

## English Diphthong Found in Song Titled Blue Jeans by Gangga Kusuma

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### ABSTRACT

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Diphthongs study the sound of language from process to change. This research covers "Blue Jeans" by famous singer-songwriter Gangga Kusuma, who started her career in 2018 with an emphasis on diphthong formation. Researchers choose English diphthongs for this research because it is important to listen to find the correct pronunciation in the learning process. Researchers use Roach's theory to divide diphthongs into two types. First, replace middle diphthongs such as /eɪ/, /aɪ/, /ɔɪ/, /əʊ/, /aʊ/ and second, /ɪə/, /eə/, /ʊə/. This study used a qualitative method and data were collected through a literature search. Analysis of the data revealed that Gangga Kusuma generated 26 examples of English diphthongs divided into 8 types. The diphthong /eɪ/ is used 9 times, the diphthong /aɪ/ is 8 times, the diphthong /ɔɪ/ is used only once, the diphthong /aʊ/ is used 2 times, and the diphthong /əʊ/ is used 5 times, diphthong ɪə/ is used only once, and some data samples are missing the diphthong /eə/ and /ʊə/. In other words, this study shows that Gangga Kusuma can make diphthong sounds that are consistent with those produced in normal diphthong production and the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary. Furthermore, it excels at producing a variety of diphthong sounds.

#### Keywords

pronunciation

diphthongs

speech production

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## **Introduction**

A diphthong is a sound produced by combining two vowels, meaning "two voices". The diphthong is actually the one who studies the sound of language, from the process to the change. This existence is so that we can easily find sounds that serve to distinguish meaning. Language is a system of arbitrary sound symbols used by members of social groups to work together, communicate, and identify themselves [1], [2]. The main function of language is as a means of communication between humans. Languages, in the opinion of Ref. [1], are collections of signs. The exponent (a series of letters or sounds) and the meaning are combined in signs. Grammars are tools for creating signs from simpler signs. The researchers can conclude, language is a symbol of sound as a means of human communication to convey a statement of one's thoughts [3]. A language is simply a set of signs that humans use to communicate.

The scientific study of language is commonly defined as linguistics. General linguistics may be defined as the science of language. As with other areas of knowledge and scientific research, such a definition places the subject in specific relationships with other disciplines and sciences outside of itself, as well as subdivision into other branches of the subject [1], [4]. General linguistics is the human language recognized by the wide and well-known human behavior and power. This is perhaps one of the most important aspects of human life as we know it. The broad range of human abilities includes human achievements and includes the study of human language as part of it [5]–[7]. Human language is a set of structures that can be inherited from the biology of the human mind and brain. In fact, all languages share some common features: language, composition, grammar, and pronunciation [8]. Think of it as a conclusion.

Linguistics can be said as the rules used in language that examines all forms and rules in language, in which linguistics is focused on only one language, but various kinds of language arts in this world. One of the branches of linguistics is phonology. The study of phonetics and phonology or the sound system of a language related to the main sentences of speech. You can tell by looking at their physical properties. The speech system (including the mouth and tongue) can produce sounds in different languages. The science that studies the internal structure of words and sentences is called morphology and syntax. In addition to studying the grammar, vocabulary, and syntax of a language, linguists seek to clarify the meaning of words and phrases [4]. Meaning is the name of this type of formation. When these combinations interact with contextual information, the semantics compare the meaning of the other combinations.

Phonetics is a branch of phonology that studies the sound of language, whether or not the sounds serve as a meaning distinguisher [8]. Diphthongs are vowels that phonetically represent the different sounds that can occur within a single syllable. A single or basic vowel is

known as a monophthong. A diphthong is another word for a floating vowel since shifting is the process of switching from one vowel to another [9]. Compound vowels, complicated vowels, and moving vowels are other names for diphthongs. The process of switching from one vowel sound to another is known as "vowel gliding." The conversion of a single vowel into a diphthong is known as diphthongization. Diphthongs are occasionally referred to as "long vowels," however this is incorrect. Vowels in diphthongs changes can be heard, but they still take less time to pronounce than vowels in monophthongs. Literally, the Greek term "diphthong" means "two voices" or "two sounds"[9].

There are two basic sorts of sounds. A vowel is a sound that requires an open airway in the mouth to produce. Distinct mouth and tongue forms produce different vowels, which can be adjusted in terms of shape. When the air flow between the voice chords and the lips is constricted or interrupted, a consonant is formed. In the word 'cat,' the core sound is a vowel. Consonants make up the first and third sounds. A diphthong is a long vowel sound made by gliding from one position of the mouth to another within the same syllable [10]. Some sources mention 8, some up to 10. A vowel also includes a diphthong. The general rule is as follows: If the sound moves, there are two sounds. If the sound is a consonant or a vowel, each diphthong is marked with a phonetic symbol.

