

# Diphthong Shift in the Speech of Punjabi Speakers

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## **ABSTRACT**

The research aims to investigate the Diphthongs shifts by Punjabi English speakers, who are doing leveling and simplification within the use of English inventory of sounds and words. The close observation of the lower working class, speakers of Punjabi, revealed that the Punjabi Speakers are using an admixture of the pronunciation system while speaking about English words. In order to ascertain this hypothesis empirically, the study was conducted to the full effect. 60 Punjabi speakers belonging to low educated lower working class and educated upper working class, participated in the study in which language, class and education were selected as variables. The results were tested statistically. The findings suggested that the lower working class, Punjabi speakers, are doing diphthong shift in back diphthongs and in diphthongs /ai/ thus this diphthong shift proved to be the indicator of the class stratification. On the basis of these findings some suggestions for future research over Punjabi language, were provided.

**Key terms:** Diphthong Shift; Simplification; Leveling