INTERSONIC COMPETENCE OF SHEIKH HAMZA YUSUF *DA'WAH* VIDEO: AN ACOUSTIC PHONETIC STUDY

Oleh:
Nur Khofifah Saadiah
Fakultas Ilmu Budaya, Universitas Gadjah Mada
Email: nurkhofifahsaadiah23@gmail.com

A B S T R ACT

Intersonic competence is important for analyzing the sounds produced by speakers. Not only in the realm of music and instruments, but this can also be analyzed for other utterances. One of the speeches that can be analyzed that the reseracher uses in this research is the delivery of da'wah 'preaching' by Sheikh Hamza Yusuf as a native English speaker with an American English accent. The researcher chooses one video of Sheikh Hamza Yusuf entitled The Quran from the instagram account in account name @cafe.ihsan who shares lots of da'wah 'preaching' videos from the Muslim scholars. PRAAT software is used to count and analyze the intonatin and the speed. This study aims to analyze the influences of using variative intonation, variative speed and rhythm, and the background of the accent and the dialect. Therefore, this article analyzes the three discussions of intersonic competence. The data shows the use of variative intonation by Sheikh Hamza Yusuf: fall, rise-fall, and fall-rise intonations are indicated in the result, variative speed and rhythm, and the background of accent and dialect influence the audiences' understanding.

A B S T R A K

Intersonic kompetensi penting untuk menganalisis suara yang dihasilkan oleh pembicara. Tidak hanya dalam musik dan instrumen, tetapi juga dalam ucapan lainnya. Salah satu ucapan yang dianalisis dalam penelitian ini adalah dakwah yang disampaikan oleh Sheikh Hamza Yusuf, penutur asli bahasa Inggris dengan aksen Amerika. Penelitian ini menggunakan video Sheikh Hamza Yusuf berjudul *The Quran* dari akun Instagram @cafe.ihsan, yang sering membagikan video dakwah ulama Muslim. Software PRAAT digunakan untuk menghitung dan menganalisis intonasi serta kecepatan. Penelitian ini bertujuan menganalisis pengaruh variasi intonasi, kecepatan, ritme, serta latar belakang aksen dan dialek. Hasil menunjukkan Sheikh Hamza Yusuf menggunakan variasi intonasi seperti jatuh, naik-jatuh, dan jatuh-naik, kecepatan dan ritme yang bervariasi, serta aksen dan dialek yang memengaruhi pemahaman audiens.

I. INTRODUCTION

Intersonic competence helps to recognize and understand how elements in music interact with each other in a certain context. However, internsonic comptence is not only in music, but can also be used in other things such as the field of sound in film, theater and verbal

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communications. One of the things included is a speech. Prosodic features such as rhythm, pitch, loudness, tempo of speech, and all other relevant elements greatly influence the way a speaker conveys his or her meaning when speaking publicly to a particular type of audience (Romero-Trillo, 2013). In contrast, supra-segmentals are considered the shortest way to load a speech with messages, something that is beneficial for public speakers. This intersonic competence is really needed to be analyzed.

Those discussions above are included in the study of phonetic. The study that is part of the basics of a language is the study of phonetics. The study of sounds as sounds is called the study of phonetics. This study is a study of how language sounds can be obtained through the use of speech organs. A simple example that we can easily catch is the sounds that a musical instrument makes which are the result of a sound presentation and have their own characteristics. Zaid (2006) states in his book phonetics can describe the method of producing a sound both from the position and movement of the articulatory apparatus, acoustically, how the pattern produced in the sound can be recognized with certainty using special and auditory equipment. He continues that phonetics can help us understand the sequence of sounds in assimilated words. Therefore, we can call phonetics a study of the sounds of language. This is similar to what has been stated by Dardjowidjojo (2009) phonetics is a science that deals with the sounds of human language.

The study of this sound segment has developed and been updated for hundreds of years and is then known as the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), Yule (2014). These alphabet symbols can be used to indicate sounds such as vowel sounds and consonant sounds.

When the sounds of language are arranged in a certain structure, they can form syllables, words, phrases, and so on. Phonetic symbols that are represented in a form are called phonetic transcription. This transcription can be done in ways such as broad transcription, narrow transcription, systematic transcription and impressionistic transcription. In phonetic studies, we can find several study sections such as: articulatory phonetics, auditory phonetics, and acoustic phonetics, Zaid (2006).

