
PHONOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES OF (f) AND (v) AMONG YOUNG FILIPINO MALE AND FEMALE STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the phonological differences of (f) and (v) among young Filipino male and female students in relation to their social class differences. There were 60 participants in the study consisting of 15 males and females categorised as middle class from Far Eastern University and 15 males and females categorised as lower working class from Manila High School. Both males and females from the two social classes read texts with (f) and (v) sounds, which were tape-recorded for analysis. Findings of the study show that most female respondents in the middle class and lower working class display a significant difference in the use of standard and non-standard pronunciation of (f) and (v) compared to the male participants in both social classes. Moreover, variations in the pronunciation of (f) and (v) exist among males as well as among females in relation to their social status. Generally, the results show that both participants in the middle class have higher rates of use of the standard pronunciation of (f) and (v) compared to the participants in the lower working class. This paper concludes that differences in the pronunciation of (f) and (v) are evident not only between males and females but also among males and females in relation to their social status. Moreover, this paper recommends further research related to this study but with more participants and with greater emphasis

on the pronunciation of (f) and (v) in the initial, medial and final sounds.

INTRODUCTION

Several studies which show the differences between male and female speech have been conducted worldwide. These differences are identified in many ways: through male and female conversation, through the words used by both sexes in oral and written communication and also through the production of sounds or pronunciation of words. Dumanig (2002) in his study on Form Feedback and Content Feedback in English composition writing, found that males and females differ significantly in responding to feedback made by the author in English composition writing. Differences between the two sexes are also influenced by many factors. Two of these factors are people's social class and culture.

In various cultures, each has his or her own identity and role, which dictate that males should behave and act in accordance to the practice of each society in order to maintain the status of masculinity for males and the status of femininity for females. These practices are evident in the labelling of words, actions and behaviours, such as masculine or feminine. It is in this idea that the role of man as head of the family is conceptualised, and that influences his own language, which eventually leads to labelling male language as strong language.

Women's language on the other hand, is labelled as weak language because of the woman's subordinate role in the society (Coates, 1998). Because of the categorisation of status between men and women, both try to maintain their roles as males and females according to the dictates of their society. Males try to show their masculinity by using non-standard speech and by showing their physical strength as Bassoff and Glass (1982) found in their study, which was also labelled by Cook (1985) as a sign of masculine supremacy. On the other hand, women try to show their femininity by conforming to a more standard speech. In fact, women's conformity to the use of standard speech is a form of compensation for their subordinate status in the society (Coates, 1998). These ideas about male and female differences are evident in studies conducted by researchers in the field of sociolinguistics.

Trudgill (1972) found in his study on Sex and Covert Prestige that the Norwich male informants favoured non-standard speech known as "bad speech" to maintain their masculinity while women favoured standard speech to maintain their femininity. Fishman (1968) in his study of American English, found that males showed a preponderance of non-standard (n) forms compared to females. This finding is consistent with the findings of Trudgill and further proves that males have a greater tendency to use non-standard speech. It also shows that the use of non-standard speech has become a sign of masculinity in some societies.

Eckert (1989) has different findings in her study on sex and gender differences, where she found that women lead sound change in speech and that sex differences are indicative of sound change. Eckert's study further shows that differences do exist between male and female

speech. It is very evident the way they sound is very helpful in identifying sex, whether male or female. The findings indicate that even in the pronunciation of words, male and female differ.

On the other hand, differences also occur not only in terms of gender differences but also in terms of social class differences. Labov (1972) found significant differences in the production of (r) among sales people in three Department Stores in New York. The study revealed that sales people in Sachs (a department store) had the highest value of (r), Macy sales people had the middle-ranked value of (r) and S. Klien sales people had the lowest value of (r). The results of this study clearly show that social class differences greatly influence the way individuals produce or pronounce (r). These findings are also relevant to Edwards' (1997) study where he found that lower working class children were seen as having lower and more masculine voices than their middle class counterparts. His study revealed that a significant difference was evident in the way people sound based on their social status.

