English Alveolar /t/ and Approximant /ɹ/ Convergence Phenomenon in Indonesians' Interactions: Reflection of Social Dynamics

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the phenomenon of sound convergence in Indonesian-English bilingual interactions, focusing on a podcast setting. This study investigates three key aspects; the convergence of two English sounds: alveolar /t/ to Indonesian dental /t̪/ and approximant /ɹ/ to Indonesian trilled /r/ using Phonetic and Phonology approach; the reciprocal nature of the convergence; the social factors motivating this linguistic behavior using Communication Accommodation Theory (CAT) approach.. The data collected from six podcast episodes reveal that reciprocity played a significant role in the frequency of convergence, with higher levels of mutual adjustment leading to increased overall convergence. Additionally, the speakers' educational backgrounds, particularly those from prestigious universities, influence the emergence of sound convergence. This research contributes to our understanding of sound convergence in multilingual contexts, shedding light on the complex relationship between language, identity, and social factors. The findings have implications for language education, cross-cultural communication practices, and our broader understanding of how linguistic choices reflecting social structures in bilingual settings.

Keywords: *sound convergence, accommodation, CAT, sociolinguistics, Indonesian Interaction.*

INTRODUCTION

The majority of individuals adjust their speech, writing, texting, emailing, and other communication styles based on the individuals they are speaking to (Giles, 2016). The term "linguistic convergence" describes the momentary changes in speech that people make in an effort to sound more like others around them. People may replicate subtle and frequently unconscious features of speech they hear, such word choice or pronunciation, without even realizing it. For example, someone may pick up a certain accent after watching a television show with characters that have unique speech patterns or begin speaking local slang after spending time with people from that area. Convergence may occur accidentally or on purpose. It frequently fulfills social purposes including establishing rapport or signifying group membership. It can also happen unintentionally; for instance, people may change the way they talk without realizing it because of their preconceived notions about how other people would speak, even if they haven not heard such pronunciations. Pronunciation involves a complex interplay of phonetic and phonological elements and segmental and suprasegmental features. Segmental features are the sounds, both vowels and consonants while

suprasegmental features go beyond individual sounds including the stress and intonation.

In sociolinguistics, accommodation behavior describes the manner in which speakers modify their speech patterns and vocabulary to fit in with their conversation partners. The idea behind this phenomenon is called "communication accommodation theory" (CAT), and it holds that people alter their speech patterns, verbal behaviors and even non-verbal cues in an attempt to improve interpersonal connections, achieve social acceptance, or close social gaps. Studying accommodation behavior in sociolinguistics sheds light on identity formation and social dynamics. According to Wardhaugh and Fuller (2015), there are other ways that accommodation can appear, such as convergence, in which speakers take on identical language traits.

Howard Giles developed Communication Accommodation Theory (CAT) in the early 1970s after observing how people modify their speech patterns in response to their conversational partners. Giles' initial thought stemmed from his interest in sociolinguistics and the dynamics of language use, notably accent and dialect changes. The basic phase of CAT began around 1969, when Giles observed that people frequently change dialects or languages in response to social situations and interlocutors. This resulted in the development of ideas like "accent convergence" and "divergence," which describe how speakers adjust their communication styles to align with or differentiate themselves from others. The general framework of Communication Accommodation Theory (CAT) proposes to predict and explain many of the changes people make to establish, maintain, or reduce social distance in interactions (Giles, 2016). Convergence can take several forms, including changes in speech tempo, accent, vocabulary, and nonverbal signs. The need to gain each other's approval is a significant motivator of convergence. According to Byrne (1971), the concept of similarity attraction holds that we can expect larger social rewards from our conversation partner if we are more like or admired by them. Language convergence improves communication efficiency by increasing predictability and, as a result, reducing ambiguity, interpersonal anxiety, and mutual comprehension.

