



The subject's production of certain vowel sounds differed drastically from my speech. I guess I can say that after living in the US for almost 6 years, I have sort of abandoned the British English, and have adopted the American English. The easily observable differences were the following:

1. The subject almost always pronounced [ɪ] instead of [e]. It is difficult to determine whether the substitution was a kind of reduction in the vowel length or on the contrary, but the pattern was consistent throughout her speech. It should be noted that she was speaking with her husband in her own environment. Despite the fact that she was aware of the nature of the experiment, the speech situation may be considered reasonably natural.
2. The second consistent substitution was in the pronunciation of words beginning with voiceless stops [t,k], followed by a mid back vowel [ɔ]. The subject replaced the mid back vowel [ɔ] with another mid back vowel, which is not present in the American English. Her production of the vowel sound [o] was somewhere between the British English [ɔ] and the American English [ɒ]. The examples of this pattern are "talk," "got," etc.
3. The final voiceless stop consonant [t] was always replaced by a glottal stop [ʔ]. This happened whenever she pronounced the word "got". The length of the vowel [o], however, remained the same. Interestingly this tendency to produce a glottal stop in place of [t] persisted in contractions such as "its".
4. The diphthong [æ] was replaced by the low central vowel [ɜ]. This happened in words like "can't," and "half".
5. I found one interesting example of dropping the [r] sound. As native speakers of American English replace the alveolar stop [r] with a flap, especially when it occurs between a stressed vowel and an unstressed vowels, the subject also pronounced the [r] sound as a flap [ɾ] in "better". The only difference being the dropping of the final retroflex sound [ɻ].
6. One feature which is very rarely observed among native English speakers, was the replacement of the diphthong [aɪ] by the low central vowel [ɜ]. She pronounced the word [saɪns] as [sɜns].
7. Since the project requires comparing the subject's pronunciation with that of mine, I need to mention one more difference, which is very common among all native speakers of English regardless of their dialect. The subject pronounced the dental fricative [θ] as the alveolar stop [d] in the word "Hindi". This could be attributed to her orthographic pronunciation of the word. It is reasonable to assume that native speakers of English recognize the letter "d" in "Hindi" as the phoneme [d], since it is a non-English word, and they have know way of knowing the correct pronunciation. Even the American English dictionaries transcribe this word as [hɪndi].