In general, gender and social class differences are the common factors that reveal how males and females differ in the pronunciation of words. In the light of these aforementioned studies, the author conducted a study on the phonological differences of (f) and (v) among young Filipino male and female students. This type of study is very interesting to disprove the myth that females use the standard pronunciation of (f) and (v) and males use the non-standard pronunciation.

The pronunciation of (f) and (v) has been a problem for most Filipino speakers of English because they frequently substitute (f) with (p) and (v) with (b). In pronouncing a foreign sound, people tend to substitute the sound in

their native language, which is nearest to it (Tangco *et al.*, 2001).

There have been studies which try to explain and prove that these substitutions occur due to the non-existence of (f) and (v) in the Filipino language. It is interesting to note here the differences in male and female pronunciation of (f) and (v). To find out the differences, the following questions were posed:

1. What are the phonological differences between male and female in the pronunciation of (f) and (v)?
2. Which of the two sexes frequently substitute (f) with (p) and (v) with (b)?
3. How do phonological differences vary in terms of (a) Gender and (b) Social class
4. Is there a significant difference in the production of (f) and (v) sound in terms of (a) Gender and (b) Social class.

METHODOLOGY

This study consisted of 60 participants from two schools: Far Eastern University and Manila High School. There were 30 participants (fifteen males and fifteen females) whose average age was 16 from Far Eastern University, one of the Universities which cater most students in the middle class who passed the University entrance examination and those who can afford the tuition fee. Participants from Far Eastern University were all classified as middle class because of their family income. The other 30 participants (fifteen males and fifteen females) whose average age was 16 were from Manila High School, a public school, subsidised by the government which provides free education. This public school caters most students in the lower working class who could not afford to pay the tuition fees in the private schools. Based on the family income levels of the students, the social status of the

participants from Manila High school was classified as lower working class.

Both participants from Far Eastern University (middle class) and Manila High School (lower working class) were asked to read 15 words containing five initial, five medial and five final sounds of (f) and another five initial, five medial and five final sounds of (v).

The reading activity was tape-recorded and was rated by two faculty members from the English Language Department of Far Eastern University. The rating was based entirely on how participants produced the standard pronunciation of (f) and (v) sounds and how often male and female participants from different social status substituted (f) with (p) and (v) with (b).

Results of the study were analysed by counting the standard and the non-standard pronunciations of (f) and (v) sounds. Moreover, the substitutions of (f) with (p) and (v) with (b) were also considered to see which of the two sexes and from which social status frequently made the substitution.

This study considered the percentage average of the total number of standard and non-standard pronunciation of (f) and (v) and the total number of substitutions of (f) and (v) both in the middle class and lower working class male and female participants.

To further validate the findings, computation of the proportion was used to analyze the difference between male and female in the production of (f) and (v) sounds in relation to the participants' social status.

Proportion was used in the statistical analysis because the data gathered were obtained by simply counting the total number of students who produced the standard and non-standard (f) and (v) sounds. Moreover, in this kind of data gathering, the use of proportion as the statistical tool is more appropriate.

To find out whether a significant difference really exist between male and female and between the lower working class and middle class, the test statistic *z* was used. Moreover, the *P* value, which is the alpha value of the statistical test and often referred as the observed significance level or the probability was computed using the *P* value calculator from (www.graphpad.com/quickcalcs/Pvalue1.cfm).

On the other hand, the percentage average, proportion and analysis in the pronunciation of the initial, medial and final sounds of (f) and (v) were not included in order to limit the focus of this study.

RESULTS

Results of the study are presented in tables to show clearly how male and female participants differ in the pronunciation of (f) and (v) sounds and how social class differences affect their pronunciation.

