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Diphthongization of English Vowels

S T R A C T

Deictic expressions can affect the literary translation. They represent a way of persuading readers to imagine a fictional world when reading a literary work in a source text and target one. Yet, the literature lacks a conceptual framework correlating the use of deixis and their translation, especially in relation to literary works. Hence, this paper attempts to build a conceptual framework relating deixis and their translation in literary works, especially in relation to poetic translation. It is suggested that deixis can be a considerable issue in conducting the accurate poetic translation. This can be achieved by developing a model that considers deixis in poetic translation. Therefore, the study built a network that can be used to translate the deictic expressions used in literary works, e.g., poems, novels, plays and short stories

الخلاصة

تسلط هذه الدراسة الضوء على ظاهرة الازدواج في اصوات العلة النقية في اللغة الانكليزية. تبدأ الدراسة في عرض تاريخي مختصر لتطور اصوات العلة القديمة خلال مراحل تطور اللغة الانكليزية في العصر القديم والحديث. وتتضمن الدراسة ايضا ظاهرة الازدواجية في لهجات اللغة الانكليزية مع الاشارة الى موضوع التناغم الصوتي لاصوات العلة كونه عامل مهم في تحديد الاصوات التي تزوج. كما ان الدراسة تشير الى الفرق بين ظاهرة الاحادية والفرق بينها والازدواجية

1. Introduction

1.1 Historical Review of Vowel Change

The current study intends to characterize the most important phenomenon that gives rise to the origins of English diphthongs. This can be portrayed by the process of diphthongization which is carried out either by dialectal variation or the phonetic changes that Old, Middle, and Modern English have undergone. In several features, Old English seems to differ from Middle and Modern ones as it is directed by the simplification in some recent studies. It is proposed that the development from Old English to Middle is something more than normal. Such changes or developments are specifically have to do or associated with what is called the Norsification and French invasion (Thomson and Kaufman, 1988: 263).

The Old English written in the first two thirds of eleventh century is the standard literary language, in other words, in the first or the early Medieval Europe after Irish. It represents that spoken language of specific region like Berkshire and Hampshire about A.D. 900. The regular Middle English which starts from A. D. 1250 is the spoken language with all its varieties. The settlement of the Norse invasion in some areas of Britain is a crucial fact that has its effects on linguistic consequences in ninth and tenth century. Consequently the Norman conquest of England in the eleventh century is also subject of rendering English as a cultivated language (ibid: 246).

As a result of non-uniformities from a dialectal influences, Old English has some changes represented by diphthongization and monophthongization of especially vowels of Germanic origin. This can

be manifested by the variation of long vowel /a:/ as it is realized as /ae:/. The non-initial vowels, in some voiced phonetic environments like [ae:] and the central open front vowel /y/ changed to /e/. This is specifically taken place in eight century (ibid: 265-266).

Bergs and Brinton (2012: 594-595) pinpoint that vowel system of early Modern English that is inherited from Middle English is surely different from the present-day English. The changes carried out from Old and Middle English are crystalized by process of diphthongization and monophthongization which occur or modify long vowels (i.e. either shortening , lengthening or modifications of quality). Middle English had few closing diphthongs whose second element is either /i/ or /u/. The matter gives rise to quality and quantity variation that some monophthongs came to be diphthongized.

In fourteenth century vowel system seems to be less familiar to what is called normal vowels of English and also shortly after Chaucer's time. The unfamiliarity which is tackled here is represented by the great vowel shift which is manipulated and conducted in the pronunciation of English vowels. The era till the fourteenth century for example vowels like /eɪ/, /aʊ/, and /aɪ/ are being realized long monophthongs as /a:/, /u:/ and /i:/ (Collins and M. Mees, 2008: 195).

