

Dear Prof. Bona,

Thank you for your detailed review and thoughtful feedback on my dissertation. I appreciate the recognition of the study's contributions and the constructive suggestions for improvement. Below is my response addressing your comments:

**1. Theoretical Chapters:** I acknowledge the need for a more detailed explanation of why gender was included as a factor and how hypothesis H3c was formulated. While I intentionally kept this section brief, my interest in gender stemmed from studies showing that women, particularly Arabic speakers, tend to adopt more prestigious speech patterns in English, committing fewer pronunciation errors than men (e.g., Labov, 2001; Holmes, 1995). This aligns with broader findings on women's linguistic behaviour reflecting prestige. However, in this study, gender was not a factor that affected pronunciation significantly.

**2. Methodology:** Your suggestion to expand on the participants' English proficiency, linguistic background, and attitudes is valuable. I recognize these are important for contextualizing pronunciation patterns and will integrate such details in future work. Regarding the annotation of 'si' in Praat, I understand the potential for confusion and will ensure clarity in future presentations of figures. I only used this notation as our instructors in the doctoral program have emphasized using it to indicate periods of silence in the data.

**3. Results Chapter:** I appreciate the suggestion to include data about the pronunciation errors made by the informants in the main text. My decision to place tables in the appendices was due to their size or sheer number, which could have interrupted the flow of the text. Instead, I aimed to use intext examples for clarity while leaving the full data accessible in the appendices. Future revisions could integrate selected tables more directly where appropriate.

**4. General Discussion:** Revisiting the initial hypotheses to directly evaluate them in the discussion chapter is an excellent recommendation. I have presented them in a different way in the results section pp.102-107, though I will incorporate this formal element into future revisions and publications to enhance the scientific reliability and easier comprehension of my work.

**5. Figures and Tables:** Summarizing vowel and consonant systems in comprehensive figures or tables for all languages studied is a great suggestion that I will consider in future presentations to improve readability and clarity.

Thank you once again for your insightful feedback. I deeply value your constructive comments, which will guide me in refining this work and informing future research directions.

Best Regards,  
Hala Saed