Table 1 shows the differences between the lower working class and the middle class in the production of (f) sound. The results reveal that 32.9% of lower working class participants use the standard pronunciation of (f) and 62.1% use the non-standard pronunciation. The lower working class participants show a higher rate of using the non-standard pronunciation of (f), which is similar to the findings of Tudgill, Peter (1972), Eckert, Penelope (1989) and Fishman, Joshua (1968) that men prefer to use non-standard speech.

On the other hand, the middle class participants in this study show that 50.7% use the standard pronunciation of (f) and only 49.3% use the non-standard pronunciation. It only means that middle class participants have a higher rate of using the standard pronunciation of (f) than the lower working class.

These findings indicate that lower working class and middle class participants differ significantly in the pronunciation of (f). Participants in the lower working class have higher rates of using the non-standard pronunciation of (f), whereas the middle class have higher rates of using the standard pronunciation of (f).

Table 2 shows how male and female participants differ in the production of (f) sound. In this table, results reveal that 33.8 % of male participants use the standard pronunciation of (f) and 66.2% of them use the non-standard pronunciation of (f). Results further show that male participants have higher rates of using the non-standard pronunciation over the standard.

On the other hand, 49.8% of female participants use the standard pronunciation of (f) and 50.2% use the non-standard pronunciation. Female participants also show that they have a higher rate of using the non-standard pronunciation of (f).

Comparing male and female participants, results show that differences exist in the

Table 1. Number and Percentage of Standard and Non-standard Pronunciation of (f) Among the Middle class and Lower working class Participants.

Pronunciation of (f) sound	Lower Working Class	Middle Class	Total
Standard	148 (32.9%)	228 (50.7%)	376
Non-Standard	302 (62.1%)	222 (49.3%)	524
Total	450	450	900

production of (f) sounds. In fact, 33.8% of males and 49.8% of females use the standard pronunciation. On the contrary, 66.2% of male participants and 50.2% of female participants use the non-standard pronunciation of (f).

In spite of the differences between males and females in the pronunciation of (f), data still show that males have higher rates of using non-standard pronunciation of (f).

Table 3 shows how male and female vary in pronouncing (f) in relation to their social status. It reveals that 25.8% of males and 40% of females in the lower working class produce the standard (f) sound. It further shows that 74.2% of male participants and 60.0% of the female participants in the lower working class produce the non-standard (f) sound. On the other hand, 41.8% of males and 59.6% females in the middle class produce the standard (f) sound and 58.2% of males and 40.4% of females in the same class produce the standard pronunciation of (f) sound.

Furthermore, the Table shows how male

and female participants in the lower working class and middle class vary in the production of standard and non-standard pronunciation of (f) sound. Generally, it shows that male and female participants in the lower working class have lower rates in producing the standard pronunciation of (f) sound but have higher rates in the production of non-standard (f) sound.

The middle class participants reveal a different result; males have higher rates in using the non-standard pronunciation of (f) sound and have lower rates in producing the standard (f) sound. Compared to the female participants, it further shows that female participants in the middle class have higher rates of using the standard pronunciation of (f) sound and have lower rates of using the non-standard pronunciation of (f) sound.

Both male participants from the lower working class and middle class even differ in the production of (f) sound. It shows that males in the lower working class have higher rates of using the non-standard pronunciation of (f)

Table 2. Number and Percentage of Standard and Non-standard Pronunciation of (f) Among Male and Female Participants

Pronunciation of (f) sound	Male	Female	Total
Standard	152 (33.8%)	224 (49.8%)	376
Non-standard	298 (66.2%)	226 (50.2%)	524
Total	450	450	900

Table 3. Number and Percentage in the Pronunciation of (f) Among Male and Female Participants in the Middle class and Lower Working Class

Pronunciation of (f) sound	Lower Working class		Middle Class	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Standard	58 (25.8%)	90 (40%)	94 (41.8%)	134 (59.6%)
Non-standard	167 (74.2%)	135 (60.0%)	131 (58.2%)	91 (40.4%)
Total	225	225	225	225

Table 4. Number and Percentage of Standard and Non-standard Pronunciation of (v) Among the Middle class and Lower working class Participants

Pronunciation	Lower Working Class	Middle Class	Total
Standard	99 (22.0%)	155 (34.4%)	254
Non-Standard	351 (78.0%)	295 (65.6%)	646
Total	450	450	900

Table 5. Number and Percentage of Standard and Non-standard Pronunciation of (v) Among Male and Female Participants.