This study examines phonology where diphthong is a branch of linguistics that deals with sounds. The focus of this research is to find out the English diphthongs in the song Blue Jeans by Gangga Kusuma. The reason for choosing English diphthongs for this research is that besides being important in language education, it is very important to pay attention to diphthongs so that they can produce correct sounds in the pronunciation of the learning process. According to [4], one of the most crucial aspects of learning English is pronunciation. Several aspects influence each individual's pronunciation of the English sound system. Origin, early influences, and social context are examples. As a result, many English pronunciation specialists define the English language in a way that is at least understandable by the English user's context. The "received pronunciation" is a form of pronunciation that is not standard. The meaning of pronunciation is widely known. The analysis found that English diphthongs in songs also played an important role in the language test process. In language tests, pronunciation for example. Thus, one of the successes or failures of foreign language learning is when the learner pronounces the sounds of the language in the target language he is learning. Therefore, the researcher wants to study English diphthongs through songs.

### **Theory and Method**

While diphthongs are the union of two pure vowels, diphthongs are sounds that consist of a movement or glide from one vowel to the next [9]. Diphthongs are divided into two categories: closing and centering diphthongs [10]. The second vowel in a closing diphthong is

closer to the first vowel than the first vowel because the tongue goes from the open vowel to the closer vowel, whereas the second vowel in a centering diphthong is closer to the central vowel because the tongue moves from the open vowel to the closer vowel. For instance, the closing diphthongs in English are (/eɪ/, /aɪ/, /ɔɪ/, /aʊ/, /əʊ/) and the centering diphthongs are (/ɪə/, /eə/, /ʊə/)[10].

The first is the Diphthong /eɪ/, which comes from the vowel /e/ before the tongue position, slightly lower than the half-closed position. The tongue then moves forward to the /ɪ/ vowel position, with the lips open and more than half closed. Then there is a gradual cessation, exemplified by raid, pain, failure and tail [10].

The Diphthong /aɪ/ is the second. It is a front vowel and a front-front closing complete diphthong that falls between the sounds /ae/ and /a:/. The tongue enters the mouth when the vowel /ɪ/ is pronounced and the lips are gently brought together (Roach, 2000). Nile, nice, wide, smile, and mine are just a few examples.

The third, is the Diphthong /ɔɪ/. The diphthong /ɔɪ/ is a back-front closing full diphthong because the back of the tongue is raised to a position halfway between /ɔ/ and /ɔ:/. The front tongue is gradually elevated in the direction of /ɪ/ and the lips are rounded during the early part of the diphthong, which includes the sounds soil, coil, point, and coin (Roach, 2000).

The Diphthong /aʊ/ is the fourth. The first component of the /aʊ/ diphthong is a full diphthong that closes from front to back when the anterior part of the tongue is slightly raised. The tongue then moves in the direction of /ʊ/, and the lips remain neutral and gradually rotate [9]. For example brown, cow, count, mountain, and down.

Fifth, Diphthong /ʊ/. It is a closing half-diphthong, where the vowel /e/ changes with speech. The tongue then moves to the vicinity of /ʊ/. For example know, phone, and rose.

The Diphthong /ɪə/ is the sixth. It has a high front centering and is a diphthong. Instead of the more distant /i/ vowel sound, the tongue starts with the vowel /ɪ/. Then it moves on, gliding toward the middle vowel, "a." The two lips are neutral at this moment. For example dear, here, and fear.

The seventh, is the Diphthong /eə/. With a low front centering, it is a diphthong. The tongue begins with an open vowel that is slightly higher than the English position /æ/, with the lower jaw slightly raised as the lips are extended or neutral. Their, share, and fairy are only a few examples.

The eighth, is the Diphthong /ʊə/. An articulation with a high back centering is called a diphthong. The tongue goes toward the middle vowel /ə/, which is farther away /ʊ/ rather

than the closer /u:/. The initial part has rounded lips. Then it took a neutral stance. For example poor, sure, and tour.

This study employed qualitative research because qualitative methods offered an effective way of describing and explaining errors that occurred in this study [7]. The purpose of this study is to improve pronunciation of English diphthongs. Data was acquired through a literature review in this study, which used qualitative methodologies. To examine the phenomenon of errors that are seen objectively or naturally, descriptive methodology is applied. This was accomplished in four steps: (1) locating the lyrics of Gangga Kusuma's song Blue Jeans, (2) observing and listening to the lyrics to Blue Jeans, (3) orthographically and phonetically transcribing the lyrics, and (4) reading the words to Blue Jeans. Phonetic transcription identifies the development of English diphthongs in speech phonetic transcription (5) and (6). The data was then examined in a series of steps: (1) using as a guide, classify English diphthongs from speech, (2) interpret English diphthongs from speech, and (3) provide findings/data in a table. The writers used the diphthongs theory to assess the data when it had all been gathered. The data source (voices) is the main focus of this analysis technique, which makes it a crucial component of the data analysis. The entire study was based on Gangga Kusuma's recordings of the pronunciations.

