysis.

b. For the Next Research,

The researcher hopes this study will give more understanding for the next research focusing on phonological interference. The research might be helpful for the next research as a reference for them to analyze phoneme interference.

### **1.6 Literature Review**

According to Knopf (2006), a literature review summarizes the findings that have come up from previous research attempts on subjects, and it should terminate how accurate the knowledge is. There is some previous research about phonological interference, and there are resemblance and distinction between the previous study and this study. The distinction shows that this study is an original work that was not analyzed yet.

The first is the study by Astuty (2022) examining the trouble pronouncing of Buginese pupils when they speak English. Using the theory of phonological interference, the researcher analyzes the Buginese students' pronunciation of English consonants to collect information regarding the students' phonological interference. It shows that the Buginese students mispronounce specific English consonants as an effect of interference from their mother language.

The second was written by Utami et al. (2017) about the phonological interference experienced by Buginese and Makasserese students when they are pronouncing English sounds. Using a qualitative method, this research found that the

students make 46 kinds of articulation when they produce English sounds. The primary factor that influences the students' pronunciation is interlanguage transfer.

The third is research by Purba (2022) analyzing the language interference of Batak Toba students when they speak English. Using the qualitative descriptive method, this research collects the data from 15 students from the Study Program of English Education, the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, University of Jambi. It found that Batak Toba students' first and second languages, which are Batak and Toba and Indonesian, interfere their English language performance at the phonological, morphological, and syntactic levels.

The last is the article by Chaira (2015) investigating the interference that occurs in English-speaking EFL learners. This study focuses on the interference of students' pronunciation and the suggestions to overcome this problem. The researcher found that there is an error in pronunciation by students and suggested solutions that the teachers could implement in their teaching process. The teachers can use the methods like audio-lingual, phonetic, pronunciation drills, theory of behavior learning, and phonetic based approach.

There are differences between this research and the previous research. Using the same method, this research has a different object study and also different analyses. This study focuses on analyzing the consonant phonemes by Korean native speaker, David Kim, when he speaks English in the interview entitled *I Thought.. I Can't Be A Muslim!* by Towards Eternity YouTube Channel by comparing it with English IPA transcription.

### 1.7 Theoretical Framework

This research intends to analyze the phonological interference that occurs in the phonological system using the theory of phonological interference by Weinrich (1968). Weinrich (1968, p. 1) states that interference phenomena are a deviation of norm of language that occurs to bilinguals as a result of their familiarity with more than one language. Meanwhile, phonological interference is interference that occurs when bilinguals identify a phoneme of the second language with one in the first language, and they produce it using the phonetic rules of the first language (Weinrich, 1968, p. 14). For example, Romansh native speakers speak Schwyzertütsch language, they do not aware of the distinguish between the Schwyzertütsch /t/ sound and the Romansh /D/ sound, so they pronounce them both as [t], such as in the [tenkə] for Schwyzertütsch [Denkə], means “to think”.

There are four types of phonological interference according to Weinrich (1968, p. 18-19), such as under-differentiation of phonemes, over-differentiation of phonemes, reinterpretation of distinctions, and actual phone-substitution. This research uses phonological interference theory by Weinrich (1968) identify what phonological interference that happen in David Kim, and how the first language of David Kim affect his second language.



## **1.8 Method of Research**

### **1.8.1 Type of Research**

This study uses a qualitative method. According to Bryman (2012, p. 380), the qualitative method is a research method that focuses on words rather than quantification in the data collection and analysis. The qualitative method is suitable for this research because this research analyzes data in the form of transcription of video from Towards Eternity YouTube channel entitled *I Thought.. I Can't Be A Muslim!*.

### **1.8.2 Data Sources**

The data sources of this research include primary data from YouTube Video by Towards Eternity entitled *I Thought.. I Can't Be A Muslim!* that was published on June 15, 2022 ([https://youtu.be/Ua\\_13gDmf2c?si=q4zkOdQ2tNWzIE-9](https://youtu.be/Ua_13gDmf2c?si=q4zkOdQ2tNWzIE-9)). This video is the story of David Kim when he converted to Islam, and there is subtitle from its channel that the researcher uses to transcribe the video.