Using the right language sounds when saying or conveying a message will make it easier for listeners to understand. This can be seen from intonation, speed and rhythm, and accent and dialect, (Zaid (2006); Dardjowidjojo (2009), and Yule (2014)). Naming in the use of language sounds is called sound elements. The use and selection of language sounds plays an important role in making speech. Furthermore, if the speech conveyed is heard to all elements of society as in the form of *da'wah* 'preaching'. One of the preachers who is also a scholar is Sheikh Hamza Yusuf who comes from America. The speech delivered by Sheikh Hamza Yusuf was able to be interpreted well because aspects of his use of language including intonation, speed and rhythm, and his accent and dialect were played perfectly. Thus, the study of acoustic phonetics which will be the focus of this research will be the key to stating the use of sound variations used by Sheikh Hamza Yusuf in his *da'wah* 'preaching'. This research will discuss acoustic phonetic analysis in sound elements which include intonation, speed and rhythm, and accent and dialect used by Sheikh Hamza Yusuf in his *da'wah* 'preaching' on the pulpit, the videos of which can be accessed via the Instagram page. The intonation used in speaking can be measured and listeners can interpret the meaning stored in the speech. As in this research, the researcher will analyze the acoustic phonetics in Sheikh Hamza Yusuf's videos, which has not previously been researched on this. Therefore, this research can be said to be new research.

a. Intersonic Competence

Intersonic competence is often found in music which is associated with the listener's understanding of music such as intervals, chords and phrases (Green, 2008). Intersonic competence helps to recognize and understand how elements in music interact with each other in a certain context. However, this study is not only in music, but can also be used in other things such as the field of sound in film, theatre, and verbal communications. One of the things

included is a speech. The speech that is the focus of researchers in this research is religious speech, or better referred to as *da'wah* 'preaching'. From the discussion about intersonic competence, the researcher tries to link the parts of interpersonal competence that will be analyzed, namely intonation, speed and rhythm, and accent and dialect.

b. Acoustic Phonetic

Acoustic phonetics in Zaid's book (2006) is said to be a study refers to the study of the transmission of sound signals such as a language sound which already has a structure or is still in the form of a segment of speech delivered by the speaker to the listener during direct communication. In the process of hearing this sound, there are several parameters, including fundamental frequency (F0), intensity and duration. The fundamental frequency parameter (F0) is measured in units specified in Hertz units (Hz), intensity in decibel units (dB), and duration in units saat (s) which supports the function in certain meanings. An example written by Zaid (2006) is that the pronoun of the word *awak* 'you' in Malay can have different meanings when pronounced using different duration parameters, such as:

a. *Awak!*

b. Aaaaaaaawak?

The duration (a) is shorter but supports the emotional meaning of the appeal, while the longer duration (b) supports the emotional meaning as a form of distrust or needing validation of the truth. The two examples are also different because the intonation used is also different.

A study on intersonics was carried out by Rosakis (2002) who discussed intersonic cracks in the realm of geophysics which obtained results in the form of the formation of shock waves, large friction on the surface of the cracks, and the maximum speed of the cracks and their stability. Other research on intersonics in the same field carried out by Risakis (2002) was also carried out by Needlemen (1999), Coker (2001), Gao (2001), Geubelle (2001), and other researchers. Researchers have not found research on intersonic competence that is included in the realm of sound with a focus on acoustic phonetics.

Generally, this research will discuss intersonic competence contained in *Sheikh* Hamza Yusuf's video on the Café Ihsan Instagram page. Things will be researched as part of intersonic competence analysis in the phonetic acoustic study of voice elements include where intonations change with a specific purpose, changes in fast and slow speaking styles in terms of speed and rhythm, and the use of accents which can influence the delivery of the message conveyed by Sheikh Hamza Yusuf. It aims to proof that Sheikh Hamza Yusuf uses variative intonation, variative speed and rhythm, and the background of his accent and dialect can influence the audiences easier in understanding his *da'wah* 'preaching'.