Pronunciation	Male	Female	Total
Standard	94 (20.9%)	160 (35.6%)	254
Non-standard	356 (79.1%)	290 (64.6%)	646
Total	450	450	900

sound but have lower rates in the production of the standard pronunciation of (f). It is also evident that female participants follow the same patterns. Females in the lower working class have higher rates of using the non-standard and have lower rates of using the standard pronunciation of (f) sounds.

These findings still show that differences occur between male and female in relation to social status.

Table 4 shows that 22.0% of the lower working class participants use the standard pronunciation of (v) and 78.0% of them use the non-standard pronunciation. The average percentage in the use of standard and non-standard pronunciation of (v) reveals that lower working class participants have higher rates of non-standard pronunciation.

Furthermore, results show that 34.4% of middle class participants use the standard pronunciation of (v) and 65.6% of them using the non-standard pronunciation. Based on the average percentage, middle class participants show a higher rate of using non-standard

pronunciation of (v). In general, the result indicates that both male and female participants in the middle class have higher rates of using non-standard pronunciation (v).

In spite of the similar patterns in the use of standard and non-standard pronunciation of (v) sound between the lower working class and middle class. It is still very clear that the lower working class participants have higher rates in using the non-standard pronunciation of (v) sound than that of the middle class participants.

Table 5 shows how males and females differ in the production of (v) sounds. It reveals that 20.9% of male participants use the standard pronunciation of (v), and 79.1% of them use the non-standard pronunciation. The results show that males have a higher rate of using non-standard pronunciation of (v).

Female participants have higher rates in using non-standard pronunciation of (v). Only 35.6% of females use the standard pronunciation of (v) and 64.7% of them use the non-standard pronunciation.

Table 6. Number and Percentage in the Pronunciation of (v) Among Male and Female Participants in the Middle class and Lower working class

Pronunciation	Lower Working class		Middle Class	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Standard	36 (16.0%)	63 (28%)	58 (25.8%)	97 (43.11%)
Non-standard	189 (84.0%)	162 (72%)	167 (74.2%)	128 (56.9%)
Total	225	225	225	225

Table 7. Number and Percentage of Substitution of (f) to (p) and (v) to (b) in the Lower working class and Middle class

Social Class	Substitution of (f) to (p)	Substitution of (v) to (b)	Total
Lower Working Class	302 (55.2%)	351 (54.8%)	653
Middle Class	245 (44.8%)	290 (45.25%)	535
Total	547	641	1188

Results for both male and female participants show something in common in the pronunciation of (v). In spite of their differences in the percentage average in the production of standard and non-standard pronunciation of (v), males and females still have higher rates of using non-standard pronunciation. Generally, it reveals that males have higher rates of using the non-standard pronunciation compared to females.

Table 6 reveals the number and percentage of standard and non-standard pronunciation of (v) sound between male and female participants in the lower working class and middle class. Male participants in the lower working class have lower rates in the pronunciation of standard (v) sound compared to the other participants in the same social status. The non-standard pronunciation of (v) sound shows a contrasting result. It shows that males have higher rates in using the non-standard pronunciation of (v) sound than the female participants.

The results reveal that male and female participants in both social classes vary in the production of standard and non-standard pronunciation of (v) sound.

Table 7 reveals the total number of substitutions of (f) with (p) among lower working class and middle class participants. In short, 55.2% of lower class participants frequently substitute (f) with (p) and 44.8% of the middle class participants frequently substitute (f) with (p). By looking closely at the percentage average, it is very clear that participants in the lower working class have higher rates of substituting (f) with (p) although both participants frequently make substitutions.

