

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

A major difficulty that every second language learner comes across is also faced by the Satara professionals. The linguistic habit which gets fixed because of using one's mother tongue gets hardened day by day and when this speaker attempts to acquire a new language, the mother tongue linguistic habit begins to interfere i.e., apparently similar phonemes of one's mother tongue are used in place of phonemes of the new language. However when the learner tries to suppress the L<sub>1</sub> sound system, its influence is not removed. Consequently it affects the whole process of the L<sub>2</sub> speech.

Thus the L<sub>2</sub> learners like the Satara professionals fail to come to terms with the breach between apparently like phonemes of L<sub>1</sub> and L<sub>2</sub>. At the first sight and probably at all times, the speakers see a lot of resemblance which really does not exist. Therefore the very building blocks i.e., phonemes used by the Satara professionals are very different. Marathi sounds which replace the English equivalents differ in several respects. English plosives /pb td kg/ are replaced by Marathi [पब टड कग] which seem to be similar but actually differ a lot. What is true of the case of plosives is equally true of all the phonemes - both the consonants and the vowels.

Then as L<sub>2</sub> learners fail to keep apart the L<sub>1</sub> phonological system from that of the L<sub>2</sub> system, no improvement in or approximation to L<sub>2</sub> system takes place. The trouble that the L<sub>2</sub> learners get into is not only because of the initial perception of L<sub>2</sub> phonemes but because the new phonemes of the English language are so different from those in the L<sub>1</sub>. The phonemes like /f, v, θ, ð, ʒ, r, w, ʌ, ɔ, ɔ:, ə:, iə, uə, ɛə, ei, ai, ɔi, əu, au/ are mostly unknown. So approximate equivalents are used in their place. These sounds being new, the proper manner in which they are articulated is not known to the Satara speakers. All the sounds mentioned above bring about a considerable and even a radical change in their speech as the approximate equivalents differ both in the place of articulation and the manner of articulation.

Apart from the graphic features representing the phonemes, there are many more features which are hardly discernible in writing to the L<sub>2</sub> learners. Suprasegmental features which make one's speech sound English remain absent in the speech of the Satara professionals. Stress, intonation, weak-forms etc., characterize the English speech as such but the Satara professionals do not make use of these as they are not significant in Marathi.

The Satara professionals being L<sub>2</sub> learners of English and being brought up in the surroundings of their own mother

tongue could hardly acquire the native English phonological system but they share a good deal in common with the Educated Indian English. As compared to the recommended EIE (Nihalani et al 1979) the inventory of phonemes of Satara speakers shows that there are the following differences:

(1) Pure Vowels:

| <u>EIE</u> | <u>Satara Variety</u> |
|------------|-----------------------|
| /i:/       | /i:/                  |
| /i/        | /i/                   |
| /e/        | /e/                   |
| /ɛ/        | /ɛ/                   |
| /æ/        | /æ/                   |
| /a:/       | /ɑ/                   |
| /ɒ/        | /ɔ/                   |
| /ɔ:/       | /o/                   |
| /u/        | /u/                   |
| /u:/       | /u:/                  |
| /ə/        | /ə/                   |

In both, the number of pure vowels is the same except /ɒ:/ in EIE and /o/ in the Satara variety. In EIE, the long /ɔ/ i.e. /ɔ:/ is maintained but the Satara speakers use /ɔ/ for both long and short varieties. Apart from the marginal differences of length etc., the Satara variety of pure vowels do not differ much from EIE.

(2) Diphthongs:

| <u>EIE</u> | <u>Satara Variety</u> |
|------------|-----------------------|
| /ai/       | /aj/ (/ai/)           |
| /ɔi/       | /ɔi/                  |
| /eə /      | -                     |
| /iə /      | /ijə / (/iə /)        |
| /uə /      | /uə /                 |
| /au/       | /aɥ/ (/au/)           |

In the case of diphthongs the Satara variety differs considerably from EIE. EIE has six diphthongs while the Satara variety has only five. EIE /eə / is missing in the Satara variety because it is substituted by /ɛ / in. Both /ai/ and /iə / exist in EIE as well as in the Satara variety except that the Satara speakers either substitute /i/ by /j/ or add /j/ to the diphthongs. So the Satara variety has /aj/ at several places and /ijə / frequently in place of EIE /ai/ and /iə / respectively. Again EIE /au/ has often been substituted by /aɥ/ by the Satara speakers. Though the difference is easily noted and felt, it is not likely to pose any grave problem as far as intelligibility is concerned.

(3) Consonants:

| <u>EIE</u>        | <u>Satara Variety</u> |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| /p/               | /p/                   |
| /b/               | /b/                   |
| /t/               | /t/                   |
| /d/               | /d/                   |
| /k/               | /k/                   |
| /g/               | /g/                   |
| /f/               | /p <sup>h</sup> /     |
| /v/               | /w <sup>h</sup> /     |
| /t <sup>h</sup> / | /t <sup>h</sup> /     |
| /d <sup>h</sup> / | /d <sup>h</sup> /     |
| /s/               | /s/                   |
| /z/               | /ʃ/                   |
| /ʃ/               | /ṣ/                  |
| /h/               | /h/                   |
| /m/               | /ts/ /tʃ/             |
| /n/               | /dz/ /dʒ/             |
| /ŋg/              | /d <sup>h</sup> z/    |
| /l/               | /m/                   |
| /r/               | /n/                   |
| /w/               | /ŋ/                   |
| /j/               | /ŋg/                  |
| /tʃ/              | /l/                   |
| /dʒ/              | /ɟ/                   |
|                   | /w/                   |
|                   | /j/                   |

EIE number of consonants has been exceeded by the Satara variety consonants. The Satara variety has two more consonants. In both the systems the number of plosives has considerably gone up. Fricatives /θ/ and /ð/ are converted into plosives. The Satara speakers go ahead and substitute /f/ by bilabial aspirated plosive /p<sup>h</sup>/ and /v/ is substituted by bilabial aspirated semi-vowel /w<sup>h</sup>/. Again /t/ and /d/ by the Satara speakers differ from EIE in that they are retroflex. As far as the fricatives are concerned, both the systems have reduced the list to a minimum. EIE uses /ʃ/ in place of /ʒ/ which does not exist in the Satara variety either. Only the difference is that instead of /ʃ/, it is substituted by /dz/ and the aspirated variety of the same substitutes /z/ which the Satara speakers hardly use. When we look at the list of nasals both the systems run parallel except an additional voiced retroflex nasal /ɳ/ used by the Satara speakers and it seems to be the result of their mother tongue because Marathi has both /n/ and /ɳ/ in it. Two more points where the Satara variety deviates slightly from EIE are the frictionless continuant /r/ and labio velar semi-vowel /w/. The Satara speakers seem to substitute /r/ by a tap i.e. /ɾ/ and /w/ seems to be substituted by a bilabial semi-vowel articulated either with neutral or with slightly spread lips.

From the above we can see that the English spoken by the Satara professionals who are not free from the mother tongue influence do not differ radically from the educated Indians in speech. The marginal differences may be because of the different mother tongue.

As far as intelligibility of English spoken by the Satara professionals is concerned, in spite of the fact that they slightly differ from EIE speakers in lengthening and contracting pure vowels and again in the formation of diphthongs; they may well be understood by other Indians but they are likely to face difficulties if confronted by native speakers of English.

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