II. METHOD

The initial step taken by the researcher was to look for Sheikh Hamza Yusuf's da'wah video on the Instagram page with the account name Café Ihsan @cafe.ihsan which has at least 115,000 followers in 2024. In this account, there is a bio describes the content, aims and purpose of the account it exists. The bio is "Ihsan is a labor of love. The essence of Ihsan is love of God, and is the pinnacle and highest state of Islam". From that bio, followers can see that this account will spread messages about Islamic knowledge filled by several preachers and scholars. One of the preachers who is often shared on this account is Sheikh Hamza Yusuf. Sheikh Hamza Yusuf is a Muslim scholar whose previous name was Mark Hanson. He reverted to becoming a Muslim in 1977. He is a white American born in 1958. He is the founder of an educational institution in California (Zaytuna College). The teaching that characterizes it is the advocacy of Sunni revival. Islamic teachings from a "traditional an and classical" perspective but trying to be adapted to the American context. He was a highly respected person, (Galonnier, 2023). In the end, the author limited the account to one video with the title "The Qur'an".

The next step the author took was to watch and note down the points conveyed in the video. This was then followed by a transcription process which coincidentally contained English subtitles in the video, making it easier for researchers. After completing the transcription process, the researcher carried out an in-depth analysis of intersonic competence in terms of intonation, speed or rhythm, and accent or dialect used by Sheikh Hamza Yusuf in conveying the da'wah message. The researcher uses acoustic phonetic studies to obtain findings that can be analyzed.

The rapid development of computer technology means that the parameters contained in the study of acoustic phonetics can be visualized (Zaid, 2006). An application was found that could handle sound data, namely PRAAT, which was created by a Dutch scholar named Paul Boersma and David Weenink in 1992. The researcher used these findings to analyze sound data produced in Sheikh Hamza Yusuf's videos. The reseracher wanted to know how intonation and speed or rhythm can be determined from the analysis process using PRAAT software which is depicted through a spectrogram. Furthermore, the researcher analyzed the dialect or accent that Sheikh Hamza Yusuf has as a white American and analyzed its influence on the clarity of his *da'wah* 'preaching' to ease for his listeners to understand.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The use of audio for analysis can be represented in various ways, and which one is best depends on the application and processor, (Wyse, 2017). Reading experiments on spectrogram images can prove the researcher used PRAAT Software to analyze the sounds emitted by Sheikh Hamza Yusuf in his preaching video about the Koran. Researchers will provide several images based on the classification that the author has shared, namely: intonation, speed and rhythm, and accent and dialect. Acoustic signals are rich in phonetic information (Cole, et al 1978).

a. Intonation

All sounds produced can produce vocalizations using exhaled air and vocal fold oscillations to produce sound, (Vaissière, 2005). There is a classification of intonation that is stated by Dardjojowidjojo (2009), there are six patterns of intonation: falling, rising, extra-rising, sustained, falling-rising, and rising-falling. Humans can change various elements to obtain vocal fold vibrations and control them. In the study of language, it is very important for humans to convey meaning when speaking, whether the meaning is in individual words such as those contained in phrases and discourse. Vaissière (2005) states these variations can help humans understand sentence structure, modality, emphasis, speaker attitude, emotions, and communication intentions. This is in line with what the researcher analyzed, namely regarding the intonation used by Sheikh Hamza Yusuf in his video. In the video transcription, there are at least 318 words Sheikh Hamza Yusuf states.

The data below shows the intonation model: pitch value in Hertz (Hz), function and type, meaning, and kinds of sentence in each tone unit of the speaker's statements.

Table 1.
Speech Tone Analysis of The Speaker's Statements

No. of Exp.	Discourse Intonation	No. of TU	Pitch Value (Hz)	Function and Type	Meaning	Kinds of Sentence
1	// *p* I have lots of PROblem in moROCCO //	1	254,34	*p* (fall)	shared information	declarative sentence

2	*// p+* who is THE *haal al MURTAHHL //*	1	85,58	*p+* (rise-fall)	unshared information	interrogative sentence
3	*// p+* LOOK AT morocco *//*	1	416, 64	*p+* (rise-fall)	shared information	imperative sentence
4	*// r* how MUCH *//* *// p+* staBILity THEY have *//*	2	231, 32 366, 84	*r* (fall-rise) *p+* (rise-fall)	shared information	exclamatory sentence