Moreover, the total number of substitutions of (v) with (b) in the lower working class shows an average percentage of 54.8% where most of them frequently substitute (v) with (b) whereas only 45.2% of middle class participants substitute (v) with (b). Results in this table still show differences

Table 8. Number and Percentage of Substitution of (f) to (p) and (v) to (b) Among Male and Female Participants

Participants	(f) to (p) Substitution	(v) to (b) Substitution	Total
Male	321 (58.7%)	356 (55.5%)	677
Female	226 (41.3%)	285 (44.5%)	511
Total	547	641	1188

Table 9. Summary on the Differences of (f) and (v) Pronunciation Among Male and Female Participants and Among Middle class and Lower working class Participants.

	Differences Between Male and Female in the pronunciation of (f) and (v) sounds in the middle class				Differences Between Male and Female in the pronunciation of (f) and (v) sounds in the lower working class			
	Standard		Non-standard		Standard		Non-standard	
	z Value	P Value	z Value	P Value	z Value	P Value	z Value	P Value
(f)	-2.735	.0062	3.408	.0007	-3.173	.0015	3.518	.0004
(v)	-2.758	.0058	4.149	.0001	-1.768	.0771	3.436	.0006

between lower working class and middle participants in the substitution of (v) with (b). In spite of these differences, findings further reveal that the participants in the lower working class have higher rates of substitution.

Table 8 shows the total number of substitutions of (f) to (p) among male and female participants. An average of 58.7% of male participants frequently substitute (f) to (p) while 41.3% of female participants frequently substitute (f) to (p). Examining very closely the total average percentage of the number of substitutions of (f) and (p) among males and females, it shows that male participants dominated the substitution of (f) to (p) compared with female participants.

On the other hand, results show that 55.5% of male participants frequently substitute (v) to (b) and 44.5% of the female participants substitute (v) to (b). It is evident in these findings that males and females significantly

differ in the number and percentage of substitutions made. Generally, it shows that male participants have higher rates of substituting (f) to (p) and (v) to (b).

The Table 9 clearly shows how male and female significantly differ in the production of (f) and (v) sounds in the middle class and lower working class. The calculated z value of the standard pronunciation of (f) and (v) sounds in the middle class is -2.735 and -2.758 respectively. The calculated z value of -2.735 with a P value of 0.0062 and 0.0058 at .05 level shows that the computed P value is less than the preset value of alpha (.05); therefore, the difference between male and female in the standard pronunciation of (f) and (v) sounds in the middle class is considered to be statistically significant.

Moreover, the calculated z value of the non-standard pronunciation of (f) and (v) sounds in the middle class is 3.408 and 4.149 respectively.

This calculated z value of 3.408 and 4.149 with a P value of .0007 and .0001 at .05 level reveal that the P value is less than the preset value of alpha (.05) ; therefore, a statistically significant difference between male and female in the non-standard pronunciation of (f) and (v) in the middle class exists.

On the other hand, the production of (f) and (v) sounds in the lower working class reveals a slightly different results. The table clearly shows -3.173 and -1.768 as the calculated z value of standard pronunciation of (f) and (v) respectively. The calculated z value of -3.173 in the pronunciation of the (f) sound in the lower working class has a P value of .0015 which shows that the P value is less than the preset value of alpha (.05); therefore, it only means that the participants show a statistically significant difference in the production of standard (f) sound in the lower working class. However, in the pronunciation of the standard (v) sound between males and females it reveals a z value of -1.768 and a P value of .0771 at .05 tells that by conventional criteria, this difference is considered to be not statistically significant.

Moreover, the non-standard pronunciation of (f) and (v) sounds in the lower working class participants shows a statistically significant difference because the calculated z value of 3.518 and 3.436 with a P value of .0004 and

.0006 which is less than the preset value of alpha (.05).

