

## Indian English Accent in A Bollywood Movie Entitled *Jab Tak Hai Jaan* Directed by Yash Chopra

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### Abstrak

*Skripsi ini yang berjudul Aksan Bahasa Inggris India Dalam Sebuah Film Bollywood Berjudul Jab Tak Hai Jaan yang Disutradarai Oleh Yash Chopra menganalisis tentang karakteristik fitur-fitur segmental dan suprasegmental dari aksan Bahasa Inggris India dalam film Bollywood Jab Tak Hai Jaan. Sumber data dari penelitian ini diambil dari dialog-dialog yang ada dalam Jab Tak Hai Jaan. Metode yang digunakan untuk mengumpulkan data adalah metode dokumentasi melalui penelitian kepustakaan. Setelah data dikumpulkan, dianalisis menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan tujuan untuk menemukan perbedaan karakteristik diantara Bahasa Inggris India dalam film dengan Cara Pengucapan Yang Diakui. Rumusan masalah pada skripsi ini dianalisis menggunakan Teori Fonologi yang dikemukakan oleh Roach (1998) dan Kelly (2000); dan Fonologi Hindi yang dikemukakan oleh Ohala (1999).*

*Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa karakteristik pada Bahasa Inggris India terdapat dalam film, yang terbagi menjadi dua yaitu: fitur-fitur segmental dan suprasegmental. Dari fitur segmental, terdapat beberapa kejadian diantaranya: (1) pelepasan fonem Bahasa Inggris /d/; /r/; dan cara pengucapan fonem /p/; (2) penggantian fonem Bahasa Inggris /ɔ:/; /ɒ/; /æ/; /ʌ/; /t/; /d/; /θ/; /ð/; /r/; /v/; dan /əʊ/; dan (3) penambahan fonem Bahasa Inggris /ə/. Dari fitur-fitur suprasegmental, tekanan pada kata dan intonasid alam film berbeda dengan aturan yang terdapat pada Cara Pengucapan Yang Diakui. Sedangkan, tekanan pada kalimat dan pengucapan yang bertautan dalam film sudah sesuai dengan aturan-aturan yang terdapat pada Cara Pengucapan Yang Diakui.*

**Kata kunci:** *Bahasa Inggris India, aksan, Cara Pengucapan Yang Diakui*

### 1. Background of the Study

Language used by human beings as a medium of expression of thoughts, feelings, and desires by means of a system of sounds and sound symbols of communication in the society. According to Wardhaugh (2006:1) “a language is what the member of a particular society speaks. However, speech in almost any society can take very different forms”. In fact, there can be more than one language used by people in a country. Firstly mother tongue; secondly national language; and thirdly international language. Mother tongue, which is used as first language in daily life is often

influenced by the people's pronunciation when they speak another language, English, for instance. Their English will sound accented and affect the phonological system of English itself.

English in one country is different from that in another. It is influenced by the accent which makes the pronunciation English vary or it can be said that accent gives impact on the phonological system of English in a country. Phonetics and phonology are concerned with speech – with the ways in which humans produce and hear speech. One example of English pronunciation varieties is Indian English. People in India speak English influenced by their mother tongue, generally Hindi, and sound different from Received Pronunciation (RP) because the Hindi vowel system is quite similar to that of RP, in contrast to the consonants. The use of the Indian English could be seen in India's famous and biggest movie production called “Bollywood”, one of the most popular movies is *Jab Tak Hai Jaan* (in English “As long as I live”) by Yash Chopra.

## **2. Problems of the Study**

Based on the title and the background, the problems of the study are formulated as follows:

1. What are the characteristics of segmental features of the Indian English accent in *Jab Tak Hai Jaan* Bollywood movie?
2. What are the characteristics of suprasegmental features of the Indian English accent in *Jab Tak Hai Jaan* Bollywood movie?

## **3. Aims of the Study**

There are two aims which are intended to achieve based on the two problems of the study:

1. To identify the characteristic of segmental features of the Indian English accent in *Jab Tak Hai Jaan* Bollywood movie.
2. To find out the characteristics of suprasegmental features of the Indian English accent in *Jab Tak Hai Jaan* Bollywood movie.

## **4. Research Method**

The data in this study were taken directly from the dialogue in *Jab Tak Hai Jaan* Bollywood movie directed by Yash Chopra. In collecting the data, the documentary method was applied. The documentary method includes watching, listening, and transcribing technique was used to collect the data from the movie based on the script. The collected data were analyzed and presented using the descriptive and qualitative method.

## **5. Analysis of the Indian English Accent**

This analysis is divided into two: the analysis of segmental features and suprasegmental features. It presents the characteristics of the Indian English accent in the movie based on the dialogue.

## 5.1 Analysis of Segmental Features

### 1) Deletion of Phonemes

The English alveolar plosive /d/ was deleted when the actor spelled the past form of the words. It was supposed to be the English alveolar plosive /d/ pronounced in the final position; however, they did not produce it.

The comparison can be seen as follows:

Movie	RP
<b>told</b> /tɔ:l/	<b>told</b> /tɔ:ld/
<b>defused</b> /dɛ:fju:z/	<b>defused</b> /di:fju:zd/

There is also a deletion when the actors pronounced the English alveolar plosive /d/ in the word “**and**”. In RP, the sound of the alveolar plosive /d/ should be heard even though it is on the final position of the word. It should be pronounced /ænd/; however, in the movie it was pronounced /ən/ by the actors.