The data above shows the words the researcher has classified into kinds of sentences: declarative sentence, interrogative sentence, imperative sentence, and exclamatory sentence. The researcher takes one example for each kind of sentence. The declarative sentence, interrogative sentence, and imperative sentence have their own one tone unit. Meanwhile the exclamatory sentence has two tone units. Sheikh Hamza Yusuf mainly performs a rise-fall intonation type. The first analysis of intonation is the declarative (statements) sentence:
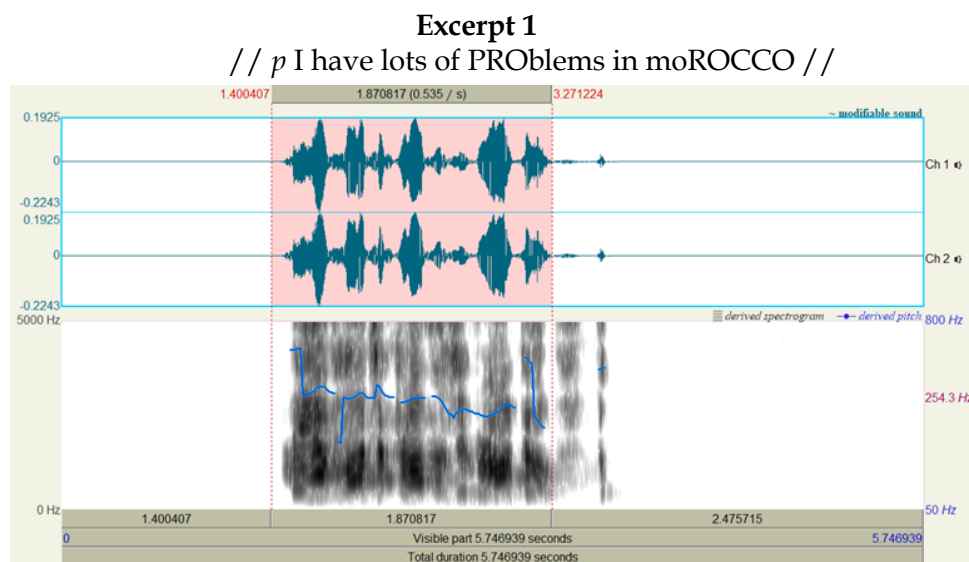
Excerpt 1
// p I have lots of PROblems in moROCCO *//*

Figure 1. The tone of the declarative sentence analysis in spectrogram

In the statement above, the speaker (Sheikh Hamza Yusuf) states a declarative sentence to give information to the audiences. This is the beginning of the speaker's utterance. It begins by stating about the country of Morocco which has lots of problems. It aims to make the audiences think about how much the problems Morocco have. In contrast, Moroccan, especially the migrants still have leisure to read the Quran although they do not stay in one place. Those statements are continuously and sequentially stated by the speaker. The statement in the data above shows fall type information as a characteristic of declarative sentences.

Excerpt 2
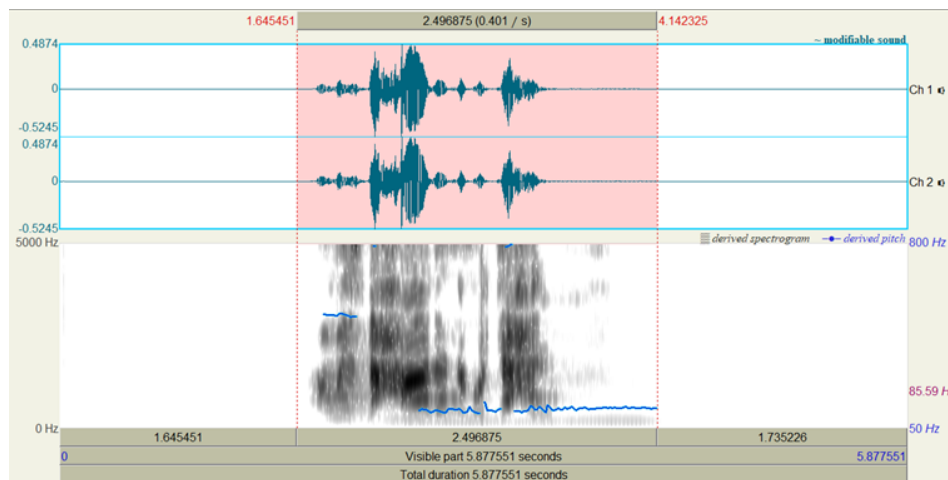// *p*+ who is THE *haal al MURTAHHL*? //

Figure 2. The tone of the interrogative sentence analysis in spectrogram

In the statement above, the speaker states an interrogative sentence. There is code-switching in it. Firstly, the words of "who is THE…" in English. Secondly, the words of "…*haal al MURTAHHL*" in Arabic. The words of *haal al murtahhl* mean the condition of the migrants (Moroccan) who are doing migration as their routine activity. The further explanation of this Arabic words is behind the story Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him was asked what is the best action, they said the *al haal al murtahhl*, the one who descends or alights upon a place and then gets out on a journey again and they said "who is the *al haal al murtahhl?* He said the one who finishes the Quran and starts it again.

