Contrastive Study of Tone and Intonation in Koro Ashe and English: An Implication for Koro Ashe L2 Learners of English

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Abstract

This paper undertakes a contrastive study of tone and intonation in Koro Ashe and English; an implication for Koro Ashe L2 learners of English with the hope of helping the study populace to improve in their spoken aspect of English. The sample consisted of 20 randomly selected Koro Ashe ESL learners of English in Karu Local Government, Nasarawa State. The instrument used in collecting data for this investigation is Oral Production Test (OPT), a pronunciation test that assessed the participants' pronunciations of Koro Ashe words. The theoretical framework used in the paper was Contrastive Analysis (CA). The results showed that, Koro Ashe is a tonal language and that tone in Koro Ashe is capable of performing lexical function as it is demonstrated in words like *[ìnák]* L-L 'cow' and *[inak]* L-H 'sp tree', *[iwei]* L-L 'toad' and *[iwei]* L- H 'fear'. Tone in Koro Ashe can perform grammatical function, that is, changing singular nouns to plural as it is seen in words; *[inak]* (L-L) 'cow' and *[inak]* (H-H) 'cows', *[inor]* 'wound' (L-L) and *[inor]* 'wounds' (H-H), *[imai]* 'generation' (L-L) and *[imai]* 'generations' (H-H), *[iguk]* 'pocket' (L-L) and *[iguk]* (H-H) 'pockets', *[idʒu]* 'fly' (L-L) and *[idʒu]* 'flies' (H-H). However, in English, intonation (pitch) in English conveys information of a broadly meaningful nature, it can be used to express attitudes, interest, doubt, emphasis, certainty, politeness, mark boundaries of syntactic unit, signals division of utterances into intonation phrases, signals end of statement, signals "old" information and "new" information etc.

Keywords: Contrastive Study, Tone, Intonation, Koro Ashe, English Language.

Introduction

This paper undertakes a contrastive study of tone and intonation in Koro Ashe and English with the hope of improving the spoken English of the study populace. Koro Ashe (one of the dialects of Koro) spoken in Karu and Kagarko Local Government Area of Nasarawa and Kaduna states, traced its origin from the then Kwararafa Kingdom. Linguistically, Koro Ashe belongs to the Benue -Congo sub linguistic group, whose origin is traced to the then great Kwararafa kingdom (Jatau 2023). Hence the Koro Ashe people are predominantly located in Karu and Kagarko Local Government Areas of Nasarawa and Kaduna States. To simply put, the Koro people are conspicuously located in the North central parts of Nigeria (Jatau, cited in Igube 43). Nigeria. According to the 2006 population census, the estimated

population of Koro Ashe in both Karu and Kagarko Local Government Areas in Kaduna and Nasarawa States was 143,832.

Jatau (ibid) cited identifies the two standard varieties of Koro Ashe; they are Koro Ashe *Itorn /itōr/* and the Koro Ashe *Icheck /intʃɛk/.* Below is the glossary that distinguishes the two varieties:

Table 1: *Illustration Showing the Two Standard/Dialets of Koro Ashe in Free Variation*

Itorn /itōr/	Tones	Icheck /intʃɛk/.	Tones
[hwa] 'drink'	H	*[fa]* 'drink'	H
[hwer] 'to dig'	L	*[fer]* 'to dig'	L
[ʃai] 'start'	L	*[sai]* ' start'	L
[aʒei] 'tiredness'	L- L	*[azei]* 'tiredness'	L- L

Researches in the phonology of Nigerian languages and Koro Ashe inclusive have continued to attract the attention of scholars to explore the phonological aspect such as; Abubakar & Sanusi 2023; *A Study of English and Hausa Syllable Structures and their Implication for Teaching and Learning in Secondary Schools*; Mohammed 2022; *Orthography and Phonology of Gwandara Language in Comparison with English;* Aondover &Anaso 2015; *A Contrastive Anlysis of English and Tiv Segmental Phonemes;* Dorathy & Ali 2015, *Contrastive Study Analysisof some Segmental Features of Igala and English Phonology*; Jatau 2023, *Contrastive Study of Phonological Features of Koro Ashe and English;* etc.

