Using BetterAccent Tutor and Praat for Learning English Intonation

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Abstract
Learning English pronunciation necessitates a deep understanding of the prosodic features such as intonation. The present study reports the effective use of BetterAccent Tutor and Praat programs for the learning of English intonation with an experimental and a control group that involves nine students during a third semester phonetics course, at the Department of English, University of Guelma, Algeria. The research aims at investigating the usability of audio-visual feedback paradigm to learn prosody by Algerian students in order to enhance their English intonation renditions. The experimental method enabled generating, measuring and analyzing intonation contours, pitch and intensity of English wh-questions and tag-questions. The results revealed that the audio-visualization technology support helped the students to identify the errors and to understand the functionality of acoustic features they produce regarding intonation patterns.

Keywords: Audio-visual feedback, intonation software, pitch, intensity, acoustic features