

## Quarry Noise in a Living Environment: Effect on Speech Perception

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**KEYWORDS** Excavation. High Frequency Phonemes Phoneme Perception. Phonetic. Variables. Vibration

**ABSTRACT** This paper examined the effect of quarry noise on the speech perception of nearby residents and traders. To do this, their phonetic variables were analysed. Fifteen people, staying near the quarry, who volunteered to partake in the research, were assessed alongside another group of fifteen people not staying near the quarry. Twenty utterances were spoken thrice to each respondent in a quiet environment. Correct repetition of the utterances served as marker for perception. Results show that all members of the control group perceived all the utterances while twenty-seven percent of members of the experimental group perceived all the utterances. Contrary to previous findings, the mean perception for short utterances by the experimental group is higher than that of long utterances. Furthermore, because the utterances containing high frequency phonemes were less perceived, evidently the hearing of most of the respondents in the experimental group has been affected by the quarry noise.