

## AN ENDEAVOUR TO REDEFINE CONSONANT SOUNDS IN RP (RECEIVED PRONUNCIATION)

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### ABSTRACT

This paper will emphasis on consonant sounds. As per the data available we have 24 consonant sounds in RP (Received Pronunciation). I have noticed one sound i.e, /dh/ which needs to be added in consonant sounds in RP. I will be providing more information on this sound in the text. As the words which starts with /dh/ are from Indian origin therefore, they should be pronounced in the same sense. The place and manner of articulation will be also described. I feel that this particular sound should be added in consonant sound and as a result the number of consonant sounds will become 25 in RP (Received Pronunciation).

**KEYWORDS:** Consonant Sounds, Vowel Sounds, /dh/, /ch/, /th/, RP (Received Pronunciation)

### INTRODUCTION

Sounds in respect to vowel and consonant sounds are important for the right pronunciation of a word. “As we know that there are 26 alphabets in English and out of these 26 alphabets there are 20 vowel sounds and 24 consonant sounds in RP. However, these 20 vowel sounds are again categorized into 12 pure vowel sounds and 8 diphthongs” (Bansal & Harrison, 1983, Sethi & Dhamija, 2003, Roach, 1991, Hornby, 2010, O’Connor, 2000).

I have noticed that there is a strong need to add one more sound in consonant sounds. This sound is in the words starts with **dh**. There are some words in Oxford Dictionary which I wish to state here “**dh**ania, **dh**ansak, **dh**arma, **dh**arna, **dh**aruk, **dh**oti and **dh**ow” (Hornby, 2010).

The meaning, phonetics transcription and the origin of the words are as under:

**Dhania:** /da:niə/ (word originated from Hindi)

The leaves or seed of coriander plant, used to flavour food.

**Dhansak:** /dʌnsa:k/ (word originated from Gujarati language)

An Indian meat or vegetable cooked with lentils

**Dharma:** /da:mə/ (word originated from Sanskrit language)

In Indian religion truth or law that affects the whole universe

**Dharna:** /dʒ:nə/ (word originated from Hindi)

A form of protest in which group of people refuse to leave a factory or public place

**Dharuk:** /d ʌrək/ (word originated from Sydney or Australia)

An aboriginal language of the area around Sydney, which is no longer spoken

**Dhoti:** /dʰoʈi/ (word originated from Hindi language)

A long piece of cloth worn by Hindu men. It is tied around the waist, with that lower part passed between the legs and put into the cloth at the back, so that the knees are usually covered.

**Dhow:** /daʊ/ (word originated from Marathi language)

An Arab ship with one large sail in the shape of a triangle.

After looking at the above transcriptions the sound produced is /d/ which seems to be not appropriate. Where as, it can't be /θ/ or /ð/ therefore, I believe that there is a need to redefine the sound of dh in **dh**ania, **dh**ansak, **dh**arma, **dh**arna, **dh**aruk, **dh**oti and **dh**ow. The sounds produced in these words are /d/ which is a consonant. My views are that the sounds should be /**dh**/ as in Hindi. Words like dhanian, dharma, dharna, dhoti are of Indian origin therefore they must be used in the true sense.

It is important to state that the words which start with **ch** also produce different sounds. The letter combination **ch** has three distinct sounds. To explain these let us have some examples:

- Words like Chemist, Chemistry, Chemical produces sound of /k/ as these words are taken into English from Greek- **ch** as in

**Chemist** : kemɪst

**Chemistry** : kemɪstri

**Chemical** : kemɪkl

- Words like Chair, Church, Champion produces sound of /tʃ/ the most usual way to pronounce as in

**Chair** : tʃeə

**Church**: tʃɜ:tʃ

**Champion**: tʃæmpɪən

- Words like Machine, Parachute, Chef produces sound of /ʃ/ as it is originated from French

**Machine**: məʃɪn

Parachute: pəˈrəʃu:t

**Chef**: ʃɛf

Similar case is with the words which start with **th**

- Words like **th**ink, **th**in, **th**ing produces sound of /θ/

**Think** : θɪk

**Thin** : θɪn

**Thing**: θɪŋ

- Words like these, this, then produces sound of /ð/

**Th**ese : ðr:z

**Th**is : ðɪs

**Th**en : ðen

By looking at the above discussions I feel that a new phonetic symbol should be given to **dh** sound. As far as I am concerned the new symbol for this sound should be /**dh**/.

### Place and Manner of Articulation for /**dh**/ Sound

As far as place and manner of articulation for RP /**dh**/ the tip of the tongue is brought near the edge of the upper teeth to make a light contact and the soft palate is raised to shut off the nasal passage.

The air passing between the tip and blade of the tongue and the upper teeth produces audible friction. The vocal cords are wide apart for /**dh**/ sound. If asked to term this sound I would term it as Dental Fricative.

### CONCLUSIONS

Hence, the words start with /**dh**/ sound should be pronounced in true Indian spirit as the words with **ch** are pronounced with true sense in Greek and French. Therefore, /**dh**/ sound should be added in consonant sounds. The transcription of the words which start with **dh** should be as under:

- **Dh**ania : /dha:niə/
- **Dh**ansak : /dhʌnsa:k/
- **Dh**arma: /dha:mə/
- **Dh**arna : /dhɜ:nə/
- **Dh**aruk : /dh ʌrʊk /
- **Dh**oti : /dhəʊti/
- **Dh**ow : /dhaʊ/

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