The statement above is categorized as unshared information because the audiences cannot find the information the speaker states it. It is a rise-fall intonation. It is used by the speaker in order to catch interesting intonation. Therefore, the audiences can understand it easier.

Excerpt 3
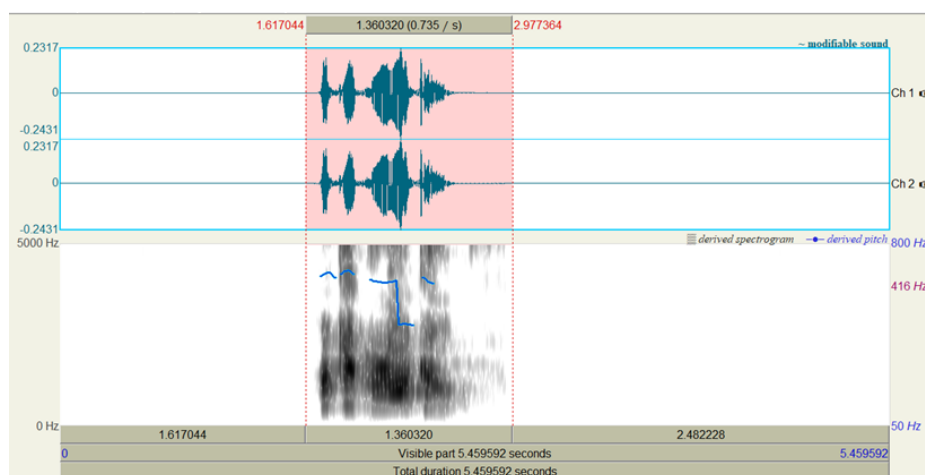// *p*+ LOOK AT morocco! //

Figure 3. The tone of the imperative sentence analysis in spectrogram

In the statement above, the speaker states an imperative sentence. The speaker begins the video by stating this imperative sentence to guide the curiosity of the audience. This statement repeats twice in the video. The researcher makes the second statement. It is

categorized as shared information because in the second time of this statement, the speaker has already given much information about what happens to Morocco. Based on the research, it indicates a rise-fall intonation as mentioned in the Table 1. It is used by the speaker in order to catch interesting intonation. Therefore, the audiences may have curiosity about it.
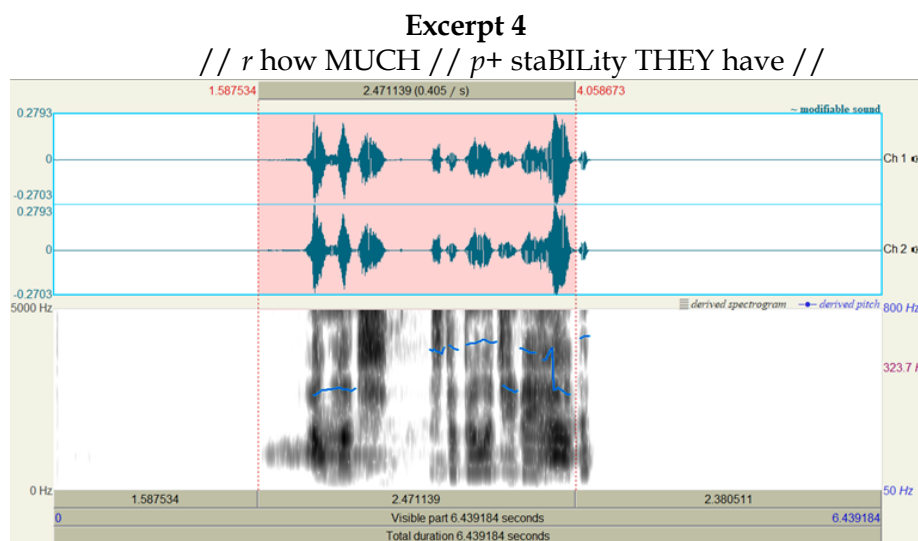
Excerpt 4
// *r* how MUCH // *p*+ staBILity THEY have //

Figure 4. The tone of the exclamatory sentence analysis in spectrogram

In the statement above, the speaker states an exclamatory sentence. Based on the data shown above, this statement has a fall-rise intonation that aims to stress the exclamatory words in catching the audiences' attention.