English language on the other hand, which is a Germanic language that was first spoken in the early Medieval England, is now a global lingua franca, named after the Angles, one of the Germanic tribes from England. English is the third most spread language in the world after standard Chinese and Spanish. English is said to be the most commonly spoken language as a mother tongue in the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, Austria, Ireland, Newzealand, and it is widely spoken in some areas of the Caribbean, Africa, and South Asia (Jatau ibid).

English language in Nigeria is the official language used as a medium of communication in the domains of government, the law, the media, international commerce, record keeping, and educational system. English also serves as a unifying factor, a lingua franca, a mark of elitism, a license for the acquisition of profitable and prestigious jobs and admissions into most tertiary institutions Nigeria. In fact, one would say that English language has come to stay in Nigeria and it has been favoured over our indigenous languages (Jatau, ibid)

Despite the importance and prestige accorded to English language in Nigeria, Koro Ashe learners of English do have pronunciation difficulties largely attributed to the negative transfer of the features of L1 (Koro Ashe) to the target language (English). This phenomenon results to hearing odd expressions, unintelligible speeches and misinterpretations of message being communicated.

The distribution and functionality of tone and intonation differ remarkably in Koro Ashe and English. Koro Ashe is a tonal language in which tones in Koro Ashe are capable of

performing grammatical function of, distinguishing between words that are singular and plural. for instance, *[inak]* (L-L) 'cow' and *[inak]* (H-H) 'cows', *[inor]* 'wound' (L-L) and *[inor]* 'wounds' (H-H), *[imai]* 'generation' (L-L) and *[imai]* 'generations' (H-H), *[iguk]* 'pucket' (L-L) and *[iguk]* (H-H) 'puckets' (Jatau, ibid). Also, tones in Koro Ashe also perform lexical function as it is illustrated in the table below:

Table 1.1: *Showing Words and their Tones Pattern in Koro Ashe*

Words	Tone pattern	Gloss
irok	fall – fall	'throat'
irok	Rise –rise	'gravels'
ikɔk	Fall – fall	'chest'
ikɔk	Fall- mid	'hilly rock'

Jatau (2023)

Hence, intonation in English can be used to express attitudes, interest, indifference, emphasis, doubt, certainty, Politeness etc. Considering this mark of difference of tone and intonation in Koro Ashe and English, Koro Ashe speakers of English are bound to have challenges when it comes to the realization of intonation. For instance, intonation does not result in the change of meaning of word as it is in Koro Ashe but may shows like of interest, doubt, high disagree of doubt, or emotional involvement for example, "I saw a cross –eyed elephant." Then the response;

'Really' (mid pitch) shows lack of interest.

'Really' (with rising pitch) shows doubt.

'Really' (with low –rise) further shows high degree of doubt.

'Really' (with rise- fall) expressing emotional involvement.

Intonation system operates quite different from the tone system in the sense that, intonation affects the meaning of a whole utterance, while tone in tone languages affects meaning of a word. However, using different tones in the word 'really' in English doesn't change the meaning of the word. Therefore, using correct intonation will enable you sound more natural and intelligible to both native and non native speakers of English.

Statement of the Problem

Intonation is the most difficult aspects of supra segmental features English that pose challenges to L2 Koro Ashe and other L2 learners of English. The difficulty stems from the complex nature of English intonation couple with the poor teaching of it in our schools. Another problem is stemmed from the fact that Koro Ashe is a tonal language as oppose to intonation of English. Tone in Koro Ashe and other Nigerian Languages can perform both lexical and grammatical functions. However, English intonation performs attitudinal function that expresses attitudes and– emotions – to show shock or surprise, pleasure or anger, interest or boredom, seriousness or sarcasm, and many others. Also, Intonation helps to identify grammatical structures in speech rather as punctuation does in writing.

Lack of balance between intonation and word content, or intonation and the grammatical structure of the utterance may result in unintelligible speech. For instance, a highly forceful or exciting statement said with a very matter-of-fact intonation may, by its lack of balance, produce a type of irony; if one says something very complimentary, but with an intonation of contempt, the result is an insult. Native speakers of English exploit intonation patterns in many subtle ways that are not obvious at first sight. If you speak English as a second or foreign language, these uses of intonation may have no parallel in your first language. This can lead to your breakdown in communication when a native speaker is interacting with a non-native speaker.

In a conversation situation, many a non-native speaker may fail to understand some or all of the part of the native speaker's message that is conveyed by intonation patterns. The native speaker, unaware both of his or her own use of intonation and of the non-native's failure to pick up on it, wrongly assume that the message has been fully understood. Later, it becomes evident that the message has not been fully understood, and neither participant in the conversation knows why. English makes more elaborate use of intonation to signal meaning than do most other languages. This is further reason why it should not be neglected by learners and teachers of English as a foreign language (Zulfugarowa, 2018). It is in consonance to these challenges that the researcher carries out a contrastive study of tone and intonation in Koro Ashe and English so as to promote the effective mastering of intonation by the study populace.

Objectives of the Study

The Objectives of this paper are to:

1. Examine the extent at which tone and intonation are realized in English and Koro Ashe.
2. Examine the extent at which tone and intonation are functioned in English and Koro Ashe.
3. Examine some possible consequences of the difference between the tone and intonation systems of English and Koro Ashe.

Research Questions

1. What is the extent of similarities and differences at which tone and intonation are realized in English and Koro Ashe?
2. What is the extent of differences at which tone and intonation are function in English and Koro Ashe?
3. What are some of the possible some possible consequences of the difference between the tone and intonation systems of English and Koro Ashe?

Conceptual Review

The following are reviews of concepts related to the topic of the paper.

Tone and Tonal Languages

In many languages in which the pitch at which the syllable in a word are pronounced can make a difference in word meaning. Such languages are called tone languages. Tone refers to pitch operating over syllables to distinguish lexical and grammatical meaning that is distinguish or to inflect words; or it is seen as the variations in pitch that affect the meaning of words. Languages that use tones to differentiate meaning of words are referred to as tonal languages and the distinctive tone patterns of such language are sometimes called tonemes (Alagbe 2016).

Jatau, (2023) gives examples of tones that perform both lexical and grammatical functions below:

Table 1.3: *Showing the Grammatical Functions of Tone in Koro Ashe*

Nouns Singular	Tones	Nouns Plural	Tones
[inak] 'cow'	L –L	*[inak]* 'cows'	H- H
[inor] 'wound'	L- L	*[inor]* 'wounds'	H- H
[igum] 'tilapia fish'	L- L	*[igum]* 'tilapia fishes'	H- H

Table 1.4: *Showing the Lexical functions of Tones in Koro Ashe words*

Nouns Singular	Tones	Nouns Plural	Tones
[iwei] 'frog'	L –L	*[iwei]* 'fear'	L- H
[ukom] 'whirl-wind'	L- L	*[ukom]* 'corpse'	H- H
[iʃiu] 'sweat'	L- L	*[iʃiu]* 'spp of mushroom'	H- H
[iʃoho] 'worm'	L- L	*[iʃoho]* 'it is'	L- H-H

Base on the views of the scholars above, the fact is that, tone is a phonological correlate of pitch that distinguishes meaning in words that are spelt the same. Some languages are contour tones, (where the tone system somehow complex), while others are termed as register or level tone languages. Tone, in tonal languages can perform both lexical as well as grammatical functions.

Intonation in English

Intonation in phonetics refers to the melodic pattern of an utterance or the variation in the pitch level of the voice across a stretch of speech such as sentence. The meaning of sentence can depend on the part on the sentence's intonation contour. Intonation is also seen as the varying of pitch across a longer stretch of speech and it conveys information of a broadly meaningful nature; for instance, falling pitch signals end of statement. For instance, "Fred packed the car." While rising pitch signals incompleteness. For instance, "Are you hungry?" The WH –question (falling tone) indicates an answer is expected (Alagbe 2016). Intonation as the rise and fall in pitch of the speaker's voice to express attitudes, interest, indifference, emphasis, doubt, certainty, Politeness etc. Alagbe (2016). In most intonational languages, pitch fluctuation affects the entire utterance.

Talking about the most important functions of intonation, Zulfogarowa (2018) puts that are to distinguish types of sentences (statements, questions, commands, requests) and to divide sentences into sense groups. Also, intonation allows speakers to express various emotions. The tone (rise, fall, etc.) is the most significant pitch change that takes place at the end of sense groups and at the end of the sentence. According to the source, the terminal tone at the end of the sentence is the most important means for determining the type of sentence (statement, question, command, request). Intonation patterns serve to actualize syntagms in oral speech. It may be well to remind you here that the syntagm is a group of words which is semantically and syntactically complete. In phonetics actualized syntagms are called intonation groups (sense-groups, tone-groups).

Alagbe (2016) reiterates that intonation that intonation is the major source of meaning variation in English. He exemplifies that the word 'yes' and 'no' are common with speakers of English. The words can be in great variety of ways to bring out various shades of meaning in English. For instance, the word 'yes' said with a falling tone (\) suggest agreement on an issue stated or argued. When the same word 'yes' said with a rising tone (/) suggest a doubt in the mind of the speaker. In a similar way, the words "thank you" said with a falling tone is used to express gratitude, however if the same words uttered in a rising tone, it may demonstrate casual acknowledgement of something said or done. Furthermore, the word the words "good morning" when said with a falling tone, suggests formal greetings which ordinarily should reply.

Alagbe (ibid) & Zulfogarowa (ibid) discusses extensively several functions of intonation in the English language which include; the attitudinal function of intonation that expresses our attitudes and– emotions – to show shock or surprise, pleasure or anger, interest or boredom, seriousness or sarcasm, and many others. The grammatical function of Intonation helps identify grammatical structures in speech rather as punctuation does in writing. We use intonation to mark the beginning and of grammatical units such as clause and sentence. We do this by tonality. We also use intonation to distinguish clause types, such as question vs. statement, and to disambiguate various grammatically ambiguous structures (the syntactic function). We do this mainly by tone. The focusing (also called accentual or informational) function. Intonation helps to show what information in an utterance is new and what is already known. We use it to bring some parts of the message into focus, and leave other parts out of focus; to emphasis or highlight some parts and not others. We do this by tonicity and by the placement of other accents.

Giving a clear distinction between tone and intonation, Carlos (2018) maintains that, tone and intonation are two types of pitch variation, which are used by speakers of many languages in order to give shape to utterances. More specifically, tone encodes morphemes, and intonation gives utterances a further discoursal meaning that is independent of the meanings of the words themselves.

Empirical Review

Frank (2017) carries out research on the intonation patterns in Akan (Kwa, NIGER Congo) the outcomes of the research show that, tonal processes such downstep, tonal spreading and tonal replacement influence the surface tone pattern of a sentence. In general, any Akan utterance independent of sentence types shows down trend in pitch. Shehu & Njidda (2016) conducted research on the realization of tone by Fulfulde native speakers and to assess whether such difficulty is as result of the influence of their language on L1. The results show that Fulfulde native speakers fine it difficult to distinguish lexical items based on tone variation

Asudu, Okoro & Kadiri (2019) did analysis of intonation patterns of selected Nigerian Bilingual Educated speakers of English. The study revealed level of proficiency in the use and the assignment and accurate patterns of intonation in the speeches of the participants. Faleke (2013) investigated patterns of intonation tunes in the marking of attitudes in Nigerian English. It was observed that the use of tunes in Nigerian English was low; where the differences lie minimally in the utterances with falling pitch and appear significantly with the rising tone.

