Evaluation of the Production of the Intonation of Adverb Clauses with Time by Turkish English Teachers: A Demonstration by Computer Application

Mehmet Demirezen

Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey, 06800, md49@hacettepe.edu.tr


ABSTRACT Adverb clauses can provide additional information about how something is done in relation to time; these clauses are often called “time clauses” or temporal clauses in English grammar books and follow specific patterns of intonation. The purpose of the present study is to investigate the production of temporal clauses produced by Turkish English teachers in terms of how the participants produce the intonation units bounded by fairly perceptible pauses or thought groups. A diagnostic test that included 24 sample sentences on when, before, after, while, until, till, since, as soon as, and whenever which were downloaded by the Audacity 1.2.6 Program from the Longman Dictionary of English. 40 freshmen participants were selected on a voluntary purposeful sampling basis. They read out the sentences and their voices were recorded in a soundproof room. Their intonation was evaluated in connection to the Error Hunt Approach and the Advanced-learner Approach via the Discourse Intonation Approach of Brazil (1985, 1994) and the Neo-speech Analysis program. The data indicated that 60.4 percent of Turkish students of English are unable to manage the intonation of time clauses, which leads them to develop an unnatural-sounding non-native English, full of faulty intonation patterns that identify their easily discernible, non-native accents.