The area of phonetics that is underwent the most dramatic changes in Early Modern English, is vowels. Short vowels have little variation or change through the whole age of language. On the other hand, monophthongs continue to change that it makes the evolutionary and noticeable modification of long ones and qualitative differences especially between short and long. The new-formed diphthongs / əɪ/ and

/ ə u/ (or /ɛɪ/ and /ɔu/) come to widen or add /aɪ/ and /aʊ /. The early era of Modern English is the most influential period when vowels are shaped to form the diphthongs of present-day English (Bergs and Brinton, 2012: 602).

As for Modern English, an idea found in 1844 of A. J. Ellis but it is not fully formalized until the First World War. Hence, Daniel Jones, a phonetician at University College London, worked out what is called nowadays 'The system of cardinal vowels'. Jones trained many phoneticians in Britain for many years. The oral tradition of learning and being perfect to master cardinal vowels is still coached among phoneticians in many different countries like Britain, USA, Germany, Australia and also considered as a British tradition. The cardinal vowels require more than possibility of human tract rather than the actual vowel of a language because they are founded on theoretical concepts (Ogden, 2009: 56-57).

The table below contains the main diphthongs that are derived and developed from vowels of Old English to Modern English.

Latin Old English	Middle English	Modern English	Examples
1. a, æ, ea [a+r] a+ cv	/a/ /a:/ [æ:]	/e:/ >/ei/ /ɛə/	OE nacord ME naked bacan → OE bake → ME OE faran ME fare
2. eo, [ēa] [eā+ r] ǣ + ēa [ēa + r]	/ɛ:/	/i:/ and [e:] [eə] [ɪə]	OE ēar ME ear OE wer ME were OE s ēar

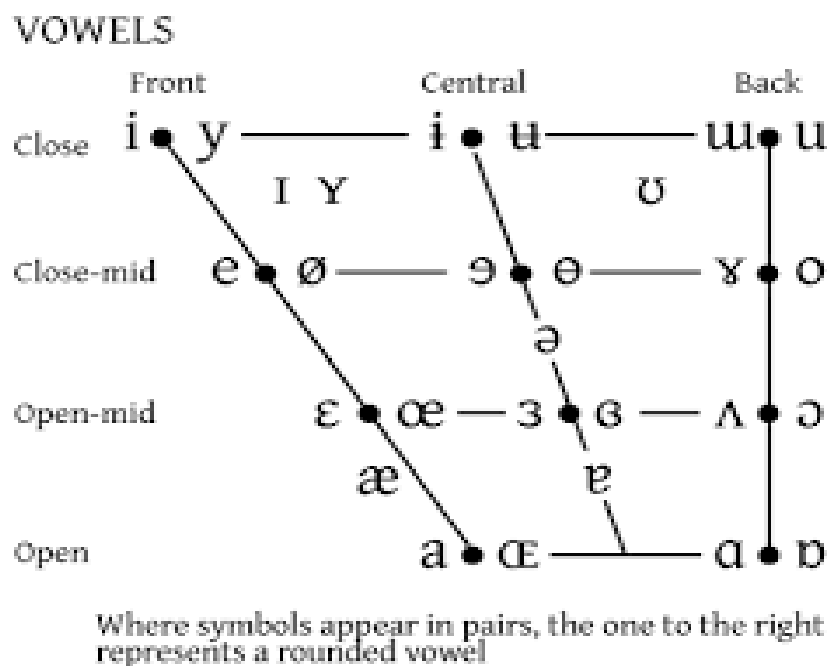
			Me sere
3. e [er] [ea]	/ɛ/	/əʊ/	OE brec ME break ber bear
4. [o, ô] Ā or (u + nd) and [ū + r]	/u:/	/əʊ/	OE fola ME foal nosu nose
5. / / + nd cc or (u + r) and [ū + r]	/u:/	/aʊ/	OE hūnd ME hound scūr shower
6. Î, ÿ	/i:/	/ai/	OE brȳd ME bride cġld child

1.2 Harmony and Harmonic Features

Vowel harmony a phonological feature by which vowels (whether they are long or short) agree or harmonize with a certain feature of specification or other. Harmony is continuously defined in terms of some features and approaches made by researchers for instance, agreement, locality, alignment and span theory (Sasa, 2009: 1-2). But, what is significant to this study is the most earliest approaches used within the field of optimality theory represented by the feature of alignment. This approach proposes that families of alignments for vowels constrains are regarded for features such as (back) and (round) (ibid: 10).

