The Effect of CAPI on Teaching English Vowels and Consonants to Iranian Junior High School Students

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Pronunciation plays an important role in second language teaching and learning. Without it, learners have many difficulties in getting their speech understood and understanding others’. Pronunciation instruction can be facilitated by means of Computer-Assisted Pronunciation Instruction (CAPI). This study was carried out to investigate the effect of CAPI on teaching English speech sounds, i.e. vowels and consonants to Iranian Junior High School Students. To achieve this purpose, 60 Iranian EFL Junior High School students aged from 13 to 15 were selected randomly from among 200 accessible students in Isfahan. The subjects were randomly split into two groups; 30 subjects were in the experimental group EG, and the other 30 ones were in the control group CG. Both groups were exposed to the same materials (vowels and consonants); however, only the experimental group received the treatment (CAPI). A pretest-posttest design was employed to study the effect of CAPI. The results of the independent samples T-test analysis from the posttest administration indicated that there was a significant difference between the mean of the two groups. In addition, a five-point Likert scale analysis indicated that EG learners strongly preferred CAPI to traditional methods. This study also discussed several problematic areas of pronunciation for Iranian learners of English. Based on contrastive analyses, some of the implications for L2 pronunciation teaching were drawn. The findings of the study revealed that computer-assisted pronunciation instruction (CAPI) was effective in improving the EFL learners' ability to produce and perceive English speech sounds correctly, and that students also had a positive attitude toward
computer-assisted pronunciation instruction. The findings from this study are directly beneficial to other researchers aiming at developing CAPI in teaching pronunciation. Keywords: Pronunciation, Computer-Assisted Pronunciation Instruction (CAPI), Vowels and consonant