A SOCIOLINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF KOREAN-ACCENTED ENGLISH IN JOHN LEGEND'S *ALL OF ME* SONG SUNG BY KOREANS

AKSEN KOREA PADA LAGU ALL OF ME YANG DINYANYIKAN ORANG KOREA

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Abstract

This study aimed at analyzing Korean-accented English in John Legend"s *All of Me* song sung by Koreans. The study first identified the general characteristics of Korean-accented English in the song through the orthography of the lyrics (the original English lyrics, the Hangeul version, and the Romanization version). Second, described and explained the pronunciation problems in terms of the position of the organ of speech, the word merger, the elimination of physical sound, and the phonetic feature. This study employed mixed methods. The finding of the study, first, there were only ten Korean consonants used as the equivalent of English words in the lyrics of *All of Me* song which categorized into three positions, which are initial, medial, and final. Second, there were four types of pronunciation problems faced by Koreans, the position of the organ of speech, the word merger, the elimination of physical sound, and the phonetic feature.

Keywords: sociolinguistics, accent, Korean-accented English, *All of Me* song

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis aksen Korea yang muncul dalam lagu milik John Legend berjudul "All of Me" yang dinyanyikan oleh orang Korea. Penelitian ini khususnya mengidentifikasi karakteristik umum dari bahasa Inggris beraksen Korea pada lirik lagu "All of Me" melalui tiga jenis lirik (lirik bahasa Inggris, lirik Hangeul, dan lirik romanisasi) dan mendeskripsikan kesalahan pengucapan dalam hal posisi organ artikulator, penggabungan kata, penghilangan bunyi fisik, dan fitur fonetik. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode campuran yakni metode kualitatif dan kuantitatif. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan ada sepuluh konsonan aksara Korea yang digunakan sebagai padanan bunyi pada bahasa Inggris pada lirik yang dikategorikan sebagai konsonan awal, tengah, dan akhir. Hasil yang kedua menunjukkan empat jenis kesalahan pengucapan yang muncul yang disebabkan oleh posisi organ artikulasi, penggabungan kata, penghilangan bunyi fisik, dan fitur fonetik.

Kata kunci: sosiolinguistik, aksen, aksen Korea, lagu "All of Me"

INTRODUCTIONS

Everyone has an accent, wherever people come from and whatever language they use they have their own accent. Accent is a part of a language in the multicultural society which influenced by speaker"s dialect or native language (Edwards, 1997 in Carlson and McHenry, 2006). A particular accent is produced by a speaker from a particular society or region. As a unique mode of sound production, the occurrence of an accent is not only in the daily conversation, but also in the way people sing a song.

Korean language as the source of the occurrence of Korean-accented English has its own characteristics including the language system and the alphabetical system namely *Hangeul* which differ this language to English. Korean- accented English occurs in the way Koreans sung an English song titled

All of Me because there are differences between both languages in the way the words are written and spoken.

As one of some English songs which spread all around the world after released in 2013, this song then cover or re-sung by people including Korean. Regarding to the differentiation between Korean and English languages, some problems then occur in the way Koreans sing *All of Me* song.

The preceding study done related to Korean speaker and English Language is written by Albela titled *English Language Learning Difficulty of Korean Student in a Philippine Multidisciplinary University* (Albela, 2006). The study discussed about the difficulty of Korean speaker in learning English language which caused by the sociolinguistic competence, cultural factors, and motivation; while the other one is written by Yeon titled *Perception of English palatal codas by Korean speakers of English* (Yeon, 2003) which discussed about the perception of English palatal codas by Korean speaker of English language.

Different from those preceding studies, this present study focuses on the Korean accent produced by Koreans in the way they sung *All of Me* song which divided into two main problems: the general characteristics of Korean-accented English in the lyrics and the pronunciation problem faced by the singers. The first problem then explained further as figured by the transcription of the lyrics in three versions (the English original lyrics, the *Hangeul* version, and the Romanization version). Then the second problem is revealed in four terms which is the position of the organ of speech, the word merger, the elimination of physical sound, and the phonetic features.