Chomsky and Halle (1968) propose that harmony can be defined by features of the relative placement of the articulator as compared to its neutral positioning. That is, it forms areas of vowels dual with back and

front which is featured by the mark [±] and for description one may [±back] , [± high/±low] to indicate the back of the tongue in the oral cavity. [±ATR] specifies the positioning of tongue root meaning either advanced or retracted during the articulation of vowels. Accordingly, the mentioned features are to be applied on the following IPA vowel chart (Kamer, 2003: 5):



In the chart of vowels above, there is a possibility to find areas of tongue positions that refer to neutralities between frontness and backness and vowel and unrounding. In addition, vowels also can be described by other three features like gravity, compactness and defuseness. These characteristics depend on the acoustic criteria for vowels (ibid). Another feature is utilized to manifest the vowel harmony named as the vocalic palatalization and also rooted earlier to differentiate consonantal articulation from a vowel one (ibid:6).

2. Diphthongization

Unlike other vowels of English, diphthongs are monosyllabic vowels. But, there are systemic differences (i.e. variations related to structure) in vowels system. British varieties show many different forms of diphthongs either related to regions or historical phonetic changes (Ogden, 2009: 64-65).

The term diphthongization seems to be related to two Norisification features that are distinctively Eastern. They didn't get taken in Northern English. One is the conjunction (ook) meaning (also) for which Medieval English refers to (eek). The other is more intimate and is only common in Norfolk. As a start of variety, it gives rise to the use of the diphthong /oə/ instead of /ɑ:/ in the preterit second person singular, plural and subjunctive of strong verbs. The common instances at that time are: /ɪə/ </e:/ ; or /eə/ </ae:/ as in the following words:

- goaven gave
- goaten got
- droapen killed
- spoaken spoke

These kinds of diphthong are related to Norse and Old Norse English (Thomson and Kaufman, 1988: 279).

In the restricting of Old English vowel system /v:/, /vj/ are reinterpreted as /və/, /vi/ and /vu/. Then a shift of /ai/ to /oə/ and allophonic lengthening of short vowels are also involved (ibid: 326). As a precise term, diphthongization is a process by which two modern R, P. English vowel phonemes /i:/ and /u:/ affected in or out of word boundary to form a glide to other short vowels and forming an articulatory undershoot (Ashby, 2011: 115).

Diphthongization and length are similar to each other sometimes in effect. The most important feature that marks short vowels is the steady quality, but sometimes it is not clear to show steadiness there must be prolongations in the phonetic contexts. Diphthongization and length are sometimes used to carry the same contrast. For instance, Cockney [a:] in 'out' is parallel to R.P. [aʊ] and [o:] in 'go' resembled to R.P. [əʊ] (O'Connor, 1973: 220).

Diphthongization may be processed on short and long vowels alike but not all the times. The common diphthongized vowels through British and other English varieties can be numerated in the following points.

1. /u/: Most varieties of Welsh English have a front glide point starts from short /ɪ/ forming the diphthong /ɪʊ/ in words like (through) and (threw) (Collins and M. Mees, 2008: 73).
2. /u:/: The vowel /u:/ in words like you, music etc. is a monophthong but it has been realized as diphthong in like 'blue' and 'blew' in Cockney dialect. The diphthongal glide starts from /ɪ/ to /u:/ resulting in /ɪu:/ (O, Corner, 1973: 162-163).
3. /i:/: When the long /i:/ precedes dark /ɪ/, some speakers vocalized the dark /ɪ/ by diphthongizing /i:/ to /ɪə/ as in feel /fiəl/ and real /riəl/ (Collins and M. Meers, 2008: 100).
4. /e/ is generally realized as the monophthong /e/ in words like 'many, set, meant, ...etc'. Its forms are [e] and [ɛ] and in other accents like of New Zealand is typically as the cardinal [e]. Moreover, it comes to be open vowel in Yorkshire and North of England and open still down to the cardinal [a] in North of Ireland and the South of Wales. The diphthongal realization of this vowel

can be heard in Cockney accent in words like bed, men, bred...etc. That the glide moves from the R.P. quality towards the direction of [i] forming /eɪ/ (O'Connor, 1973: 156).