Theoretical Framework

Contrastive Analysis (CA)

Contrastive Analysis as an approach was developed in the 1950's and 1960's which is an applied in Structural Linguistics to language teaching and is based on the assumption that the main difficulties in learning a new language are caused by interference from the first language. These difficulties can be predicted by Contrastive Analysis and teaching materials may make use of Contrastive Analysis studies to reduce the effects of interference. CA was used extensively in the field of Second Language Acquisition (SLA) in the 1960's and the early 1970's as method of explaining why some features of a target language (L2) were more difficult to acquire than the others.

According to the behaviourist theories prevailing at time language learning is seen as a question of habit formation, and this could be reinforced or impeded by existing habits. Therefore, the difficulty in mastering certain structures in as second language depended on the differences between the learners L1 and the L2 they are trying to learn. It was expected that once the areas of potential difficulty had been mapped out through CA, it would be possible to design language courses more efficiently. Corder and Williams cited in Jatau (2023) re-iterate that Contrastive Analysis reveals those structural differences and similarities between L1 and L2 and provide us with information on where the main emphasis of teaching should fall, explaining the differences when the needs arise and suggesting possible ways and methods in which materials may be presented, described and practiced in the classroom.

Richards and Schmidt cited in Jatau (ibid) see Contrastive Linguistic Studies as a branch of Linguistics that aims at comparing pairs of two languages, which have a practical objective of showing up the differences and the similarities between L1 and L2. According to them,

Contrastive Analysis is more successful in phonology than in other language areas. It is in consonance to this that the researcher adopts CA as the theoretical framework employed for this investigation.

Methodology
Research Design
Considering the fact that this is a linguistic investigation, the researcher employs the use of descriptive research survey design approach to carry out this investigation. The choice of this research design will enable investigator to describe and contrast the tone and intonation features of Koro Ashe and English which have practical objectives of showing the aspects in which the two languages differ or resemble each other.

Population
The population of this investigation is the Koro Ashe speakers, who can communicate fluently in Koro Ashe language. Out of the 24 villages and hamlets of Koro Ashe in both Local Governments of Nasarawa, ten (10) villages and hamlets were randomly selected to carry out the investigation. Also, out of these ten (10) villages and hamlets randomly selected, one (2) respondent was randomly selected from each of the villages, thus, making a total of twenty (20) respondents randomly selected for this study. The ten (10) randomly selected villages and hamlets include: Angwanpah- Iche, Kube, Kukan, Tanga, Kukuri, Angwan-maje, Shinkafa, Kuda Koro and Kondoro Koro.

Method of Data Collection
The method for data collection for this investigation is primary method. Oral Production Test (OPT), an instrument developed by Educational Testing Service (ETS) was an instrument used in collecting the primary data from the subjects. In this case, appointments were made with each of the participants to collect their responses. The respondents were asked to pronounce words in Koro Ashe, while their oral speeches were tape – recorded using audio recording system done in a place devoid of noise and which has the capability of increase the quality of sounds. Although video recording would have been more effective but the researcher believed it could introduce an exhibiting factor in more timid participants and the researcher did not have a hidden camera, therefore the video recording option was discarded and left for future approaches to the subject.

Technique for Data Analysis
In order to ensure effective analysis of the data collected from the field of study, the data collected were played several times, listened, transcribed and tabulated according to their various phonological features (tones) in Koro Ashe and (intonation) English in order to ascertain their divergence and convergence.

Data Presentation

Table 4.1: *showing the grammatical distribution of tones in Koro Ashe*

Nouns Singular	Tones	Nouns Plural	Tones
[inak] 'cow'	L –L	*[inak]* 'cows'	H- H
[inor] 'wound'	L- L	*[inor]* 'wounds'	H- H
[igum] 'tilapia fish'	L- L	*[igum]* 'tilapia fishes'	H- H
[ini:] 'elephant'	L- L	*[ini:]* 'elephants'	H- H
[imai] 'generation'	L- L	*[imai]* 'generations'	H- H

A close examination of the pairs of words in Table 4.7 shows those tones in Koro Ashe are capable of performing grammatical function of, distinguishing between words that are singular and plural. for instance, *[inak]* (L-L) 'cow' and *[inak]* (H-H) 'cows', *[inor]* 'wound' (L-L) and *[inor]* 'wounds' (H-H), *[imai]* 'generation' (L-L) and *[imai]* 'generations' (H-H). However, English uses intonation not tone.

