

Rural English in Andhra Pradesh: Linguistic Adaptation and Classroom Realities

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Abstract: *In rural Andhra Pradesh, Telugu phonology and regional slang have a significant influence on English spoken there, leading to unique pronunciation patterns and regional usage. This study looks at how students' English speech production is influenced by first-language transfer in rural classroom environments. This research examines systematic differences in vowel production, consonant replacement, syllable stress, rhythm, and intonation based on classroom observations, and direct teaching experience. Additionally, it examines how code-mixing, literal translation, and regionally specific terms function in regular classroom discourse.*

The results show that pronunciation variations between Telugu, a syllable-timed Dravidian language, and English, a stress-timed language, are predicted results of linguistic transfer rather than chance errors. Exam-focused training, peer reinforcement of regional patterns, and limited exposure to standardized spoken English all have an impact on speech development. In addition, pupils show flexibility and the ability to change their pronunciation when provided with systematic instruction and exposure to sound.

Intelligibility and respect for linguistic identity should be balanced in pedagogy, according to this study. Teachers should acknowledge rural English as an emerging regional variant while providing students with the skills necessary for academic and professional communication, rather than portraying it as erroneous..

Keywords: English pronunciation, Telugu phonological transfer, Rural education, regional slang, Code-mixing, World Englishes