5. /ɔʊ/: This diphthong results from the monophthong /o:/ of the late 16th like: know, and blow representing the present-day /ou/.
6. /eɪ/: It emerges from the long vowels of the middle English /ɛ:/ and /a:/ which has been diphthongized around 1800 in words like: ale, ape, bake, hate, knave, great, brake (Bergs and Brinton, 2012: 596).
7. /ɔɪ/: has a dialectal tendency and especially in Cockney that the diphthongal glide ends at closer position to the short / ʊ / (O'Connor, 1973: 161).
8. / æ /: is the cardinal vowel pronounced in pat, plat, cash is realized in R.P. as a short vowel between cardinal [ɛ] and [a]. Mostly it is considered as a monophthong but there must be a diphthongal glide from that position to a more central one. Some accents like Cockney and Birmingham have an approximated vowel about [ɛ] and in New Zealand is still closer too. On the other hand, many of the West and North of England pronounce the flat /a/ about cardinal [a] and in some Scottish and particularly North Irish accent the glide moves towards the back cardinal / ɒ /. Cockney again often pronounces words like bad, man where by diphthongal movements rises from cardinal [ɛ] up towards [i] (ibid: 157).

9. Diphthongs ending with Schwa

Diphthongs with schwa endings like /e ə /, /ɛə/ , /ɪə/ and /ʊə/ are found firstly as long monophthongs followed by /r/ in final or medial positions of words forming /e:r/, /i:r/, /u:r/ and /ɜ:r/ . These are diphthongized to be as /eə/, /ɛ ə /, /ɪ ə / and /ʊ ə / as in words like: dear,

bear, and poor. In fact, /e:r/ is developed as front Mid-close monophthong in the 15th and 16th century which is rooted in Old English words (dēore) and (hē ran) referring to deer and hear (Bergs and Brinton, 2012: 599).

2.1 Phonetic Breaking

Breaking is a special form of diphthongization which occurs in pre-lateral positions in Modern Received Pronunciation. The breaking process is achieved by the insertion of central-vowel glide after certain vowels in syllables closed by /l/ or /r/. Historically speaking, centering diphthongs of Modern Received Pronunciation (i.e M.R.P.) are the products of this vocalic lateral positioning and retroflexational dropping of /r/. Then the resultant diphthongs are /ɪ ə /, /eə/ and /ʊə/. The same process is conducted or adopted by General American speaker where a schwa glides between /ɪ/, /e/ or /æ / and a syllable ends with /r/.

Therefore, words will be pronounced as /fir/ or /fɪə/ [(h)wer, (h),wær] or [(h)weər, (h)wæər] for a word like where resulting in diphthongs of /ɪ ə/, e ə/, or /æə/. This process is usually called pre-r breaking (Ashby, 2011: 116).

Another kind of breaking is shown with the lateral /l/ phoneme. It is also called pre-l breaking that is abundant in Modern Received Pronunciation. It is carried out by the effect of the lateral consonant on the long front /i:/. When pre-l breaking that is abundant in Modern Received Pronunciation. It is carried out by the effect of the lateral consonant on the long front /i:/. When pre-l breaking is conducted it might possibly result in /i:ə/ in a word like feel /fi:əl/ and sometime heard

such as /iə/. As for the general American English it happens with back closed long vowel /u:/ that is heard as a /u:ə/ in fool [fu:əl] (ibid).