## **Result and Discussion**

The study analyzed English diphthong in a song called Blue Jeans by Gangga Kusuma. Gangga Kusuma is a celebgram and singer who began his career as a celebgram since three years ago, precisely in 2018. Diphtong is the vowel diftong comes in two varieties: cover and centering. It has a gliding shape. The middle diftong consists of /ɪə/, /eə/, and /ʊə/ whereas the cover diphthaction consists of /eɪ/, /aɪ/, /ɔɪ/, /əʊ/, and /aʊ/. These case is found also in other language [11].

Following data analysis, it was discovered that Gangga Kusuma had produced 26 samples of English language diphthong data, which were categorized into eight kinds. Diftong /eɪ/ is present in nine data samples, diftong /aɪ/ is mentioned in eight data samples, diftong /ɔɪ/ is only mentioned in one data sample, diftong /aʊ/ is present in two data samples, diftong /əʊ/ is present in five data samples, diftong /ɪə/ is only present in one data sample, diftong /eə/ and /ʊə/ is not present in any data samples. In the song, there is usually a repetition of words. In the results of the data analysis, there is a repetition of words in the second refrain. So that repetition is not included when analyzing the song and determining the English diphthong.

### **Diphthong /eɪ/**

The diphthong /eɪ/ is closer to the sound /ɪ/ and begins with the sound /e/. In this study, researchers found 9 data samples from the diphthong /eɪ/ from the lyrics of the song Blue Jeans.

Data sample 1 : /leɪt/

Late /leɪt/

First, in the word **late**, diphthong /eɪ/ was produced. Here Gangga Kusuma produces a diphthong sound that conforms to Oxford standards

Data sample 2 : /'ɔ:lweɪz /

Always /'ɔ:lweɪz /

The word **always** containing the diphthong /eɪ/ appears once at the beginning of the lyrics of the song Blue Jeans. Gangga Kusuma can produce diphthongs well, but he changes the vowel /ə/ to /ʊ/.

Data sample 3 : /,kɒnvə'seɪʃn /

Conversations /,kɒnvə'seɪʃn /

After that, the word **conversation** is only used once in the lyrics of the song Blue Jeans and contains the diphthong /eɪ/. Gangga Kusuma pronunciation is correct in saying the word **conversation** based on Oxford standards.

Data sample 4 : /ðeɪ/

They /ðeɪ/

Next, the word **they** only appeared once and he accurately produced the English diphthong /eɪ/.

Data sample 5 : /reɪz /

Raise /reɪz /

Then, the word **raise** appeared once in his lyric song and he pronounced diphthong /eɪ/ based on the Oxford standard.

Data sample 6 : /steɪn /

Stain /steɪn /

After that, the word **stain** word was used only once in the lyric song and it contains diphthong /eɪ/.

Data sample 7 : /weɪ /

Way /weɪ /

Moreover, the word **way** appears only once in the lyrics song and all of them are consistently produced.

Data sample 8 : /,sɪtʃu'eɪʃn /

Situations /,sɪtʃu'eɪʃn /

The word **situations** appeared once in the lyric song and it was produced correctly based on the Oxford standard.

Data sample 9 : / rɪ'leɪʃn /

Relations / rɪ'leɪʃn /

English diphthong contained in the word **relations** produced correctly based on the Oxford standard as well.

### Diphthong /aɪ/

Diphthong /aɪ/ is produced between /ae/ and /a:/. The tongue then slides closer together to generate the /ɪ/ vowel sound. According to the findings, 8 data samples include the diphthong /aɪ/.

Data sample 10 : /naɪt /

Night / naɪt /

The word **night** appeared once in the lyric song and it was produced correctly based on the Oxford standard.

Data sample 11 : /maɪ /

My / maɪ /

After that, the word **my** is used twice in lyric song and contains the diphthong /aɪ/. Here, it pronounces **my** for the second word as /maɪ/. According to The Oxford it should be pronounced /maɪ/. This means it produces the diphthong /aɪ/ as a pure vowel /a/.

Data sample 12 : /taɪm /

Times / taɪm /

Moreover, the word **times** appeared twice in the lyric song and all was produced consistently correct.

Data sample 13 : /aɪ /

I /aɪ/

The word **I** appears nine times in the lyric song and he consistently pronounces the English diphthong /eɪ/ according to Oxford standards.

Data sample 14 : /'sʌmtaɪmz /

Sometimes /'sʌmtaɪmz /

Then, the word **sometimes** appeared only once and it was also produced based on the Oxford standard

Data sample 15 : /maɪn /

Mine /maɪn /

In the case of the word **mine**, Gangga Kusuma produced it three times and he produced all of them consistent with the Oxford standard

Data sample 16 : /waɪ /

Why /waɪ /

The word **why** was mentioned once in the lyric song and produced correctly based on the Oxford standar.

