AMERICAN ACCENT TRAINING FOR SOFTWARE ENGINEERS

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ABSTRACT

Many Software engineers in India think that it is hard to learn American accent after crossing certain age or finishing studies. The American accent training is needed for all those who want to sound American while interacting with their teams and Clients for whom they are working, and also for international business situations, technical support service, onsite training, seminars, on-job training programs and communicative skills. The ability to speak like American is always valued by employers in the world. In India the multi-national organizations based in United States of America use American accent.

Keywords: American Accent; Sound; Mouth; Tongue; Lips; Separate; Teeth; Software Engineers

INTRODUCTION

Accent is a particular way of pronouncing words especially the one associated with a particular country. Grammar and vocabulary are structured systematically but accent is more the spirit of language which is always in free, intuitive and creative form. Those who want to work or study in America, it is good to have American accent. Many people rightly equate accent with Pronunciation like Native speakers. The multinational companies, foreign universities and International Baccalaureate curriculum schools in India are operating due to Globalization. MNCs operating in Information Technology, Banking, Pharmacy, and Educational sector need Software engineers who can communicate in American accent are highly valued by these Employers.

OBJECTIVE

To train Software engineers from India to habitually speak in American accent within a short period.

DATA ANALYSIS

Close observations were made and have recorded the speech sounds of the Software Engineers hailing from India, BPO employees working for US Companies, Americans working in software firms and US clients for the purpose of this research and found the major differences between the way an American speaks and the way Indian employees working for US based companies speak like; 90% Indians are habitually speaking British Accent with mother tongue influence due to colonization and are not much aware of American English accent. 82% Indian speakers produce most of the sounds in the throat, using tongue very actively. But 85% Americans speak using all the articulators but the
usage of lips clearly more. 95% Americans speak scarcely slowly sounding like uttering word by word; 75% Indians speak more as if they are reading. 96% American intonation dictates liaisons which are called word connections and pronunciation indicating mood and meaning unlike Indians. 98% Americans speak 160-180 words per minute and while 59% Indians speak more than 220 words per minute. 85% Indians do not give enough time for the tongue to reach its proper place and position to speak words clearly like Americans, especially when it comes to sounding vowels. 84% software engineers in India think Training in American accent is expensive due to huge shortage of qualified accent trainers and English language trainers in India and 63% Indians are not aware of the difference between American and British accents.

American Accent Training Methodology:

120 Employees from IT Companies who are working as Software Engineers in India were selected randomly those who speak different Indian languages and conducted accent training for 40 hours. There may be different ways to train in American accent. The training participants were made aware of the speaking differences. Asked to implement staircase intonations like Americans do speak as if climbing down the stair, while emphasizing a noun, start like climbing a new stair case. Start with the mouth exercises. The training participants drilled the following sentence for ten for minutes twice a day” I saw sixty six farmers laughing on the phone”. The following is the training methodology of accent training to produce American sound:

1. The short (a) sound is produced by opening the mouth wide, the teeth kept separate and the sides of lips must touch back teeth as sounding APPLE.

2. The medium (ä) sound is produced by opening the mouth pushing out lips to form oval, the teeth kept separate with few front and bottom teeth shown, the tongue is placed middle of the mouth as sounding AUTO.

3. The long (ā) is produced by opening the mouth, the teeth kept slightly separate, lowering the bottom lip, the sides of the lips must touch the back teeth as sounding APRON.

4. The (b) sound is produced by closing the mouth, pushing out the lips separately like blowing chewing gum, the teeth kept slightly separate, more bottom teeth should be shown and the tongue placed in the middle of the mouth as sounding BOY. The (P) sound is called Plosive because they are produced with an explosive sound.

5. The hard (c) sound represented by symbol (k) is produced by opening the mouth, keeping teeth slightly separate with few front and bottom teeth shown, the sides of the lips must touch the back teeth as sounding CLOCK.

6. The soft (c) sound represented by symbol (s) is produced by opening the mouth medium wide but teeth shown clenched, the tongue must touch all of the bottom teeth in the mouth with air blown out slowly as sounding CITY.

7. The (d) sound is produced by opening the mouth medium wide, keeping the teeth slightly separate with more bottom and front teeth shown, the tongue tip must touch the top inside the mouth as sounding DOLL.

8. The short (e) sound is produced by opening the mouth medium wide, the teeth are kept slightly separate with few bottom and front teeth shown and the tongue sides should touch all the bottom teeth inside the mouth as sounding ELEPHANT.
9. The schwa (ə) sound represented by symbol (a) is produced by opening the mouth, lowering a bit the bottom lip, the teeth slightly kept separate with more bottom and top front teeth shown as sounding ERASER.

10. The long (e) sound represented by symbol ( ē ) which also represents medium (i) symbol is produced by opening the mouth, lowering the lip, the teeth kept separate showing more bottom than front teeth, the lip sides must touch all of the back teeth as sounding EQUAL.

11. The (f) sound is produced by half-closing the mouth with teeth shown biting the lower lip, keeping the tongue in the middle of the mouth, the air blown slowly as sounding FADE. The (f) sound is called Labio-dental sound because the lower lip and upper teeth are involved in its sound production.

12. The hard (g) sound is produced by half closing the mouth, pushing out the lips, keeping teeth separate with few bottom and top front teeth shown and the tongue sides must touch the top back teeth as sounding GAME.

13. The soft (g) sound represented by symbol (j) is produced by opening the mouth and pushing out lips with teeth clenched together, the tongue touch the top inside the mouth as sounding GERMANY.

14. The (h) sound is produced by opening the mouth medium wide, keeping the teeth separate with few top and bottom teeth shown, the tongue must be in the middle of the mouth; air is quickly exhaled out as sounding HELLO. The (h) sound is called glottal fricative because its sound is produced with friction.

15. The short (i) is produced by opening the mouth medium wide, the teeth, kept separate with few bottom and front teeth shown, the tongue must touch bottom back teeth as sounding INFANT.

16. The medium ( i ) is represented by the symbol ( ē ) which also represents long (e) and medium vowel (y) symbol is produced by opening the mouth, lowering the lip, the teeth kept separate showing more bottom than front teeth, the lip sides must touch all of the back teeth as sounding EQUAL.

17. The long ( i ) sound represented by the symbol ( ī ) is produced by opening the mouth wide, teeth separated, showing few bottom and top front teeth, the tongue sides must touch top back teeth in the mouth as sounding ICE.

18. The (j) sound is produced by opening the mouth, pushing out the lips, the teeth to be clenched; the tip of the tongue must touch the top mouth as sounding JACKSON. The (j) sound is called as Semivowel sound because its production is like Vowels in production without any obstruction.

19. The (k) sound is produced by opening the mouth, teeth kept slightly separate with few bottom and front teeth shown. The sides of the tongue must touch back teeth top inside the mouth, the air blown quick as sounding KENYA.

20. The (L) sound represented by the symbol (l) is produced by slightly opening the mouth by showing only few front bottom teeth, the tip of the tongue must sharply touch the front top teeth allowing air to blow from the sides of the tongue as sounding LABRADOR. The (L) sound called as lateral sound because the tip of the tongue touches the alveolar (teeth) ridge and the air escapes through the sides.
21. The (m) sound is produced by closing the mouth tightly, biting the teeth gently behind the lip in the mouth; the tongue must not be shown as sounding MAN. The (m) sound is called as nasal sound because while producing the sound the air is released through the nose.

22. The (n) sound is produced by opening the mouth medium wide, the teeth kept slightly separate with more of bottom front teeth shown by keeping the tongue tip touching the top inside the mouth as sounding NORWAY. The (n) sound is also called as nasal sound because while production of sound the air is released through the nose.

23. The short (o) sound is produced by opening the mouth wide, keeping the teeth separate with few bottom and top front teeth shown, the tongue must be in the middle of the mouth as sounding OPERA.

24. The medium (o) sound represented by the symbol (u) is produced by opening the mouth, lowering the bottom lip, the teeth kept slightly separate with more front bottom teeth shown, the tongue must be in the middle of the mouth as sounding OREGANO.

25. The long (o) sound represented by the symbol (ū) is produced by puckering the mouth to form a circle with lips, the teeth must not be shown but kept separate, the tongue must be in the middle of the mouth as sounding OATS.

