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| Journal Name: | [**Asian Journal of Education and Social Studies**](https://journalajess.com/index.php/AJESS) |
| Manuscript Number: | **Ms\_AJESS\_138877** |
| Title of the Manuscript:  | **ENGLISH VOWEL PERCEPTION AND PRODUCTION AMONG CEBUANO-SPEAKING JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: INVESTIGATING FIRST LANGUAGE INTERFERENCE** |
| Type of the Article | **Original Research Article** |

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| PART 1: Comments |
|  | Reviewer’s comment**Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated or assisted review comments are strictly prohibited during peer review.** | **Author’s Feedback** (It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here) |
| **Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.** | The study is important for the scientific community due to is quantitative nature, by providing data, which is well-appreciated and needed in order to encourage discussions in the area of Applied Linguistics;The study provides scientific data for the understanding of perception and production of Cebuano (L1) speakers, which may contribute to further research, mainly addressing the L1 interference in L2 phonological acquisition;The study findings may contribute to intervention plans in the pedagogical domain, which will certainly cope with challenges in English language teaching. |  |
| **Is the title of the article suitable?****(If not please suggest an alternative title)** | Yes, the title encompasses all important aspects of the research. |  |
| Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here. | Since the authors are referring to L1, and one of the keywords is “second language acquisition”, even though it is implied, they should clearly refer to English as an L2:(e.g. investigated the impact of Cebuano L1 interference on English L2 vowel pronunciation)The same should be done throughout the text. |  |
| Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here. | Yes, it is. Authors provided a clear description of data collection methods and results, however, some findings are not discussed in relation to previous studies. In my view, it should be done, mainly to have a more robust theoretical foundation. For instance:“The findings highlight that phonemic perception in second language learners is intricately linked to their native phonological system…” this sentence could be linked to Bohn and Flege (2021), since these findings are explained by the Revised Speech Learning Model. |  |
| **Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.** | The manuscript lacks recent references, the most recent one is from 2016 (almost 10 years ago). Authors must include some up-to-date studies related to perception and production, mainly from 2020 on. For instance:Wafaa Alshangiti; Bronwen G. Evans (2024) Learning English vowels: The effects of different phonetic training modes on Arabic learners' production and perception. <https://doi.org/10.1121/10.0026451>.[Song Yi Kim](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/02676583221135185%22%20%5Cl%20%22con1) and [Jeong-Im Han](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/02676583221135185#con2) (2024).The relationship between perception and production of illusory vowels in a second language. <https://doi.org/10.1177/02676583221135185>.Georgiou (2022). The Acquisition of /ɪ/–/iː/ Is Challenging: Perceptual and Production Evidence from Cypriot Greek Speakers of English. <https://doi.org/10.3390/bs12120469>.Jae Yung Song; Fred Eckman (2021). The Relationship between Second-Language Learners’ Production and Perception of English Vowels: The Role of Native-Like Acoustic Correlates. <https://www.lingref.com/bucld/45/BUCLD45-52.pdf>. |  |
| Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications? | Yes, the authors demonstrate a good command of scientific terms, so I consider their English quality suitable for the academic and scientific community. However, the text needs to go through review, since some spelling and grammar mistakes are found throughout the manuscript, for instance:“Other theory from the study may also propagate on the idea that…” should be “Other theories from the study may also propagate the idea that…” |  |
| Optional/General comments | Since the study addresses perception and production, the perception theories should be thoroughly developed. The authors address pronunciation, however, studies on perception are not discussed. I suggest that the authors include some concepts on speech perception, for instance Bohn and Flege (2021) for “[The Revised Speech Learning Model (SLM-r)](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/349040711_The_Revised_Speech_Learning_Model_SLM-r)”, which accounts for a variety of aspects on speech perception as well as L1 interference on the process of L2 categories formation. Another point I would like to mention is the relevance of addressing the difficulties in L2 vowel perception and production that learners from other L1 backgrounds may face, e.g. Brazilians struggle with English high-front vowels, as well as Portuguese and Chinese people, just to name a few.  |  |

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| **PART 2:**  |
|  | **Reviewer’s comment** | **Author’s comment** *(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)* |
| **Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?**  | *(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)* |  |

**Reviewer details:**

**Aline Almira Morbach, Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil**