

## INTRODUCTION

This is a modest attempt to describe a variety of English spoken by Marathi speakers which might throw some light on its articulatory aspect. The way the Satara speakers speak English considerably differs from the native speakers and particularly from the British speakers. The purpose of this dissertation being very limited, it will confine itself to the description of deviations from the native variety as well the so called G.I.E. and E.I.E.

As far as the present investigator knows no description of the English spoken by Satara speakers has so far been attempted. Moreover, descriptions of local varieties of English spoken in Maharashtra have also received scanty attention. Mention must however be made of a description of English spoken by Kolhapur speakers by Rubdy (1974). Another broad study by Kelkar (1957) describes certain features of Marathi-English. Also Yardi (1978) has described certain features of Marathi speakers' English.

For the purpose of this work 'Marathi speaking Satara professionals' have been selected. Again the terms 'Marathi speaking' and 'Satara professionals' have restricted meaning. 'Marathi speaking' person is one whose mother tongue is Marathi and who still continues to use it competently and effectively in daily communication. 'Satara

professionals' means those who have been practising some profession in Satara for a considerably long period. Two main criteria were applied while selecting subjects. The first, the subjects should be Marathi speaking Satara professionals and the second, they should be at least graduates. These are very rough and simple criteria but they seem to suit the purpose well.

There has been a feeling for long that there are as many Indian Englishes as there are Indian language speech communities or dialect communities. On this background certain studies such as (Bansal 1972) General Indian English (G.I.E.) and (Nihalani et al 1979) Educated Indian English (E.I.E.) tend to show that varieties of Indian English share several common features although they have some marginal differences. So the study of English spoken by the Satara professionals is likely to throw some light on the common features as well as marginal differences.

For the sake of convenience, five pairs from five different professions (professors, advocates, doctors, bankers, insurance servants) were selected as subjects for the purpose and each pair included a gentleman and a lady. Of course, wherever a suitable lady informant was not available, two gentlemen have been selected. Only in a banking profession a suitable lady informant was not found. So it

has both gentlemen. In the case of professors, the teachers other than those who teach English were selected assuming that English teachers might have received some training in pronunciation. While selecting these samples, no strict sampling procedure was followed. Easily available professionals were tapped for the purpose.

In order to collect data a schedule specially prepared for the purpose and a reading list taken from Bansal's 'Intelligibility of Indian English' (see Appendix-I) were used. The schedule was so designed that the object of the study was not revealed to the subjects so that they may not become conscious of their speech habits. With the schedule an interview technique was used keeping the actual purpose of the investigation unknown to the informants. While answering the questions asked suprasegmental features were expected to be revealed because answering questions was a spontaneous response to a great extent and features of connected speech were also likely to be highlighted. The purpose behind giving the reading list was to investigate individual phonemes used by the Satara speakers who speak English as their second language. Here, even though the informants were conscious while responding, the purpose was not betrayed as they were given no idea of the purpose. So there was little possibility of modification in pronunciation on the part of the informants. Thus, both the schedule and the

reading list were complementary and served as very good stimuli for producing natural responses. However small in size the schedule and the reading list might look, they covered all the English phonemes and certain other features like stress, weak-forms etc., to be studied.

Initially it was decided to analyse free responses as well as read-out utterances but the task of analysing the free responses proved beyond practicability. So only the lists of sentences read-out were analysed for the purpose of the study.

Responses by all the professionals were recorded and later transcribed in I.P.A. system. By way of analysis and generalization, the sound system employed by the Satara professionals was identified which gave us some idea of the difference between English sounds and their Satara counterparts.

The findings of the investigation are reported in the form of a formal description of the segmental phonemes and other features of the Satara professional's speech. The point of comparison used is English R.P. as described in Gimson (1970).

The dissertation holds forth mainly on the articulatory aspect of English spoken by the Satara professionals. It

points out the particular phonemes in respect of which Marathi and particularly Satara speakers differ from the natives in pronunciation and again highlights the substitute counterparts used by the informants.

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