Extensive observance of a process by which people adapt their language use according to their conversation partners resulted in CTA, which was developed by Giles (1973, Giles, 1984, Giles & Johnson, 1987, Giles , Coupland, & Coupland, 1991, Giles & Ogay, 2007). Sociolinguist Howard Giles developed the Communication Accommodation Theory (CAT) in the early 1970s to study how people modify their communication styles in social situations. According to the hypothesis, depending on the situation and the persons involved, these changes may either create distance or bring people closer together. CAT highlights the relationship between language, identity, and social dynamics and offers a framework for comprehending how and why people modify their communication styles in different social circumstances. CAT divided the accommodation into three types of adjustment: convergence, divergence and maintenance. The process by which people alter their speech patterns to sound more like their conversation partner is known as convergence. Conversely, divergence emphasizes the variations in communication techniques.

The phenomenon of convergence has been the subject of numerous studies since the development of CAT. These studies have mostly focused on English-speaking environments, but they have also examined a wide range of languages in a form of language-switching, including Hebrew (Yaeger-Dror, 1988), Taiwanese Mandarin (van den Berg, 1986), Japanese (Welkowitz, Bond, and Feldstein, 1984), Frisian and Dutch (Gorter, 1987; Ytsma, 1988), Hungarian (Kontra & Gosy, 1988), Cantonese (Feldstein and Crown, 1990), and Thai (Beebe, 1981). In a language-switching context including Indonesian and English, it is less developed.Communication Accomodation Theory (CAT) has been applied in diverse research areas to explore how individuals adjust their communication styles. Willemyns and Gallois (1997) investigated the effects of interviewer accent and gender, as well as accent accommodation, during employment interviews. Smith (2022) examined factors influencing White individuals' accommodation to speakers with foreign accents. Suputra et al. (2020) analyzed how English language education students employed convergence and divergence phenomena in their communication. Similarly, Bibi and Hamida (2024) explored

communication styles among overseas students in Indonesia using CAT. In a healthcare context, Barlow et al. (2024) studied self-reported behaviors and perceptions of receivers during speaking-up engagements.

Phonetic convergence has also been a significant focus of CAT-related studies. Tobin (2022) analyzed the influence of Spanish and Korean first languages on phonetic convergence patterns toward English voice-onset-times (VOTs). Ross et al. (2021) examined how dialect familiarity and traits affect phonetic convergence between General American and Mid-Atlantic dialects. Gnevsheva et al. (2021) explored whether first- and second-language speakers converge similarly despite dialectal differences. Isiaka (2021) investigated phonetic convergence between L2 English dialects spoken by native Igbo English speakers and their Yoruba friends in Nigeria. Additionally, Gessinger et al. (2021) studied phonetic concessions in human-computer interaction contexts, while Pardo et al. (2018) compared phonetic convergence in speech shadowing tasks versus conversational engagement. Cowie and Pande (2017) explored whether exposure to client accents enhances phonetic convergence in phone-based interactions or if social factors play a role.

This study addressed the gap in research on sound convergence within Indonesian-English bilingual interactions, specifically focusing on how Indonesian speakers adjust their pronunciation of English /t/ and /ɹ/ sounds in a podcast setting. It investigated the articulatory phonetic of the converged sound, the reciprocal nature of this convergence, examining whether speakers mutually adjust their speech, and explores the social motivations behind these linguistic accommodations.

This research was motivated by the limited exploration of the Indonesian language in the context of language convergence and the growing occurrence of convergence phenomena in interactions among Indonesians. Due to the limited existing research on language convergence involving Indonesian and English, the study of language convergence in the Indonesian context is of critical importance. It was expected that this research will contribute to the body of knowledge in the discipline of linguistics on the convergence phenomena in the

interaction between non-native English speakers and their English language environment particularly Indonesian.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Research about convergence have been studied before in several different focus. Communication Accommodation Theory (CAT) has been applied to different focus of study. First, Smith (2022) examined the factors leading to White individuals' accommodation of foreign-accented speakers using CAT. Then, Suputra et al. (2020) investigated the convergence and divergence phenomena used by students of English language education. Furthermore, a study by Bibi and Hamida (2024) used CAT to explore communication patterns among international students in Indonesia. Moreover, Barlow et al. (2024) applied CAT to explore receivers' perceptions and their self-reported behaviors during an actual speaking up interaction in a health context. Next, Charoy (2021) observed that listeners improve their comprehension of non-native accented speech over time, but the mechanism of perceptual recalibration was not strongly supported as the underlying factor. Elhami et al. (2024) studied that Spanish language teachers in Iranian classrooms employed communication accommodation strategies to enhance student engagement and language acquisition.

Convergence phenomenon affected by the native language and dialect have been studied by several researchers. Tobin (2022) studied about effects associated with the first language (Korean and Spanish) on phonetic convergence patterns toward the interlocutor voiceless stop voice-onset-times (VOTs) of typical monolingual English. Next, Ross et al. (2021) investigated the contribution of dialect familiarity and dialect-specific characteristics on the degree and observability of phonetic convergence by General American (GA) and Mid-Atlantic dialect. Then, Gnevsheva et al. (2021) studied about whether speakers of first and second languages would converge similarly across dialectal differences. Afterward, studies about convergence focusing in phonetic have been studied by several researchers. Isiaka (2021) studied about socio-phonetics which investigated the phonetic convergence between L2

English dialects by native speakers of Igbo English and lifelong Yoruba comrades in South West Nigeria. Next, Gessinger et al. (2021) investigated human interlocutors' phonetic accommodations in the context of computer-human interaction. Then, Pardo et al. (2018) compared phonetic convergence in conversational interaction and in a non-interactive speech shadowing task. Moreover, Cowie & Pande (2017) investigated if social factors are involved in convergence or whether exposure to the customer accent during telephone employment increases phonetic convergence. Furthermore, Rojczyk et al. (2023) studied the phonetic imitation of English consonants by polish speaker. Then, Beddor et al. (2024) tried to discover the individual differences of accommodation of a novel phonetic variant. On top of that, Kim & Chamorro (2021) analyzed the ingroup convergence by British English speakers. Afterward, Wagner et al. (2021) investigated the emergence of phonetic convergence to non-native speaker. Additionally, Cao (2019) explored the accommodation of Hong Kong English speakers when exposed to British and American English speakers.

This research offered a novel contribution by examining the phenomenon of sound convergence within the Indonesian context, an area where studies on language convergence, particularly those involving Indonesian, remain scarce. Departing from the predominantly acoustic phonetic methods employed in prior research, this study adopted an articulatory phonetic approach to investigate convergence. By doing so, it provided a different lens through which to analyze how Indonesian speakers modify their pronunciation of English sounds to become closer to theirs. Furthermore, this research utilized naturally occurring data from podcast interactions which provided valid insights into real-world language convergence behaviors.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Sociolinguistics

A branch of linguistics called sociolinguistics studies how language and society link together. It investigates the ways in which language use and variety are influenced by social factors, including age, gender, ethnicity, and class. The field covers a wide range of topics, such as dialects, linguistic attitudes, language change, and the social roles of language. Sociolinguists study how societal norms influence linguistic behavior and how various cultures utilize language to create identities. To comprehend the intricacies of language in social contexts, this interdisciplinary approach frequently integrates techniques from psychology, sociology, and anthropology (Wardhaugh & Fuller, 2015). In sociolinguistics, accommodation behavior describes how speakers modify their speech patterns and vocabulary to fit in with their conversation partners. This phenomenon stems from the idea of "communication accommodation theory" (CAT), which holds that people alter their vocalizations, speech patterns, and even non-verbal signs in order to improve interpersonal connections, minimize social distance, or win social acceptability. Analyzing accommodation behavior in sociolinguistic research sheds light on identity formation and social dynamics. Convergence, in which speakers take on comparable language traits, is one way that accommodation can appear (Wardhaugh, 2013).

