

Extract from a dissertation: The effects of formal instruction on EFL pronunciation acquisition: a case study from Germany

2.4 Data Analysis

2.4.1 Listener-rater correlations

The analysis began with a listener-rater correlation to provide evidence of the reliability of the scores given to each learner since they provide the basis for the statistical analyses performed. As shown in table 2, Pearson Product Moment Correlations were calculated between the scores given by each listener-rater.

TABLE 2

Pearson Product Moment Correlations between scores given by listener-raters. (N=13)

Rater	1	2	3	4
1	1.0			
2	0.9932	1.0		
3	0.9972	0.9953	1.0	
4	0.996	0.9953	0.9968	1.0

At the 99% significance level we have a critical value of 0.6835 and all the results obtained are highly significant, being well above this value, and suggest that the scores given by the listener-raters were very reliable.

2.4.2 Test Score comparison

Tables 3 and 4 give the descriptive statistics for the control and experimental groups' pre-test and post-test results for general intelligibility and specific features of pronunciation respectively. It can be seen from the statistics that both groups underwent an improvement in pronunciation performance over the study, indicated by the increased means in the post-test. The primary purpose of this study is to try to determine whether instruction does have a beneficial effect on pronunciation in comparison to no specific instruction.

TABLE 3

General Intelligibility Pre-test and Post-test scores for experimental and control groups.

Group	n	Pre-test Mean	SD	Post-test Mean	SD
Experimental	6	2	0.6324	2.8333	0.408
Control	7	2	0.577	2.5714	0.534

TABLE 4

Specific Features of Pronunciation Pre-test and Post-test scores for experimental and control groups.

Group	n	Pre-test Mean	(SD)	Post-test Mean	SD
Experimental	6	1.5111	0.601	2.472	0.43
Control	7	1.476	0.564	1.824	0.562

Moore, A.L. (2001) *The effects of formal instruction on EFL pronunciation acquisition: a case study from Germany*. University of Surrey: Unpublished MA dissertation