The reason why accent is being studied is because it is rarely discussed in students" theses, especially in Yogyakarta State University; and the Korean accent is chosen because this language has its own uniqueness therefore the researcher intended the study and explain more about Korean-accented English.

This study is aimed to enrich the development of linguistic knowledge especially Korean-accented English related to the pronunciation of English words, and giving contribution to some parties: students, lecturers, other researchers, and people in general as the reference to improve the understanding of Korean-accented English.

RESEARCH METHOD
Types of Study

This study used mixed methods. The main method is qualitative method which used to describe the study in a narrative way and giving deeper information and explanation about the data. Then the supporting method is quantitative method which used to calculate the number of the data and show the data percentages.

Time and Place of the Study

The present study is written from August 2017 to March 2018 in Jogjakarta.

Subject of the Study

The subject of the study was ten Koreans „singers‟ consist of six professional singer and four ordinary Korean people.

Data, Intrument, and Data Collection Techniques

The form of the data was various transcripts of the lyrics of *All of* Me song which consists of the English original version, the *Hangeul* version, and the Romanization version. The data taken from the videos of Koreans sung *All of Me* song and the transcription of the lyrics.

The main instrument in the study was the researcher herself supported by the data sheets. The data of the study collected using *simak* method by Sudaryanto (1993), in which the researcher observing the lyrics by replaying the video, transcribing the lyrics in the form of sentences, giving mark to every method, and collecting the data from the marked words.

Data Analysis

The data is analyzed following the theory by Cresswell (2009). Initially the data taken from the lyric of *All of Me* and the video of Koreans sung the song, then classified base on the study question and put into the data sheet, each datum classified base on the study question, the data interpreted to answer the study question, explained use findings descriptively, and write the report of the study and conclusion.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the study showed in the form of table.

Table 1. The General Characteristics of Korean- accented English

No	Let	Pos.	English Words	Korean accented pron.	Freq.	Percent
1.	ㄱ	**In**	got [ɡ t]	갓 (kat)	2	3.17%
2.	ㄷ	**In**	drawing [dr ɪŋ]	드로윙 (teu-ro-ing)	1	1.59%
		Med	head [h d]	헤드 (he-deu)	4	6.35%
3.	ㄹ	*Med*	water [w t]	워럴 (weo-reol)	2	3.17%
		<u>Fin</u>	your [j]	유얼 (yu-eol)	6	9.52%
4.	ㅂ	**In**	beautiful [bju t f l]	뷰리쀨 (pyu-ri-pheol)	1	1.59%
		Med	give [ɡɪv]	기브 (gi-beu)	6	9.52%
		<u>Fin</u>	of [v]	옵 (op)	8	12.70%
5.	ㅅ	*Med*	without [wɪˈða t]	윗아웃 (wi**s**-a-ut)	4	6.35%
		<u>Fin</u>	would [w d]	웃 (wut)	1	1.59%
6.	ㅈ	*Med*	dizzy [dɪzi]	디지 (diji)	4	6.35%
		<u>Fin</u>	cause [k z]	컷 (kheot)	1	1.59%
7.	ㅋ	**In**	crazy	크레이지	7	11.11%
				(keu-re-i-ji)		
			magical [ˈmædʒɪ	매지쿨		
8.		**In**	to [tu:]	투 (thu)	2	3.17%
			can‟t	캔트		
			smart [smɑ:t]	스맡 (seu-		
9.		**In**	pin [pɪn]	핀 (phin)	3	4.76%
			imperfec	임퍼쀀션		
10		**In**	so [səʊ]	쏘 (sso)	1	1.59%
			what‟s [wɒts]	윗쓰 (wot-		
Total					**63**	**100%**

What is written in the table is the use of consonants in the Romanization of *All of*

Me song following the rule of Romanization of Korean Language by Word Division by The Library of Congress. Those are just the consonants used as the equivalent of sound in English which shaped into script. The table shows that one Korean character can function in three positions which is syllabic initial, medial, and final. From 63 data, the most character occurred as syllabic initial is character ㅋ which occurred seven times.