However, the word 'six' in English, whether it is pronounced with rising or falling tone, does not result to meaning difference as it is in Koro Ashe. However, the word 'really' in English could be pronounced using mid pitch to show lack of interest or to pronounce with rising pitch to expresses doubt, and to pronounce with rise- fall to expresses emotional involvement. Intonation in English conveys information of a broader meaningful nature: for instance, falling pitch is used to signal end of statements and 'old' information, while rising pitch signals incompleteness and 'new' information. Intonation could be used to mark the boundaries of syntactic unit.

Table 4.2: *Showing the grammatical distribution of tones in Koro Ashe*

Nouns Singular	Tones	Nouns Plural	Tones
[idʒi] 'mistake'	L –L	*[[idʒi]* 'truth'	H- H
[ifi] 'cloud'	L- L	*[ifi]* 'groundnuts'	H- H
[uʃi:] 'night'	L- L	*[uʃi:]* 'weist'	L- H
[inak] 'cow'	L- L	*[inak]* 'spp of tree'	L- M
[ima:] 'teaching'	L- L	*[ima:]* 'milet'	H- H
[iguk] 'goiter'	L- L	*[iguk]* 'puckets'	H- H

Analysis of the data in Table 4.8 shows that tones in Koro Ashe are capable of performing lexical function of distinguishing the meaning of words that have the same spelling but differ in their tones. For instance *[idʒi]* L –L 'mistake' and *[[idʒi]* H- H 'truth', *[ima:]* 'teaching' L-L and *[ima:]* 'milet' H- H, *[inak]* 'cow' L-L and *[inak]* 'spp of tree' L-M.

However, the word 'really' in English could be pronounced using mid pitch to show lack of interest or to pronounce with rising pitch to expresses doubt, and to pronounce with rise-fall to expresses emotional involvement. Intonation in English conveys information of a broader meaningful nature: for instance, falling pitch is used to signal end of statements

and 'old' information, while rising pitch signals incompleteness and 'new' information. Intonation could be used to mark the boundaries of syntactic unit.

Table 4.3: Showing the lexical distribution of tones in Koro Ashe

Nouns Singular	Tones	Nouns Plural	Tones
[iwei] 'frog'	L –L	*[iwei]* 'fear'	L- H
[ukom] 'whirl-wind'	L- L	*[ukom]* 'corpse'	H- H
[iʃiu] 'sweat'	L- L	*[iʃiu]* 'spp of mushroom'	H- H
[iʃoho] 'worm'	L- L	*[iʃoho]* 'it is'	L- H-H
[ila] 'laziness'	L- L	*[ila]* 'sickness'	L- H

The results of the Analysis in the data in the table above show that tones in Koro Ashe are capable of distinguishing the meaning of words that have the same spelling but differ in their tones. Thus changing the tones will result in semantic change in Koro Ashe. For instance *[iwei]* 'frog'L-L and *[iwei]* 'fear' L-H, *[ukom]* 'whirl-wind' L-L and *[ukom]* 'corpse' H-H, *[ila]* 'laziness' L-L and *[ila]* 'sickness' L-H. Tone in English could be used to signals lack of interest, expresses doubt and emotional involvement.