### **1.8.3 Data Collection Technique**

According to Creswell (2009, p. 178), there are several procedures to collect the data include setting the boundaries for the study, collecting information through unstructured or semi-structured observations and interviews, documents, and visual materials, and then establishing the protocol for recording information. This research uses observation as data collection types because it observes the video of Towards Eternity YouTube channel entitled *I Thought.. I Can't Be A Muslim!*, and the procedures of collecting the data in this research include:



- 1) Setting the boundaries for the study. At first, the researcher decided to study the phonological interference of Korean to English of David Kim when he was interviewed by Towards Eternity YouTube channel.
- 2) Collecting information through unstructured or semistructured observations and interviews, documents, and visual materials. This research collects information through observations by observing the video of David Kim and then transcript the whole video according to English IPA (Standard British and Standard American) to find the words that consist of phoneme differentiation. After transcribing to the English IPA, the researcher transcript the pronunciation of David Kim.
- 3) Establishing the protocol for recording information. This research records the data using observational protocol by taking notes of words in the transcription that consist of phoneme differentiation.

#### **1.8.4 Data Analysis Technique**

According to Creswell (2009, p. 183), the process of data analysis in qualitative method involves organize and prepare the data for analysis, read through all data, begin detailed analysis with coding process, use the coding process to generate a description of the setting for the analysis, advance how the description will be represented in qualitative narrative, and the final step is making interpretation of the data. In this study, there are several steps in analyzing the data as Creswell has mentioned.

- 1) Organize and prepare data in the form of transcription. The researcher transcribing the video of David Kim.

- 2) Read through all data. After transcribing the video, the researcher takes notes of the words that consist of phoneme differentiation.
- 3) Begin detailed analysis with coding process. The researcher categorizes the transcription based on David Kim's pronunciation, Standard British transcription, and Standard American transcription.
- 4) Advance how the description will be represented in qualitative narrative. The researcher then compares the pronunciation of David Kim with IPA transcription (Standard British and Standard American) and analyze the distribution of phoneme.
- 5) Making interpretation of the data. After analyzing the distribution of phonemes, the researcher tries to analyze those phonemes in Korean and then identify the type of phonological interference that happen in David Kim.

### **1.9 Paper Organization**

This paper consists of four chapters. The first one is the introduction. It contains several sub chapters, such as background of study, research questions, objectives of the study, literature review, theoretical approach, method of study, and paper organization. Second is the theoretical framework. It covers all aspects of the theory used by the researcher. The third chapter is finding and discussion. It presents the data and the analysis of the language interference of David Kim from YouTube video entitled *I Thought.. I Can't Be A Muslim!*. The last chapter consists of the conclusion and suggestion. It summarizes the main points of the entire analysis and draws recommendations from it.

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter consists of the conclusion from the previous chapters and the suggestion to the next research that relate to the theory or analysis used in this study.

#### 4.1 Conclusion

In conclusion, there are two phonological interference that happen in David Kim, such as under-differentiation of phonemes and actual phoneme substitution. The under-differentiation of phonemes happens when David is confused to differentiate between /l/ and /r/ sounds, and actual phoneme substitution occurs when David substitutes the /f/ sound with /p/ sound and vice versa, the /v/ sound with /b/ sound and vice versa, the /d/ sound with /θ/ sound, and the /z/ sound with the /dʒ/ or /t/ sound.

In general, Korean has the same phonemes as English, and David pronounces them well. However, there are some English pronunciations that are affected by the Korean phonological system because some English phonemes do not appear in Korean, such as labio-dental /f/ and /v/, alveolar /z/, and dental /θ/. It makes David replace the /f/ sound with /p/ sound, the /v/ sound with /b/ sound, and /z/ sound with /dʒ/ or /t/ sound. The /θ/ sound affects the way David pronounce /d/ sound as /θ/ sound. Furthermore, some Korean sounds share the same phoneme, such as /r/ and /l/, while in English they are contrast. It makes David confused to differentiate those sounds in English, and he switches those sounds sometimes.

As a final observation, it can be concluded that the mother language of David Kim, Korean, has influenced his second language, English. The difference between

Korean and English phonemes makes David struggle to pronounce English sounds that do not appear in the Korean language or sounds that share same phoneme in Korean but contrast in English, and he unconsciously interchanges between those sounds sometimes.

#### **4.2 Suggestion**

The researcher believes this paper is not perfect, so the researcher needs the readers' criticism and suggestions. For the next researcher who is interested in the phonological interference field may try other objects beside of YouTube video interview and different languages beside of Korean. For those who want to use phonological interference theory, they could combine it with several interference theory, such as grammatical interference, lexical interference, stylistic interference, semantic interference, and intralingual interference. Finally, it would be better if the next researcher could be more comprehensive in their contribution to this field.

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