This character is used to represent letter /k/ and /c/ which pronounced as /kh/ or aspirated sound of /k/.

[*Han*] 유오얼~ **크**레이지 앤
아임 아우 돕 마 마인드
[Rom] yuoeol **kheu**reiji aen aim au top ma maindeu

The reason why the character ㅋ stands in those words is that the Korean written text is derived from how a word is sounded, so that the word „crazy‟ which pronounced in English as [ˈkreɪzi]. Another example of the use of the character ㅋ is in the word „kho‟ (nose), which is written as 코 and the word „kheophi‟ (coffee), which is written as 커피.

The most character occurred as syllabic medial is character ㅂ which occurred six times in the lyrics of *All of Me.* This character represents letter /b/ and also stands as the equivalent for letter /v/ which has no character in Korean language

system.

[*Han*] 이**븐** 웬 아 루즈 암 위닝
[Rom] i**beun** wen a lujeu am wining

The data above show the use of character ㅂ in syllabic medial position. According to the rule of Korean Romanization, the function of the character to represent letter /b/ is right because it stands between vowels, but letter /b/ does not stand for the sound /b/. Character ㅂ there stands as the equivalent of the sound and letter /v/ because the Korean writing system has no character for sounds /f/ and /v/. They use character ㅂ, which is Romanized as /b/ because the sound is slightly similar. Another example of the use of character ㅂ in syllabic medial position which represents sound /b/ is in the word 'kalbi' (rib), which is written as 갈비.

Last but not least, the most frequent character occurred as syllabic final is also character ㅂ which occurred eight times. The use of this character also represents letter /p/, and stands as the equivalent for /f/ which has no equivalent in Korean language system.

[*Han*] 컷즈 올~ **옵** 미, 러브스
올~ **옵** 유
[Rom] kheojjeu ol **op** mi, leobeuseu ol **op** yu

The example of the data above shows that character ㅂ in the word 'op' stands for the equivalent of letter /f/. Another example

of the use of character ㅂ in a word in syllabic final position is in the word 'keob' (fear), which is written as 겁.

Whereas the findings of the study in terms of pronunciation problems are divided into four tables:

Table 2.1 Pronunciation Problems: Position of the Organ of Speech

No	Sound Changes	Eng. Words	Korean-Accented Pron.	Sub	Freq	Percent
1.	/p/ → /pʰ/	pin	phin	S.1, S.8	2	3.45%
2.	/θ/ → /s/	mouth	maus	S.2, S.3, S.6, S.10	4	6.90%
3.	/t/ → /s/	out	aus	S.4	1	1.72%
4.	/ts/ → /s/	what's	was	S.2, S.3, S.4, S.5, S.6, S.7, S.8, S.9, S.10	9	15.52%
5.	/d/ → /s/	head	hes	S.2, S.4, S.5, S.6, S.7, S.8, S.9	7	12.07%
6.	/dz/ → /s/	head's	hes	S.2, S.3, S.4, S.5, S.6, S.7, S.8, S.10	8	13.80%
7.	/ɔ:l/ → /ou/	alright	ourait	S.2, S.3, S.4, S.8	4	6.90%
8.	/ɔ:l/ → /ou/	all	oul	S.2, S.3, S.4, S.5, S.6, S.7, S.8, S.9, S.10	9	15.52%
9.	/v/ → /b/	curves	kheorbs	S.2	1	1.72%
10.	/v/ → /b/	even	ibeun	S.6, S.8, S.10	3	5.17%
11.	/v/ → /b/	give	gib	S.8, S.10	2	3.45%
12.	/f/ → /v/	of	ob	S.7, S.8	2	3.45%
13.	/dʒ/ → /z/	magical	maezikel	S.3, S.6, S.8	3	5.17%
14.	/r/ → /l/	your	yueol	S.3	1	1.72%
15.	/r/ → /l/	under	eondeol	S.9	1	1.72%
16.	/u/ → /o/	you	yo	S.10	1	1.72%
Total					58	100%

The table shows that in term of POS (Position of Organ of Speech), the number of all words that are pronounced differently from the original English pronunciation version is 58. Some of them are pronounced more frequently than others. From those 58 occurrences of pronunciation problems related to the position of the organ of speech, there are two words which have the biggest frequency of 15.52%. They are 'what`s' and 'all'. On the other side, there are four words which are pronounced incorrectly by just one singer. The words are 'out', 'curves', 'under', and 'water', each of which occurs only 1.72%. Related to the subject itself, Singer 1 has the smallest number of pronunciation problems and Singer 8 has the biggest number of pronunciation problems. Singer 8 pronounces 9 words differently from the original English pronunciation.