Table 4. 4: Showing the Lexical distribution of tones in Koro Ashe

Nouns Singular	Tones	Nouns Plural	Tones
[idʒi] 'mistake'	L –L	*[[idʒi]* 'truth'	H- H
[ifi] 'cloud'	L- L	*[ifi]* 'groundnuts'	H- H
[uʃi:] 'night'	L- L	*[uʃi:]* 'weist'	L- H
[inak] 'cow'	L- L	*[inak]* 'spp of tree'	L- M
[ima:] 'teaching'	L- L	*[ima:]* 'milet'	H- H
[iguk] 'goiter'	L- L	*[iguk]* 'puckets'	H- H

Analysis of the data in Table 4.8 shows that tones in Koro Ashe are capable of performing lexical function of distinguishing the meaning of words that have the same spelling but differ in their tones. For instance *[idʒi]* L –L 'mistake'and *[[idʒi]* H- H 'truth', *[ima:]* 'teaching'L-L and *[ima:]* 'milet' H- H, *[inak]* 'cow' L-L and *[inak]* 'spp of tree' L-M. However, the word 'really' in English could be pronounced using mid pitch to show lack of interest or to pronounce with rising pitch to expresses doubt, and to pronounce with rise- fall to expresses emotional involvement. Intonation in English conveys information of a broader meaningful nature: for instance, falling pitch is used to signal end of statements and 'old' information, while rising pitch signals incompleteness and 'new' information. Intonation could be used to mark the boundaries of syntactic unit.

Discussion of the Findings

Taking a close look of the findings in this investigation, one could conclude that, Koro Ashe is a tonal language and that tone in Koro Ashe is capable of performing both lexical fuction

in words like *[ìnȧk]* L-L 'cow' and *[inak]* L-H 'sp tree', *[iwei]* L-L 'toad' and *[iwei]* L- H 'fear', *[ila]* L-L 'laziness' and *[ila]* L-H 'illness', *[idum]* L-L 'jug' and *[idum]* L-H 'cobra', *[oʃu]* L-L 'begging' and *[oʃu]* L-H 'eyes'. Also, tone in Koro Ashe can perform grammatical function, that is, by changing singular nouns that are spelled the same to plural as it is seen in words; *[inak]* (L-L) 'cow' and *[inak]* (H-H) 'cows', *[inor]* 'wound' (L-L) and *[inor]* 'wounds' (H-H), *[imai]* 'generation' (L-L) and *[imai]* 'generations' (H-H), *[iguk]* 'pocket' (L-L) and *[iguk]* (H-H) 'pockets', *[iʤu]* 'fly' (L-L) and *[iʤu]* 'flies' (H-H) respectively.

However, in English, Intonation (pitch) in English conveys information of a broadly meaningful nature, it can be used to express attitudes, interest, doubt, emphasis, certainty, politeness, mark boundaries of syntactic unit, signals division of utterances into intonation phrases, signals end of statement, signals "old" information and "new" information etc. for instance, the word "really" whether it is realized using rising, falling, low- rise, rise-fall tones do not contrast the meaning but it may shows lack of interest, doubt, emotional involvement. Hence, this implies that Koro Ashe learners of English must learn the correct realization of stress and the intonation systems of English in order to produce intelligible speeches.

Conclusion

A contrastive study of tone and intonation in Koro Ashe and English showed that, the two languages differ significantly. For instance, Koro Ashe in a tonal language in which tone is capable of performing both lexical and grammatical functions. Intonation (pitch) in English conveys information of a broadly meaningful nature; it affects the meaning of the whole utterance or sentence. Intonation can be used to express attitudes, interest, doubt, emphasis, certainty, politeness, mark boundaries of syntactic unit, signals division of utterances into intonation phrases, signals end of statement, signals "old" information and "new" information etc. Thus, in intonation affects the meaning of the whole utterance or sentence. Hence, this difference implies that the Koro Ashe learners of English are bound to have problem in realizing correctly the English intonation system. This difference also implies that the study populace (Koro Ashe) must made serious commitment to learn and master the correct realization of intonation systems of English in order to produce intelligible speeches.

Recommendations

Bases on the outcome and the conclusion of this paper, the researcher recommends that:
1. Intonation system of English should be taught earlier in nursery or primary schools to Koro Ashe L2 Learners of English to minimize the pronunciation problem that affects adults.
2. The teaching of intonation, emphasis should be focused on the realizations of the various functions of intonation in order to avoid unintelligible speech.

3. Experienced and qualified teachers should be employed to handle the effective teaching intonation and tone to Koro Ashe learners and other L2 learners of English.

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