The statement explains the stability Moroccan have in their daily life. It is a shared information because this statement comes after there is an informative explanation about Moroccan activities. The stability the Moroccan has is the way they manage their time. Although Morocco is a country which has lots of problems, the Moroccan consistently recites the Quran. They finish the Quran and start it again frequently. Morocco has 250.000 *khatm* 'finish in reciting the Quran' in their *Masaajid* 'mosques' every single month when all the trials and turbulations happen. The speaker wants the audiences to imitate the habit of reciting the Quran.

b. Speed and Rhythm
Declarative Sentence
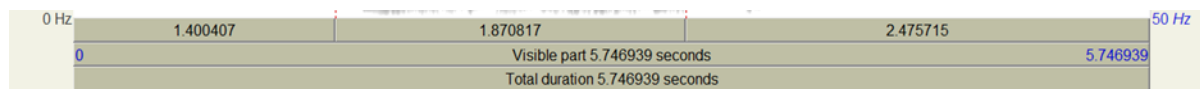// I / have/ lots/ of/ problems/ in/ Morocco //

Figure 5. The duration of the declarative sentence analysis in spectrogram

There are seven words uttered by the speaker in the duration of 5.7460939 seconds. The speed of this statement is 0.8208705571 second per word.

Interrogative Sentence
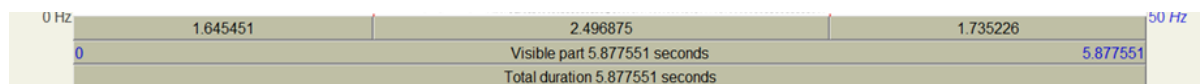// who/ is/ the/ *haal/ al/ murtahhl*? //

Figure 6. The duration of the interrogative sentence analysis in spectrogram

There are eight syllables uttered by the speaker in the duration of 5.877551 seconds. It can be counted that this statement's speed is 0.734693875 second per syllable. This is faster than the declarative sentence. It indicates to make the audiences get more engaged by thinking about the meaning behind the question the speaker gives.

Imperative Sentence
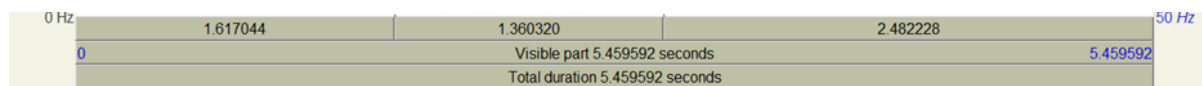
// Look/ at/ Morocco! //

Figure 7. The duration of the imperative sentence analysis in spectrogram

There are five syllables uttered by the speaker in the duration of 5.459592 seconds. Its speed is 1.0919184 seconds per syllable. This is slower than the declarative and interrogative sentences above. It proves that the imperative sentence here needs more time to engage the audiences.

Exclamatory Sentence
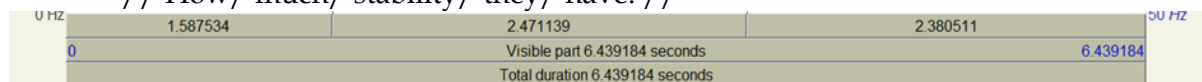
// How/ much/ stability/ they/ have! //

Figure 8. The duration of the exclamatory sentence analysis in spectrogram

There are eight syllables uttered by the speaker in duration of 6.439184 seconds. It can be counted that the speed of this statement is 0.804898 second per syllable. This is faster than the interrogative sentence, but slower than the declarative sentence and imperative sentence. It indicates that the slowest speed of the speaker's utterance is in the imperative sentence at 1.0919184 second per syllable. Meanwhile the fastest speed is in the interrogative sentence in the interrogative sentence at 0.734693875 second per syllable.

From the analysis of speed and rhythm, it was found that each type of sentence has a different speed. This is proven by the fastest pronunciation of interrogative sentences and the slowest imperative sentences. This indicates that *Sheikh* Hamza Yusuf's use of speed in delivering his preaching was very varied as an effort to explain the preaching message so that it was more easily understood by the audience. The upload of the preaching video entitled The Quran received many good comments. There was one comment that gave his opinion regarding the delivery method used by the speaker.