[Eng] **even** when I lose I'm winning
[Rom] **ibeun** wen a lujeu am wining

The example shows the change of sound /v/ into sound /b/. The sound changes because there is no equivalent for sound /v/ in the Korean language system. Then the change of the sound related to the position of the organ of speech is that sound /v/ and sound

/b/ are made from the position of the organ of speech which is quite similar. Sound /v/ is made by bringing the upper teeth to touch the bottom lip. On the other hand, the sound /b/ is produced by joining the upper and bottom lips together.

From the pronunciation problem related to the position of the organ of speech, Koreans tend to pronounce a word with the simpler way by changing the sound through changing the position of the organ of speech. Then, the change of the position of the organ of speech is also caused by the Korean accent in which some sounds in English do not exist in the Korean language system in terms of the pronunciation. In this manner they choose the closest sound to the sound which has no equivalent. Last but not least, the treat of English words in Korean manner also becomes the reason of the change of the pronunciation problem related to the position of the organ of speech.

Table 2.2 Pronunciation Problems: Merger

No	English Words	Korean Accented Pron.	Sub	Freq	Percent.
1.	end and	aendaen	S.1, S.2, S.3, S.4, S.5, S.6	6	24%
2.	me in and	miaen	S.1, S.2	2	8%
3.	head spinning	hespining	S.3, S.4, S.5, S.6, S.7, S.8, S.10	7	28%
4.	head's under water	heseondeolwe oreol	S.8	1	4%
5.	head's under	hedseonder	S.10	1	4%
6.	curves and all	kheovzaensol	S.4	1	4%
7.	your all	yueol	S.4	1	4%
8.	all of	ourov	S.7	1	4%
9.	all of	orob	S.8	1	4%
10.	out of	autov	S.10	1	4%
11.	of me	ommi	S.10	1	4%
12.	give me	gimmi	S.10	1	4%
13.	kidding i can't	kidinaikhaen	S.2	1	4%
Total				25	100%

Similar to English pronunciation in which of some words tend to be merged, Korean people also merge some words when pronouncing words. The problem is that their word-merger, then, affects the way they pronounce the relevant words. The table above shows that from 25 problems of pronunciation related to merger, the word 'head spinning' has the biggest number of frequency, which is 28% or 7 occurrences.

[Eng] you've got my **head spinning** no kidding I can't pin you down

[Rom] kat ma **hesspining**, no khiding a khaentheu phin yu daun

The example above is the merger of the phrase 'head spinning' which becomes the word 'hesspining'. This merged-phrase is pronounced by seven out of ten Koreans and becomes the most frequent word which is spoken differently from the original word.

From the data which show the words that are spoken by more than half of the Koreans, word merger is also done by them in singing English songs, but the pronunciation do not follow the original English

pronunciation. They tend to pronounce the word simpler so that they pronounce the word easier with their Korean manner.

Table 2.3 Pronunciation Problems: Elimination of Physical Sound

No	English Words	Korean Accented Pron	Sub	Freq	Percent
1.	what	wa	S.2, S.3, S.6, S.8, S.10	5	13.89%
2.	what's	was	S.2, S.3, S.4, S.5, S.6, S.7, S.8, S.9, S.10	9	25%
3.	alright	ourait	S.2, S.3, S.4, S.8, S.10	5	13.89%
4.	head's	hes	S.2, S.3, S.4, S.5, S.6, S.7, S.8, S.10	8	22.22%
5.	head	hes	S.3, S.4, S.5, S.6, S.7, S.8, S.10	7	19.44%
6.	curves	kheorbs	S2	1	2.78%
7.	smart	smaa	S.4	1	2.78%
Total				36	100%