The result (Table 10) shows an extremely statistically significant difference between male and female in substituting (f) to (p) and (v) to (b) in the middle class, the table reveals a calculated z value of 6.885 and 4.149 with a 0.0001 P value at .05 level. This means that the P value is less than the preset value of alpha (.05).

On the other hand, in substituting (f) to (p), a calculated z value of 3.518, with a P value of 0.0004 at 05 level was obtained by the male and female participants in the lower working class. Therefore there is a statistically significant difference between male and female in the lower working class in substituting (f) to (p).

The Table further reveals that the substitution from (v) to (b) creates an extremely statistically significant difference by conventional criteria for it has a 2.781 calculated z value, with a P value of 0.0054 which is less than the preset value of alpha (.05).

These results clearly show the variations in pronouncing (f) between males and females and among males and females from different social classes. However, in pronouncing (v) sound, all male or female from the lower working class shows that the difference is not statistically significant.

Table 10. Summary of Substitutions from (f) to (p) and (v) to (b) Among Male and Female Participants in the Middle class and Lower working class.

Substitution	Male and Female Substitution from (f) to (p) and (v) to (b) in the middle class		Male and Female Substitution from (f) to (p) and (v) to (b) in the lower working class	
	z value	P value	z value	P value
(f) to (p)	6.885	.0001	3.518	.0004
(v) to (b)	4.149	.0001	2.781	.0054

Generally, the findings show that most males and females in the lower working class use non-standard pronunciation of (f) and (v) compared to males and females in the middle class who use standard pronunciation.

DISCUSSION

This study tries to examine the phonological differences between males and females in the production of (f) and (v) sounds. However, the social status is also considered to know whether it affects the way male and female pronounce (f) and (v).

To show the male and female differences, the average percentage of the total number of standard and non-standard pronunciation of (f) and (v) and the substitution of (f) to (p) and (v) to (b) are considered. The percentage average in Tables 1 to 9 was computed by dividing each category with the total number of words and multiplied by one hundred percent. To further give clarity in the presentation of data, the pronunciation of (f) and (v) sounds were classified into standard and non-standard pronunciation. The word standard in this study refers to the correct and proper production of (f) and (v) sounds based from the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). On the contrary, the non-standard refers to the incorrect and inappropriate production of (f) and (v) sounds, which are frequently substituted by (p) and (b) sounds. Moreover, proportion was also used to further validate the findings of the study whether a significant difference exists in the production of (f) and (v) sounds between male and female and between the middle class and the lower working class. The use of proportion was used in this study because the data were gathered by simply counting the number of students who produced the standard and the non-standard pronunciation of (f) and (v) sounds.

Tables 1- 8 reveal the differences between males and females in the production of standard and non-standard speech. This result mirrors the findings obtained by Foulkes, Docherty and Watt (2001) who found that males displayed a greater frequency of glottalised forms than the females.

The percentage average presented in Tables 1-8 show that female participants use the standard pronunciation of (f) and (v) more than male participants. This finding supports the claims of many researchers that women tend to use non-standard speech to maintain their femininity while men use non-standard speech in order to maintain their masculinity. This finding correlates with the study of Shen (1995) that if males use the standard pronunciation, they would be scorned as unmanly and labelled as womanish. On the other hand the tendency of women toward more standard speech as Labov (1972) noted is possibly related to women's linguistic insecurity. Trudgill (1974) also proved in his study that both working class and middle class males demonstrated covert prestige, which obviously attracted men. This covert prestige revealed by males is directly related to the use of non-standard speech of men, which is also revealed on this study in the pronunciation of (f) and (v).

Tables 9 and 10 further validate the findings in Tables 1-8 that male and female in relation to their social status significantly differ in the production of (f) and (v) sounds. Table 9 shows the calculated z value of the standard and non-standard pronunciation of (f) and (v) between male and female and between middle class and lower working class. In the pronunciation of (f) sound, an extremely statistically significant difference exists for the calculated z value of -2.735 has an equivalent P value of 0.0062 at .05 level which is less than the preset value of alpha (.05). Similarly, the

production of (v) sound reveals a statistically significant difference between male and female in the middle class for the calculated z value is -2.758 with a P value of 0.0058 at .05 level.