26. The (P) sound is produced by closing the mouth, pushing the lips out, the teeth kept separate but not shown; the tongue must be in the middle of the mouth, the air exhaled quickly as sounding PEN. The (P) sound is called Plosive sound because it is produced with an explosive sound.

27. The short q(u) sound represented by symbol (kw) is produced by shortly opening the mouth wide to form a little circle, allowing the mouth to open a bit, the teeth kept separate slightly but not shown, the tongue sides must touch the top teeth back, the air must be blown speedily as sounding QUBEC.

28. The consonant (r) sound is produced by opening the mouth, pushing out the lips to form oval, then gently biting the lip edges, the teeth kept slightly separate with more top teeth shown. The tongue must be placed in the middle of the mouth as sounding ROBIN. The (r) sound is called frictionless continuant sound because it is produced without any friction or obstruction.

29. The (s) sound is produced by opening the mouth medium wide, the teeth clenched and shown, the tongue must touch all the bottom teeth, air is blown out slowly as sounding SAILOR. The (s) sound is called Sibilant sound.

30. The (t) sound is produced by opening the mouth, lowering the bottom lip, the more bottom teeth are shown while keeping them separate, the tip of the tongue must touch the top inside the mouth, air is exhaled out quickly as sounding TEN. The (t) sound is called dental fricative sound because the front part of the tongue touches a spot just behind the upper teeth when the sound is produced.

31. The short (u) sound is produced by opening the mouth by lowering the bottom lip a bit, the teeth are kept slightly separate with more bottom teeth shown, the tongue must be placed in the middle of the mouth as sounding UMPIRE.
32. The **medium** (u) sound represented by symbol (ii) is produced by opening the mouth and puckering the mouth to form a small circle using lips, the teeth are kept separate slightly but not to be shown, the tongue must be placed in the middle of the mouth as sounding PERU.

33. The **long** (u) sound represented by the symbol (θ) is produced by opening the mouth and then pushing out lips while biting the lip edges gently, the teeth are to be kept separate with bottom front teeth shown. The tongue must by crawl against the bottom teeth as sounding UTILITY.

34. The (v) sound is produced by closing the mouth almost all the way, the teeth shown biting lower lip while placing tongue in the middle of the mouth as sounding VENINZULA. The (v) sound is called labiodentals sound because the lower lip and upper teeth are involved in sound production.

35. The (w) sound is produced by opening the mouth by shortly puckering to form a little circle, allowing the mouth to open a bit; the teeth are to be kept slightly separate and not shown. The tongue must be placed in the middle of the mouth as sounding WASHINGTON. The (w) sound is called semivowel sound because it sounds like vowels in production without obstruction but function as consonants. The (w) sound is bilabial sound because of the usage of both lips.

36. The **consonant** (x) sound represented by symbol (ks) is produced by opening the mouth medium wide, showing teeth closing together, the tongue must touch bottom front and all of the back teeth, the air must be exhaled slowly as sounding FOX.

37. The **consonant** (y) sound is produced by opening the mouth medium wide, the teeth kept slightly separate with some bottom and front teeth shown. The sides of the tongue touch the top back teeth as sounding YO-YO.

38. The **vowel short** (y) sound also represented by the symbol of short (i) is produced by opening the mouth medium wide, the teeth kept slightly separate with more of bottom front teeth shown, the tongue touch the bottom teeth as sounding BICYCLE AND ITALY.

39. The **vowel medium** (y), **long** (e) and **medium** (i) sound is also represented by the symbol of **long** (ē) sound is produced by opening the mouth, lowering the lip, the teeth kept separate showing more bottom than front teeth, the lip sides must touch all of the back teeth as sounding EQUAL AND CHERRY.

40. The **long** (y) vowel sound and **long** (i) sound is also represented by the symbol (f) is produced by opening the mouth wide, teeth separated, showing few bottom and top front teeth, tongue sides must touch top back teeth in the mouth as sounding FRY AND ICE.

41. The (z) sound is produced by opening the mouth medium wide, the teeth shown clenched together with tongue touching all the top teeth as sounding ZOOLOGY. The (z) sound is called Sibilant sound.

**CONCLUSION**

This kind of American accent training is useful for Software engineers from India in initiating themselves to speak more like a Native American. This is the best way of training...
which helps even other non-native English speakers to speak in American accent within a very short time while creating interest among learners

REFERENCES