### 2) Substitution of Phonemes

Many Indian languages do not natively process an open front vowel /æ/ (as in *cap*). Thus, many speakers did not differentiate the sounds of English mid front vowel /e/; open back vowel /ɑ:/ and open front vowel /æ/, except in cases where a minimal pair such as *bed* and *bad* existed in the vocabulary of the speaker.

In this movie, the actors produced words with the English open front vowel /æ/ by pronouncing the Hindi open centre vowel /ɑ:/. They pronounced this vowel in which the back of the tongue became the highest part and the blade touched the lower teeth, as the actors in this movie did. The words below were differently pronounced from RP and so did the word form.

The comparison can be seen as follows:

Movie	RP
<b>thank</b> /tɑ:ŋk/	<b>thank</b> /θæŋk/
<b>man</b> /mɑ:n/	<b>man</b> /mæn/

Generally, the English open front vowel /æ/ which was replaced by the Hindi open center vowel /ɑ:/ was on the medial position of the words. None of this phoneme was being initial or final position based on the movie script.

### 3) Addition of Phonemes

There was a particular addition occurring for particular English words when Indian people produced them. In this movie, the actors added a Hindi mid centre vowel (schwa) /ə/; the additional mid centre vowel of the words was easily heard; it can be seen as follows:

Movie	RP
<b>miracles</b> /mɪrəkəls/	<b>miracles</b> /mɪrəkls/
<b>simple</b> /sɪmpəl/	<b>simple</b> /sɪmpl/

The addition of mid centre vowel (schwa) /ə/ based on the movie script mostly occurred on the final position of the words and it was clearly heard when the actors pronounced the words with addition and their accent.

## 5.2 Analysis of Suprasegmental Features

### 1) Word Stress

The word “tomorrow” in RP is supposed to be stressed in the middle syllable /tə'mɒrəʊ/ or the stressed syllable can be shown as toMOrrow. However, in the movie there was no stress in this word whether in the first, middle, or last syllable. The word “tomorrow” was pronounced flat without stressed syllables. The comparison can be seen as follows:

Movie	RP
tomorrow /tʊmo:ro:/ ooo	toMOrrow /tə'mɒrəʊ/ oOo

### 2) Sentence Stress

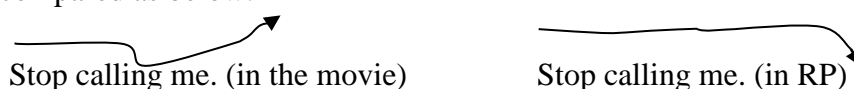
“I could've DIED.”

In the movie, this sentence was spoken by the speaker when she complained to the hearer why he did not come early to help her when she was about to sink on the beach. There were two content words here: I and died, those were given stress and written in capitals. This sentence conveyed two ideas based on the words given stress: (1) it was her that nearly happened to die because of sinking; and (2) something would happen to her (die) if she did not get help from someone early.

### 3) Intonation

“Stop calling me.”

This sentence belongs to imperative. The intonation must be falling (proclaiming tone) at the end of the sentence; however, it was pronounced with a fall-rise intonation (referring tone) in the movie which was usually used in a question asking for confirmation. Therefore, it was not in line with ‘imperatives rule’ of grammar and intonation in RP. A fall-rise intonation in this sentence also gave a meaning that the speaker had already told something to the hearer. The intonation of the sentence can be compared as below:



#### 4) Connected Speech

##### (1) Assimilation

The phrase aren't you /ɑ:ntyu:/ tended to be pronounced as /ɑ:ntʃu:/ because when phonemes /t/ and /y/ assimilates, the sound merged into 'ch' sound /tʃ/.

##### (2) Elision

The occurrence of elision could be seen in the phrase on his body where it was supposed to be pronounced as /ɒnhɪzbɔ:di/; however, in the movie it tended to be pronounced as /o:nɪzbo:di/. The /h/ sound was removed from the word and it can be omitted.

##### (3) Coarticulation

The occurrence of coarticulation in this movie is nasal aspiration. It could be seen in the phrase good night. The sound /d/ linked to the sound of /n/. The tongue moved into the position of the /d/, but the sound was not completed with the typical aspiration (release of air). Instead, the stopped air was released as the /n/.

##### (4) Intrusion /w/

Intrusion occurred in this movie in the phrase do it. The actors added a slight /w/ sound to link the /o/ sound and the short /i/ sound. By the occurrence of the intrusion /w/, the actors tended to pronounce /dɔwɪt/. Therefore, this allowed both vowel sounds to be pronounced clearly.

##### (5) Linking between words (consonant and vowel)

In this movie, when one word ended with a consonant and the next began with a vowel sound, the final consonant of the first word was used to link the two words. The phrase can be seen as follows:

“between us” tended to be pronounced as “betwee – nus” rather than “between – us”.

#### 6. Conclusion

Based on the discussion, the characteristics of the Indian English accent in *Jab Tak Hai Jaan* Bollywood movie can be divided into segmental and suprasegmental features and it can be concluded that thesegmental features in

Indian English accent pronounced by the actors occurred in the movie: (1) the deletion of the English phonemes /d/; /r/; and the manner of articulation /p/; (2) the substitution of the English phonemes /ɔ:/; /ɒ/; /æ/; /ʌ/; /t/; /d/; /θ/; /ð/; /r/; /v/; and /əʊ/; and (3) the addition of phonemes /ə/. The suprasegmental features in this study are divided into four; they are: (1) word stress; (2) sentence stress; (3) intonation; and (4) connected speech. The word stress and intonation in this movie were different from the rules of RP. The sentence stress and connected speech in this movie was analyzed. They were in line with the rules of the sentence stress and connected speech in RP, therefore, it could be proved.

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