The results also between male and female in the lower working class reveal an extremely statistically significant difference in the production of (f) sound for the calculated z value of -3.173 with a P value of 0.0015 at .05 level. However, in the pronunciation of (v) sound in the lower working class between male and female, it reveals that the difference is not quite statistically significant.

As far as the substitution of (f) to (p) and (v) to (b) are concerned, a significant difference occurred between male and female both in the middle class and lower working class participants. The results of the study clearly shows the differences that really exist between male and female in the lower working class and middle class in the production of standard and non-standard (f) and (v) sounds.

Furthermore, the difference between males and females in the use of standard speech in this study further validates the findings of Trudgill (1972) that male speakers use the highest rate of non-standard forms whereas female speakers use the highest prestigious forms. One possible explanation that would support the similarities of the findings in many studies of women's speech patterns is that women try to ascend in society through language use (Coates, 1998).

One remarkable finding in this study is the differences that occur among male and among female participants. Males in the lower working class and middle class obtained higher rates in using non-standard pronunciation of (f) and (v) although there were slight variations in the standard and non-standard pronunciation. Male participants in the lower working class use more non-standard speech

than the participants in the middle class, while in the use of standard pronunciation, male participants in the middle class use more standard pronunciation of (f) and (v) than male participants in the lower working class. This shows that differences exist between males and females and among males and among females who belong to different social status. This finding is comparable to the study of Dumanig (2003) on Children's Speech: Its Relation to Sex Identification and Social Class Differences; he found that social status affects the way children produce the correct and appropriate sounds.

In the case of female participants, notable findings also occur. Females in the lower working class use more non-standard pronunciation of (f) and (v) which they frequently substitute with (p) and (b) than female participants in the middle class. In fact, females in the middle class have higher rates in using standard pronunciation of (f) and (v) than the non-standard. However, participants in the lower working class have higher rates in using non-standard pronunciation.

These results support the findings of Edwards (1997) that males and females in the lower working class tend to use more masculine speech patterns, which is labelled as non-standard. On the other hand, males and females in the middle class tend to use more feminine speech. This indicates that social class differences affect the way an individual pronounces words, whether standard or non-standard.

CONCLUSION

This study clearly shows that phonological differences in the pronunciation of (f) and (v) between males and females really exist. Females in general have higher rates in using standard pronunciation of (f) and (v) than males.

Findings further reveal that males substitute (f) to (p) and (v) to (b) more than the female participants. This shows that substitutions in the pronunciation of (f) and (v) to (p) and (b) are more common among young Filipino males than young Filipino females.

It is evident in the findings of this study that males and females also vary in the production of (f) and (v). Male participants in the lower working class and middle class differ in the production of (f) and (v). Male participants in the lower working class have a higher rate in using the non-standard pronunciation of (f) and (v) compared to male participants in the middle class, although they also have a slightly higher rate of non-standard pronunciation. Lower working class male participants have even more substitutions of (p) and (b) for (f) and (v).

Female participants in two social classes obtained almost the same results. Females in the lower working class tended to use more non-standard pronunciation of (f) and (v) which they frequently substituted with (p) and (b). On the contrary, female participants in the middle class tend to use more of standard pronunciation of (f) and (v) with a lower rate of substitution of (p) and (b), although substitution still existed due to the fact that (f) and (v) are non-existent in the Filipino language.

More studies related to this research are recommended to further validate these results. Studies using more participants would help in validating these findings. It is also important to consider the selection of participants in order to standardise the results of the study. Participants should have the same academic status and English language background.

Further research related to this study should take a closer look at how males and females vary in the pronunciation of (f) and (v) in the initial, medial and final sounds.

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