Accommodation Communication Theory (CAT)

Originating in the early 1970s, Communication Accommodation Theory (CAT) explores how individuals strategically adjust their communication styles, both verbal and nonverbal, to manage social relationships and identities during interactions. CAT highlights the ways people consciously or unconsciously modify their speech, tone, and behavior to either reduce or emphasize social differences. These adjustments serve important social functions, such as building rapport, expressing group membership, or asserting individuality. By examining these communicative shifts, CAT provides valuable insights into the dynamics of social interaction and the role of language in shaping interpersonal and group relationships (Gomez, 2012).Giles's interest in sociolinguistics and the dynamics of language use, especially as they relate to accent and dialect differences, gave rise to the original idea. Giles observed that people frequently change their dialects or languages in reaction to social settings and interlocutors during the early stages of CAT, which started around 1969. As a

result, ideas like "accent convergence" and "divergence," which characterize how speakers modify their communication styles to either fit in with or stand out from others, were developed. Giles and his colleagues examined similar patterns in multilingual Canadian contexts for the first noteworthy publication on the subject in 1973. Many of the changes people make to create, maintain, or lessen social distance in interactions are predicted and explained by the broad framework of Communication Accommodation Theory (CAT) (Giles, 2016). The theory's original goal was to examine and clarify how and why a person's speech changes depending on their conversation partner and/or social circumstances (Giles & Powesland, 1975). This can be used to change language, dialects, accents, speech rates, idioms and slang, and other nonverbal behaviors. To put it briefly, CAT is acknowledged as a thorough framework that looks at both intergroup and interpersonal communication adaptations. It examines how perceptions of intent and social context impact accommodating behaviors by integrating the cognitive and emotive aspects of communication. The theory's versatility has made it applicable in a variety of language and cultural contexts.

Convergence can be upward, adapting to more socially esteemed forms of communication, or downward, shifting to less formal speech codes. The degree of convergence can also vary, ranging from partial to full, and can be symmetrical, where both parties reciprocate adjustments, or asymmetrical, where only one party converges. However, accommodation is not always straightforward. Speakers may exhibit psychological accommodation, intending to adjust their communication, but their actual linguistic accommodation might differ.

Linguistic accommodation itself is categorized as objective, referring to measurable behavioral adjustments, and subjective, reflecting individual perceptions of these adjustments. Discrepancies between these forms can arise due to individuals adjusting based on perceived rather than actual communicative positions, particularly in intergroup interactions where stereotypes influence expectations and lead to over- or under-accommodation.

Finally, CAT acknowledges that communication adjustments can occur both consciously and unconsciously. While many verbal and nonverbal behaviors, such as accent and posture, are modified unconsciously during interactions, adjustments to volume, pitch, and syntax can also be made consciously. This duality highlights the complex interplay between automatic responses and deliberate choices in shaping communication patterns within social interactions.

METHODS

The data were obtained from six episodes of Womantalk podcast, which was available on YouTube. To clarify, four episodes were selected to examine the convergence of English sounds, as these phenomena prominently occurred within them. Additionally, two other episodes were included to support the analysis by providing further insight into the reciprocal influences and social factors driving convergence, particularly through an investigation of the guests' identities. Womantalk Podcast stood apart from other podcasts since it offered a sufficient amount of sound convergence data. The data were

Figure 1. English consonant chart

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Palato-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal	Labial-velar
Plosive	p b			t d				k g		
Affricate						ʧ ʤ				
Fricative		f v	θ ð	s z		ʃ ʒ			h	
Nasal	m			n				ŋ		
Approximant				l	ɹ		j			w

Source: Carley & Mees, 2021

English sounds contained in English words that were converged from English to Indonesian sounds which was the segmental feature as Juanto et al. (2023) studied as well. During the process of listening to each episode one by one, the note-taking approach employed to gather data for this study. The study's raw data consisted of English words with converged sounds which have been validated by two native speakers of American English. Data analysis began by identifying the converged consonants of English. Cambridge Online Dictionary, Oxford Online Dictionary, Carley and Mees's (2021) English consonants chart (Figure 1) was the reference of the phonetic transcription of the data.