3. Monophthongization

The term monophthongization is realized as a type of compression or coalescence where by two vowels are combined together to one different phonetic form of both (Ashb, 2011: 114). In a broad sense, English has long and short monophthongs like /i:, ɪ:, u:, ʊ:/ . The short monophthongal cardinals are traditionally linked to the long ones which are numerated as /ɪ, æ, ɒ, ʊ, ə/. this anatomy leaves /e/ and /ʌ/ with long equivalents. By the equation of /ʌ/ with /ɜ:/ and /e/ with /eə/ might become a monophthongal in any case. But English is fetched too far from long/short relations and this concept is related to what is obtained from the Old English system consisting monophthongs like /ɪ, y, u, e, ɛ, a, o/ (O'Connor, 1973: 222).

As it is proposed by Thomson and Kaufman (1988: 327), the influence of French on English have huge effect on vowel system in the late fifteenth century from the period 1300 to 1600. Many diphthongs of Old English have been monophthongized as in the following arrangement:

- a. /iə/ becomes /i:/
- b. /eə/ becomes /e:/
- c. /uə/ becomes /u:/
- d. /oə/ becomes /o:/

Monophthongization is a fact that cannot be denied in the history of English. When Old English is considered as the major priority in Britain, it already has some dialectal non-uniformities. For instance, in some dialects of West Germanic /a:/ is reflected to have feature of the diphthong /ae:/ while in other varieties it is monophthongized to /e:/. The non-initial vowels in some voiced environments of words like [ae] and [y] are subject to be specified to /e/ and especially about eighth century (ibid: 265-266).

There is a respectable group of monophthongs that are made either historically or having dialectal grounds. They can be summed up in the following points:

1. /e/ can be realized in Scottish pronunciation of the word 'day' instead of the diphthong /eɪ/.
2. /o/: This monophthong occupies the peak of the sequence /oa/ in the Scottish pronunciation of the word coat, instead of the diphthong /əʊ/ in formal Received Pronunciation (Ashby, 2011: 100).

But Christopherson (1968: 73) assumes that Scottish speakers usually or in most of the times monophthongize /ou/ or /əʊ/ to the cardinal /ɔ:/.

3. It is highly recommended that the quality of the vowels in a natural language has a remarkable variation from one accent or dialect to another and it depends on the vowel production factor to be as steady as a monophthong (Collins and M. Mees, 2008: 63). For example, in General American English, it is noticed that the

diphthong /aɪ/ lacks the full glide movement sounding like /a:/ in a word like 'price' (ibid: 181).

4. The diphthong of Middle English /ɔə / is monophthongized to /ɔ:/ in lexemes like floor, door and whore (Bergs and Brinton, 2012, 600).
5. The back closing diphthong with an open front or mid central /aʊ/ is usually monophthongized by Londoners and Cocknies as in the word 'mouth' /ma:θ/ (Qttesen, 2011: 23).
6. Monophthongizing /eə/: this diphthong found in a word like 'square' is typically steady vowel in the present-day English. Though it can be heard as monophthong in Scottish English with /ɪ/ in medial or final position (Collins and M. Mees, 2008: 100).
7. Middle English has two diphthongs which are monophthongized to /u:/. They can be the forms /eʊ/ and /ɪʊ/ and widely related to the pronunciation of words like: beauty, dew, few, hew and new (Bergs and Brintonm 2012: 597).
8. The diphthong /eɪ/ comes to be monophthongized in accents of Wales and Northumberland. It is realized as long cardinal with the quality of the vowel /e/. Different scattered areas of Britain like Yorkshire, Lancashire and South Wales , /eɪ/ is much monophthongized and approximated to /e/ in words like: 'rain', reign, and wait, weight. On the other hand, in Scotland the case should be discriminated a word like 'meet' should have the quality of i/ in order not to be confused with the monophthongized /eɪ/ of the word /mate. The latter case usually has the quality of /ɜ/ moving towards a slight /i/ (O'Connor, 1973: 165-166).