Data sample 17 : /aɪm /

I'm /aɪm /

Next, the word **I'm** appeared once during the lyric song and he could produce the word and the diphthong correctly based on the Oxford standard.

#### **Diphthong /ɔɪ/**

The tongue is raised to a point halfway between /ɔ/ and /ɔ:/ for a diphthong, then the front tongue is gradually elevated in the direction of /ɪ/. The findings show that Gangga Kusuma only produced 1 word that contains diphthong /ɔɪ/ during his song.

Data sample 18 : /vɔɪs /

Voice /vɔɪs /

The word **voice** contains diphthong /ɔɪ/ and it was mentioned once in the lyric song. Here, Gangga Kusuma could produce the diphthong based on the Oxford standard.

#### **Diphthong /aʊ/**

When making this form of diphthong, the tongue glides in the direction of /ʊ/, whereas the lips begin in a neutral position and progressively round. Two words with the diphthong /aʊ/ were discovered in this study.

Data sample 19 : /ə'baʊt/

About /ə'baʊt/

The word **about** which contains diphthong /aʊ/ appeared only once in the lyric song and the diphthong was produced according the Oxford standard.

Data sample 20 : /naʊ/

Now /naʊ/

Here, Gangga Kusuma could also produce diphthong in the word **now** based on the Oxford standard

#### **Diphthong /əʊ/**

This is a closing half diphthong with the tongue in the place of the vowel /e/. After that, the tongue advances closer to the /ʊ/ position. According to the findings, Gangga Kusuma mentioned 5 words in his song that include the diphthong /əʊ/.

Data sample 21 : /ðəʊz/

Those /ðəʊz/

Gangga Kusuma mentioned the word **those** only once in his lyric song. This word is pronounced correctly.



Data sample 22 : /əʊld/

Old /əʊld/

The word **old** which contains diphthong /əʊ/ appeared once during the lyric song. Here Gangga Kusuma could also successfully produce the diphthong based on the Oxford standard.

Data sample 23 : /təʊld/

Told /təʊld/

In the above table, the word **told** which contains diphthong /əʊ/ was produced only once and Gangga Kusuma could produce it based on the Oxford standard.

Data sample 24 : /'əʊnli/

Only /'əʊnli/

In the next data sample, Gangga Kusuma mentioned the word **only** which contains diphthong /əʊ/ in this lyric song. Here, he could produce the diphthong based on the Oxford standard

Data sample 25 : /dəʊnt/

don't /dəʊnt/

Finally, Gangga Kusuma produced the word **don't** only once in his lyric song and this word contains diphthong /əʊ/. Here, again, he could consistently pronounce the diphthong based on the Oxford standard.

### **Diphthong /ɪə/**

The tongue begins with the vowel /ɪə/ and glides away in the direction of the central vowel /ə/. Only 1 word contains the diphthong /ɪə/ in this song by Gangga Kusuma.

Data sample 26 : /wɪə(r)/

we're /wɪə(r)/

In this word, he could produce the diphthong that stated in word **we're** correctly.

### **Diphthong /eə/**

It's a diphthong with a low front-centering. The tongue begins at an open vowel position, slightly higher than the English /ae/. The lower jaw is visibly going upward as the lips spread or remain neutral. Based on the findings, Gangga Kusuma does not produce this type of diphthong.

### **Diphthong /ʊə/**

When the tongue moves from the /ʊ/ position to the closer /u:/, the diphthong /ʊə/ is produced. This type of diphthong is not found in the song by Gangga Kusuma.

Based on this result, teacher creatively design the learning media to support student to be more fluently on English. Many media can be used to improving the language skills [6], [11], [12].

## Conclusion

This study analyzes the English diphthongs of Gangga Kusuma's song Blue Jeans. Researchers formulate several conclusions in these findings. First, the researchers found diphthongs /eɪ/ in 9 data samples and Ganga could produce diphthongs /aɪ/ well and only had problems producing diphthongs /aɪ/ in one word. After that, he was able to produce diphthongs /ɔɪ/ and /əʊ/ so well that they could be produced according to Oxford standards. Similarly, the diphthongs /aʊ/ and /ɪə/ have no problem pronouncing them according to The Oxford standards either. Meanwhile, the diphthongs /eə/ and /ʊə/ were not produced and included in the song. The findings of this investigation suggest that Gangga Kusuma can make diphthong sounds that are consistent with those produced in normal diphthong production and the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary. Additionally, it excels at producing a variety of diphthong sounds. The words and statements he communicates can still be understood despite the little error in the production of the diphthongs.

## Conflict of Interest

Authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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