Afterwards, the English consonants that have been converged to Indonesian were identified using Soderberg and Olson's (2008) Indonesian consonant chart below as the reference (Figure 2).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Converged Sounds of English

After analyzing the convergence phenomenon in the interaction of Indonesians using English-Indonesian language settings, two English sounds were found to converge into Indonesian sounds: /t/ → /t̪/, /ɹ/ → /r/.

/t/	➔	/t̪/
Voiceless		Voiceless
Alveolar		Dental
Plosive		Plosive

They were English voiceless alveolar plosive /t/ to the voiceless dental plosive /t̪/ in Indonesian, and the accommodation of the English voiced post-alveolar approximant /ɹ/ into the Indonesian voiced alveolar trill /r/. The first notable convergence

Figure 2. Indonesian consonant chart

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Plosive & Affricate	p b		t̪	d	tʃ dʒ		k g	ʔ
Nasal	m			n		ɲ	ŋ	
Flap/Trill				r				
Fricative		f		s z	ʃ			h
Approximant	w					j		
Lateral Approximant				l				

Source: Soderberg & Olson, 2008

Secondly, the obtained data were classified according to the episode to identify the reciprocity between the host and the guest. It showed the influence of reciprocity to the convergence emergence by looking at the number of converged sounds done by the host and the guest. Lastly, the social factors of the convergence phenomenon analyzed qualitatively using Giles's (2016) Communication Accommodation Theory (CAT) which was an sociolinguistics approach as Lukman et al. (2023) used to their research.

involved the sound /t/, which, when pronounced in English, was typically an alveolar sound. It emerged in words such as 'confronting', 'tea', 'tell', 'eigtheen', 'history, 'time' and 'to'. However, in Indonesian phonology, this sound shifted to a dental articulation. Indonesian language featured the sound of /t/ as a dental consonant, which influenced speakers to modify foreign sounds to fit existing phonological structures of their mother tongue. Convergence often appears to languages that have a great distinction (Babel, 2012). This convergence reflected

a natural tendency for speakers to align foreign sounds with familiar articulatory patterns. This adjustment attributed to both articulatory ease and the influence of native phonetic patterns that favored dental sounds.

The second convergence pertained to the English /ɹ/, which was often challenging for non-native speakers due to its unique articulation. In contrast, Indonesians employed a trilled /r/, a sound that was more common in many languages around the world including Indonesian language. It appearead in words such as impress, more, literally, your, from, right and role. Similarly, as Cao (2019) found, Hong Kong speakers exposed to British English converged from a silent /r/ to a rhotic /r/. Such convergence is not limited to consonants; vowel shifts have also been observed. For example, Igbo English speakers converged toward Yoruba English by shifting the vowel /ɛ/ to /e/ (Isiaka, 2021).

/ɹ/	➔	/r/
Voiced		Voiced
Post-Alveolar		Alveolar
Approximant		Trill

This accommodation not only facilitates clearer communication within Indonesian contexts and showcased the adaptability of speakers as they incorporated elements from one language into another, but also reflected a desire to connect with and integrate into the local community, suggesting that identity played a significant role in driving this linguistic convergence. This linguistic adaptation is deeply intertwined with identity, as speakers subtly signal their affiliation and understanding of the local cultural landscape. By converging towards Indonesian sounds, they are not simply mimicking; they are actively constructing a sense of shared identity and belonging. This convergence becomes a powerful tool for navigating social dynamics and fostering connections within the Indonesian community. Specifically, by adjusting the English /t/ to become the Indonesian /t/ or modifying the English /ɹ/ to the Indonesian /r/, speakers reinforce their loyalty and pride in Bahasa Indonesia, aligning their speech with their national linguistic identity. This is not necessarily about understanding the other speaker or showing cultural respect; instead, it is about expressing a commitment to one's own linguistic norms and heritage, emphasizing a shared

Indonesian identity between speakers. This active modification demonstrates a desire to uphold their own linguistic standards, fostering a sense of unity and potentially strengthening in-group solidarity.

Together, these findings underscore the fluidity of language and the ongoing processes of sound adaptation in multilingual environments. These findings showed not only the phonological adjustments that occurred during language contact but also highlighted the complex ways in which speakers navigate between linguistic systems. The implications of this convergence extended beyond mere pronunciation; they reflected deeper sociolinguistic dynamics as speakers adapt their speech to align with local norms while maintaining intelligibility, demonstrating a negotiation of identity through language.

Reciprocity Influence on Convergence

This section investigates the influence of reciprocity on sound convergence between English and Indonesian, specifically on the sound convergence of alveolar /t/ to dental /t̪/ and approximant /ɹ/ to trill /r/. Each episode was examined to show reciprocal role to the emergence of convergence.

Table 1. Convergence Quantity

EP	Convergence Quantity		Total
	Host	Guest	
1	7	22	29
2	2	22	24
3	0	0	0
4	0	6	6
5	0	0	0
6	3	12	15

Table 1 shows that reciprocity influenced the numbers of convergence. When one participant did adjustments, it often encouraged the other participant to reciprocate, leading to a more sounds convergence. Reciprocity can indeed facilitate linguistic convergence, as speakers adapt their language more when mutual positive relations are present (Wardrope, 2008). Convergence can be symmetrical or asymmetrical (Giles, 2016). At times,

the adjustment is symmetrical, with one individual's communication actions being reciprocated by the other. Nevertheless, reciprocal does not need to be identical (Giles, 2016). The data illustrated varying levels of convergence across different episodes, highlighting how reciprocity influenced these interactions.

In episode 1, host made 7 times of convergence while guest did adjustment for 22 times. The guest made significantly more adjustments than the host, indicating a strong desire for alignment or connection. The high total suggested effective reciprocity, where the guest's adjustments likely prompted further engagement from the host. Similar to episode 1, the guest again dominated in adjustments in episode 2. Host made 2 times of convergence while guest made 22 times. The low number from the host reflected a reluctance to accommodate or confidence in their own style, yet the guest's high adjustments showed an effort to connect. However, in episode 3 and 5, no adjustments were made by either speaker. In other episodes the host converged when the guest converged as well. However, in episode 5, the guest did not converge at all which driving the host to not converge as well. This absence of convergence suggested that reciprocity was not present. It implied that reciprocity did influence the emergence of convergence.

Higher levels of guest adjustments correlated with greater total convergence. This suggested that when one speaker was more accommodating, it led to increased overall convergence. Episodes with no adjustments highlighted how critical reciprocity was for fostering convergent communication. This concept was crucial for understanding how convergence occurred, as it often relied on the responsiveness of both parties involved in a conversation. When one individual adjusted their communication style, the other reciprocated by also accommodating their speech style, leading to a greater number of convergence emergence.

Motives of Convergence

Giles stated that convergence is motivated by several social factors (2016). After analysing the data, this study uncovered the relationship between educational background and the emergence of convergence among the speakers.

It can be seen from Table 2 that educational background of the speaker also motivated the emergence of convergence. The phenomenon happened in the in-group interaction between prestigious university graduates, both international and local universities. Thus, in other words, in the moment of interaction, educational background of the interlocutors is the speakers' consideration to perform convergence. If looking at the episodes, the guests are from the prestigious universities. Kim & Chamorro (2021) stated that speakers converge more to who are similar to themselves. In episode 1, 2, 4 and 6, the convergence could be identified while in episode 3 and 5, there was no convergence. For episode 3, it was because the language setting of the conversation is Indonesian because the guest showed no English proficiency. Whereas, convergence was not found in episode 5 because the guest's primarily language used in daily is English. Also, she lived for about 9 years in the United State. After years of primarily using English, it implied she wanted to maintain aspects of her "American" identity through her speech. The continued use of primarily English could be seen as a form of divergence, emphasizing her distinct identity and experiences compared to Indonesians who have not lived abroad extensively.