9. As for the diphthong /ɪə/ is monophthongized in general American English and rhotic dialects or accents like Scottish English resulting in /ɪr/ , /ɪr/, /i:r/ (Collins and M. Mees, 2008: 171).
10. / əʊ / :The diphthong / əʊ / has a monophthongal pronunciation in Scottish and Welsh accents and it is perceived as if it is the cardinal /o/, Whereas in other parts of Yorkshire is more open and a half-close central vowel with lip rounding in Tynsides (O'Connor, 1973: 167).

Although there are no differences in the inventory of vowel phonemes among dialects of Britain, quantitative and qualitative factors should be taken for granted (Koudelkova, 2012: 19). Therefore, there is sometimes unexpected confusion among central monophthongs especially of /æ/, / ʌ / and / ə/ (Hawkins, 2005: 1).

4. Monophthongization, Diphthongization and Length

The study requires to make a kind of clarity for each of monophthongization, diphthongization and length are similar to each other in effect only. It conveys only the contrastive quality from one vowel to another. Some propose that length and diphthongization are the same though (O'Connor, 1973: 220).

It is also said that diphthongization is not a mere quantitative change. It holds the conclusion that in some stages of English development processes, vowels undergo the replication of ever-changing generations of speakers, thus several counterparts appear for one vowel. In other words, varieties through history and folk are the main factors that keep vowels changing (Ritt, 1994: 11).

Concerning open syllable lengthening, in the first half of the 13th century monophthongs like /a, e, o/ in open stressed syllables of

disyllabic words are lengthened to /a:/ , /ɛ:/ and /ɔ:/ . This process is well-refined by speakers of Middle English to avoid misunderstanding when encountered with original words carrying the same vowels quantity. Thus, a qualitative distinctive set is made like /i/, /a/, /u/ and /e:/ (ibid: 6).

Middle English vowel lengthening is a pure lengthening and raising though some undergone lowering for matters of qualitative features (ibid: 77).

Some cases of lengthening of vowels before harmonic clusters can be understood as establishing an interrelation between a vocalic articulatory gesture and a suprasegmental hod. This process can be compared to monophthongization. Monophthongization is a process where two phonemes or one diphthong reduced to one phoneme and as a conditional priority they sometimes share or being approximate to each other's in qualitative features (ibid: 91).

5. The Conclusion

Throughout dealing with this research paper, the following findings should be taken for granted:

1. Diphthongization appeared first in Old English rising from folk's spoken language who invade Britain at that time. The loan vocalizations made respectable variables forms of vowels that are well-rooted in the present-day English. In addition, it is also considered as a consequence of English spoken varieties not only in Britain but also in the United States.
2. The great vowel shift in the fourteenth century have a crucial role in giving an obvious representation of Early Modern English. Some vowels were changed according to positioning, qualitative and quantitative features.

3. Harmony and harmonic features are concepts which cannot be denied in dealing with diphthongization. It is sometimes claimed that to diphthongize a single vowel, there must be a kind of harmony with its other counterparts at least sharing one of the articulatory features like roudness, backness or fronting.
4. Long and short monophthongs can be diphthongized equally. Diphthongized vowels across English accents and varieties are either the products of colorful folks of specific regions or from the phonetic changes through history.
5. Long vowels breaking before /l/ and final /r/ is also a kind of diphthongization that is related to phonetic context or the influence of the adjacent phonemes. Likewise, the diphthongs ending with schwa /ə / like /ɪə/, /eə/ and /ʊə/ are the reconstructions of such a process in non-rhotic accents and dialects. It is also a manipulation of dropping the approximate consonant or vocalizing it as in Cockney accent.
6. Monophthongization is a mere compression of two vowels which also share some of qualitative features. The origin of monophthongization comes from the effect of French on Old English. It also takes places or conducted in some varieties of English like Scottish, Welsh, and General American English.
7. Vowels lengthening of modern long monophthongs originally started in Middle English. That is, vowels like /i:/, /a:/, /ɔ:/, and /u:/ were lengthened in open stressed syllables of disyllabic words to avoid misunderstanding with other words.

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