Sound elimination in Korean pronunciation is common. Korean people tend to omit a sound which is hard for them to pronounce. For example, the word 'what`s', which has the biggest frequency of pronunciation problem, is pronounced as 'was', with elimination of sound /t/. Some characters are also neglected because those are not common in Korean pronunciation. The

omission is to make their pronunciation easier. Among the ten Koreans under this study, there is one singer who has no problems in relation to the elimination of the physical sound. It is Singer 1.

[Eng] **what's** going on in that beautiful mind?

[Rom] **was** going on in daet pyuripheol main

Sound /t/ is eliminated so that the word is pronounced as 'was' instead of 'what`s'. This false pronunciation is done by nine Koreans. This problem also happens because they look for the easiest way to pronounce words which can match with their usual articulation.

Koreans usually eliminate sounds which are hard for them to pronounce. The other reason is to make the pronunciation simpler and easier based on their manner of articulation.

Table 2.4 Pronunciation Problems: Phonetic Features

No	English Words	Korean Accented Pron	Sub	Freq	Percent
1.	pin	phin	S.1, S.8	2	4.44%
2.	mouth	maus	S.2, S.3, S.6, S.10	4	8.89%
3.	curves	kheorbs	S.2	1	2.22%
4.	magical	maezikel	S.3, S.6, S.8	3	6.67%
5.	out	aus	S.4	1	2.22%
6.	head	hes	S.3, S.4, S.5, S.6, S.7, S.8, S.10	7	15.56%
7.	even	ibeun	S.6, S.8, S.10	3	6.67%
8.	give	gib	S.8, S.10	2	4.44%

9.	under	eondeol	S.9	1	2.22%
10.	what's	was	S.2, S.3, S.4, S.5, S.6, S.7, S.8, S.9, S.10	9	20%
11.	head's	hes	S.2, S.3, S.4, S.5, S.6, S.7, S.8, S.10	8	17.78%
12.	water	weoreor	S.3, S.4, S.6	3	6.67%
13.	of	op	S.8	1	2.22%
Total				**45**	**100%**

Another point which affects the Koreans' pronunciation of English words is the phonetic feature. This occurs because the words in Korean are written following how the sound is made. For example, the word 'mouth' which should be pronounced as [maʊθ] is then pronounced as 'maus' because the sound /t/ in the final is written as the same as /s/, which is   . That is why they pronounced the word as 'maus'. The table shows that the most frequent word which is pronounced differently from the English pronunciation is the word 'what.' It has 20% occurrence, whereas the least frequent occurrences of words which are pronounced differently from the original pronunciation are the words 'out', 'of', 'under', and 'curves'.

[Eng] you've got my head spinning no kidding I can't **pin** you down
[Rom] kat ma hedeu seuphining, no khiding a khaentheu **phin** yu daun

The example shows the change of sound /p/ to /ph/. Those two sounds according to the phonetic feature can be classified as being aspirated and lax. The lax sound /p/ in Korean alphabet is written in character ㅂ, whereas the aspirated sound /ph/ is written in character ㅍ.

From all those data shown, the pronunciation problem related to the phonetic features is mainly caused by the fact that the Korean language system has rules in treating English words in Korean manner. Besides, the Korean written text comes from the sound of each word in the original English sound, then, is derived into texts in the *Hangeul* version. The Koreans will change some sounds which have no equivalent in the Korean alphabet into some sounds which are quite similar.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS
Conclusion

The conclusion of the study as follow: First, there were ten Korean consonants which are used to treat English words in John Legend's *All of Me* song. They are written in a different way which results in the uncommon word produced in English pronunciation. They were characters ㄱ, ㄷ, ㄹ, ㅂ, ㅅ, ㅈ, ㅋ, ㅌ, ㅍ, and ㅆ. The total of the data related to the use of Korean consonants used to Romanize the lyrics are 63 data. According to the position of each character used, the data are divided into three positions, which are initial, medial, and final. With regard to syllabic initial position, the character which is mostly used is character

ㅋ, representing sound /kh/. This character is used seven times. The use of the character is representing sound /kh/ in some words, such as in the words 'crazy' and 'kidding'. While the character which is rarely used as syllabic consonant is character ㄷ, which represents sound /t/. Character ㅂ represents sound /p/, and character ㅆ represents sound /ss/. The use of those characters in the lyrics is only once. Then, in syllabic medial position, the character which is mostly used is character ㅂ, which represents sound /b/, which is used six times. The character which is rarely used is character ㅆ, which is used only once. Lastly, in syllabic final position, the character which is mostly used is character ㅂ, which represents sound /p/. The use of this character in the lyrics is eight times. Its character is the equivalent for letters and sounds /f/ and /v/ from the English words in the Korean alphabet because there is no character for /f/ and /v/. Then, the character which is rarely used in syllabic final position is character ㅅ which represents sound /t/, character ㅈ which represents sound /t/, and character ㅌ which represents sound /th/. Those characters are only used once. Character ㅅ is used in the word 'would' as the equivalent of sound /d/, character ㅈ is used in the word 'cause' as the equivalent for sound /z/, and lastly character ㅌ is used in the word 'smart' representing sound /t/. Some characters in the Korean writing system can represent two or more sounds according to where the character is positioned.

Second, there were four types of pronunciation problems faced by the ten Koreans under the study in singing *All of Me* song. They are the position of the organ of speech (POS), word merger (M), the elimination of physical sound (EPS), and phonetic features (PF). The total data of the pronunciation problems faced by those Koreans are 164, but some of the words might be included as some types. The main type of pronunciation problems faced by Koreans in singing *All of Me* song is the position of the organ of speech, which has total 58 data. The position of the organ of speech becomes the main problem in Korean pronunciation because the Korean alphabet is derived from the position of the organ of speech. Besides, the English words written in *Hangeul* version is derived from the sound made while pronouncing those word. So that, when those Koreans read the *Hangeul* version, they tend to pronounce the sound as well as how the sound should be sounded. The second most frequent problem that occurs is the phonetic feature, which has 45 data. This type of problem has a strong relation with the position of the organ of speech, in which the sounds produced affect the written text. The phonetic feature in the Korean language system is obviously seen, for example in characters ㄱ and ㅋ, which are Romanized as /k/ and /kh/. In the song, some words which are not categorized as aspirated sounds in

English pronunciation can sound as aspirated sounds in Korean pronunciation. The third type of pronunciation problem is the elimination of physical sound, which has 36 data. This problem is quite common in Korean pronunciation, and even more when they pronounce English words. This problem is caused by the difficulty of Koreans while pronouncing double consonants. That is, the position of the organ of speech while pronouncing the sound is different. However, double consonants in the Korean language system exist, but the way the Koreans pronounce the sound is by eliminating one of those two sounds. For example, character ㄺ is Romanized as /rk/, but the sound only appears as /k/. The last type and the most rarely problem to occur is the word merger, which only has 25 data. Koreans, as well as other people around the world, also merge words while singing English songs. However, the way the sound produced is not common in English pronunciation. This problem is also related to the position of the organ of speech as well as other types. In conclusion, the pronunciation problems of Korean-accented English are mainly caused by the position of the organ of speech. Hence, the pronunciation problems are occurred because Korean people tent to pronounce the words easier with their manner of articulation.

Suggestion

To other researcher, the findings of the Korean accented English in terms of the general characteristics of Korean consonants in English words and the pronunciation problems are influenced by the way the Koreans sang the song in which some words are pronounced by different person but with the same pronunciation. The limitation of the theory, data, and the writer's capability to conduct deeper and further research on foreign language accented English, in this case Korean accented English. This can be encountered by having other researcher in the similar study where the data are gathered and classified for the data corrections. Hence, the researcher should get the most 'extreme' example of the object of study so that the data showed are clearer and better. This research is only the preliminary study for the similar yet further and advance analysis in the future.

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