Table 2. Educational background of the speakers

EP	Role	Educational Backgrounds	English Speaking Skill	Language Setting	Occupations	Convergence
	Host	FDIM, Private College, California	Yes		Enterpreneur	
1	Guest	UI (English Literature)	Yes	English-Indo	Office	Yes
2	Guest	London School of Public Relation	Yes	English-Indo	Office	Yes
3	Guest	UI	No Data	Indo	Housewife	No
4	Guest	IKJ, UPH	Yes	English-Indo	News-Anchor	Yes
5	Guest	University of Pennsylvania - London Business School	Yes	English-Indo	EVP (Executive Vice President)	No
6	Guest	CCNY, New York	Yes	English-Indo	Communication Manager	Yes

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According to the data (see Tables 1 and 2), it could be inferred that convergence predominantly occurs as upward convergence. This is because the host was perceived to have a more prestigious educational background, having studied abroad, compared to the guests. Consequently, more than half of the convergence instances were initiated by the guests toward the host. This pattern suggested that convergence serves as a strategy for the guests to gain approval, fit in, and show respect. It should be noted, however, that the host also engaged in convergence, albeit to a lesser extent. The guests' convergence could be characterized as downward convergence, which functions to build rapport and demonstrate solidarity with the guests. This linguistic convergence reflects the social hierarchies and relationships present within the community, as speakers adapt their speech to navigate these social structures. By doing so, they signal solidarity with in-group members and manage power relations and social expectations within interactions. This dynamic is especially significant in multilingual settings, where language choice and pronunciation serve as important markers of social alignment, enabling speakers to position themselves within social networks and reinforce group membership.

This phenomenon is further influenced by the speakers' level of English language competence. Speakers with stronger English skills possess greater phonetic awareness and control, enabling them to more effectively adjust their pronunciation, intonation, and speech patterns to align with their interlocutors. This enhanced linguistic competence facilitates more subtle and accurate convergence, as these speakers can more easily perceive and reproduce the target sounds and speech styles. Consequently, individuals with higher English proficiency, often those with prestigious educational backgrounds or extensive exposure to English-speaking environments are more capable of performing convergence as a strategic communicative behavior. This skill not only supports social goals such as gaining approval and fostering solidarity but also reflects their adaptability in multilingual and multicultural interactions.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study on the sound convergence phenomena in Indonesian podcast interactions obtained some notable findings. The study found two instances of sound convergence: the adjustment from English voiceless alveolar plosive /t/ to Indonesian voiceless dental plosive /t̪/, and the adaption of the English voiced post-alveolar approximant /ɹ/ to the Indonesian voiced alveolar trill /r/. These sounds convergence showed the intricate interplay between the English and Indonesian phonological systems in multilingual settings. This study also discovered the critical significance of reciprocity in promoting convergence. Episodes with more reciprocal adjustments between hosts and guests had a higher overall rate of sound convergence. This highlighted the role of mutual accommodation in structuring language interactions and implied that convergence is a dynamic, collaborative process. Furthermore, the study revealed the relationship between speakers' educational backgrounds and the emergence of convergence. Speakers from recognized universities, both worldwide and local, demonstrated a stronger tendency for sound

convergence. This research implied that educational experience, particularly in institutions that promote multilingual competency, might have a considerable impact on an individual's ability and desire to adjust their speech patterns. These early findings contributed to our understanding of sound convergence in Indonesian-English bilingual environments and offered insights on the sociolinguistic elements that influence such events. It can be implied that articulatory phonetics is not merely a product of physiological capabilities but is intricately linked to social identities and interactions within diverse communities. The result of this study went beyond theoretical linguistics, potentially shaping language instruction programs and cross-cultural communication practices. The result suggests language programs should prioritize reciprocal learning activities and sociolinguistic awareness to cultivate adaptable and socially conscious communicators. By fostering environ-ments that mirror real-world interactions and promote multilingual competence, instruction can better equip learners for diverse communicative situations. Future research directions could include looking into a broader range of phonetic features, studying the long-term impacts of convergence on language change, and analyze how these phenomena emerge in various social and professional contexts.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that this article is totally free from any conflict of interest regarding the data collection, analysis, the editorial process, and the publication process in general.

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