The comment sentence that gives an opinion regarding the speaker's delivery method is "...., and I absolutely adore the way he presents Morocco, ...". This comment received 72 likes when researchers visited the video upload. This comment explains the interest of the

commenter with the account name zeineb_moukrim in the speaker's delivery when explaining about Morocco. This indicates that the use of variations in intonation and speed used by the speaker greatly influences the audience's understanding.

c. Accent and Dialect

In the fifth edition of George Yule's book (2014), the author explains accents and dialects. There is a myth about accents which states that not everyone has a language accent. However, Yule (2014) said that every person certainly has a language accent that differentiates one from another. This accent differentiates the pronunciation a person uses to find out where the person is from. In contrast to dialects, they more broadly include grammatical and vocabulary features in addition to aspects of pronunciation such as those contained in accents.

The speaker (Sheikh Hamza Yusuf) is a native English speaker. He comes from Walla Walla, Washington, United States. O'Sullivan (2001) in The Guardian Daily from England said that "Sheikh Hamza Yusuf is the most influential western Islamic scholar." This indicates that he is indeed a native speaker belonging to a Western nation. He uses an American English accent in his speeches. This is the analysis of the sound produced by him:

"But look how much stability their community is than other communities."

The lexicals that are shown as an English American accent are "their" and "other". The lexical "their" is pronounced as ˈt̲h̲er. The lexical "other" is pronounced as ˈə-t̲h̲ər. The letter [r] is clearly pronounced. This is one of the characteristics of the English American accent. Sheikh Hamza Yusuf preaches a lot abroad, especially in the United States as the founder of Zaytuna College. His audience is also very varied, but Sheikh Hamza Yusuf's accent is easy to understand.

IV. CONCLUSION

Intersonic competence is important for analyzing the sounds produced by speakers. Not only in the realm of music and instruments, but this can also be analyzed for other utterances. One of the speeches that can be analyzed that researchers use in this research is the delivery of *da'wah* 'preaching' by Sheikh Hamza Yusuf as a native English speaker with an American English accent.

The research conducted by the researcher focused on discussing intersonic competence with a focus on analyzing intonation, speed and rhythm, as well as the accent and dialect of Sheikh Hamza Yusuf. In the analysis of the intonation section, it is proven that each type of sentence has a different intonation. Researchers measure the pitch value used in Hertz. Declarative sentences have a pitch value at 254,34 Hz that indicates a fall intonation. Different from interrogative sentences, imperative sentences, and exclamatory sentences which have more variative intonation. Interrogative sentences have a pitch value at 85,58 Hz and it is categorized as rise-fall intonation. This is same to the imperative sentences (416,64 Hz) and the second tone unit in the exclamatory sentence (366,84 Hz) which indicates rise-fall intonation. There is a kind of sentence that has different intonation, this sentence is indicated as fall-rise intonation. It is the first tone unit of an exclamatory sentence at 231,32 Hz.

In the discussion about speed, it can be concluded that Sheikh Hamza Yusuf uses the variation of speed in each kind of sentence. The speed of the declarative sentence is 0.8208705571 second per word. The speed of the interrogative sentence is 0.734693875 second per syllable. The speed of the imperative sentence is 1.0919184 seconds per syllable. Meanwhile the speed of the exclamatory sentence is 0.804898 second per syllable. It indicates that the slowest speed of the speaker's utterance is in the imperative sentence at 1.0919184 second per syllable. Meanwhile the fastest speed is in the interrogative sentence in the interrogative sentence at 0.734693875 second per syllable.

In the discussion of accent and dialect, Sheikh Hamza Yusuf as an English native speaker who comes from America and grew up in America speaks English American accent. It is proven when he says the lexical "their" is pronounced as ˈther and the lexical "other" is pronounced as ˈə-thər. The letter [r] is clearly pronounced. This is one of the characteristics of the English American accent.

From the three discussions about the intonation, the speed and rhythm, and the accent and dialect show that this has an influence on how easy it is for the audience to understand the preaching message conveyed by Sheikh Hamza Yusuf, starting from variations in intonation, variations in speed and rhythm, as well as the background accent and dialect used. This is proven by several comments that appeared in the video upload. So, it can be said that Sheikh Hamza Yusuf's interpersonal competence can influence the audience's level of understanding. Furthermore, the research conducted by the researcher was still limited to selecting several sentences from four types of sentences. Researchers still limit one example sentence in each type. For further research, the next researcher can take more samples to obtain more comparable data.

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