

English in K-pop: An Analysis of English Fluency on K-pop Group NCT 127 Members

Tedi Setyawan¹, Bob Morison Sigalingging²

^{1,2}Universitas Bangka Belitung

tedisetyawan140@gmail.com

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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini dilakukan untuk menganalisis kefasihan berbahasa Inggris pada anggota kpop grup NCT 127. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian kualitatif dengan menggunakan metode deskriptif. Pengambilan data dilakukan dengan metode analisis isi dari konten-konten youtube yang menampilkan anggota-anggota NCT 127 berbahasa Inggris. Untuk menganalisis kefasihan dari anggota NCT 127 digunakanlah software Praat. Hasil dari analisis menunjukkan bahwa anggota seperti Johnny, Jaehyun dan Mark fasih dalam berbahasa Inggris sedangkan anggota seperti Taeyong, Yuta, dan Jungwoo belum bias dikatakan fasih dan anggota lain seperti Doyoung dan Haechan menunjukkan potensi untuk menjadi fasih.

Abstract

This research was conducted to analyse English fluency on K-pop group NCT 127's members. This research is a qualitative research using descriptive study method. Data was collected using content analysis method on YouTube's contents which shows NCT 127's members speaking English. The results of the study shown that member like Johnny, Jaehyun, and Mark is fluent in English while member like Taeyong, Yuta, and Jungwoo is less fluent and other member like Doyoung and Haechan shows the potential to be fluent.



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1. Introduction

K-pop is short for Korean popular music, is a genre origin in south Korea. Features with divers range of music genre and styles such as Pop, R&B, Hip-hop, Electronic music and many more. This genre offers high-quality song, visual treat music video with stunning choreography. This genre started in the early 1990s. This genre gained an attention since Seo Taiji and Boys in 1992, whom introduced the combination of Korean lyrics with western musical style (Gerocs, 2024). From late 1990s until early 2000s, K-pop began to evolved

further with the debut of groups like H.O.T and S.E.S. Nowadays, K-pop has achieved a global success. Groups like Blackpink, BTS, EXO, and NCT has topped a global music chart. With its global recognition, K-pop has now become a trend among countries all around the world. K-pop fans or called K-popers has grown all around the world. Ezani (2019) said that in 2019, there is over 89 million K-pop followers, and still counting on social media. Natalia (2024) stated that in 2024 there are estimated 150 million K-pop fans globally. With this big numbers of followers and fans, K-

pop has brought the benefits to South Korea and its citizen.

K-pop global success has brought numerous benefits to South Korea, both culturally and economically. The rapid rises of K-pop has contribute significantly to Korean economy by attracting tourist, promoting local culture, and generating substantial profit (Gan, 2023). K-pop has also become a tool for branding Korea on international stage, garnering attention beyond the music and entertainment industries (Howard, 2021). K-pop popularity is strongly connected to its ability to cross cultural and language barriers, with English being key parts on K-pop success. By using English, K-pop allow the international fans to connect with them, allowing the non-korean speaker to enjoy their music without has to knowing Korean. This strategy not only enhances the international popularity but also gaining nationalism to Korean citizen themselves, which driven the growth of K-pop as the symbols of national pride (Mo Koo et al., 2022). Ardhiyansyah et al. (2021) explain how marketing strategies like producing captivating albums and offering memorable concert experiences build a sense of love and fanatical behaviour in K-pop fans, solidifying the global reach of south Korean entertainment agencies. The strategy use by K-pop agencies to gain a global recognition is vary.

To gain a global recognition and become popular, of course K-pop idols and entertainment agencies has to be creative. They have to served their fans with a contents like music, interview,

variety show, live streaming and many more. Entertainment agencies use social media to promote events, like music stage, variety show, film and public service activity (Sun, 2023) This is way of them to communicate with a fans and also engage to more audience which potentially become new fans. This kind of strategy also used to get a deal with big brands as an ambassador. These strategies shows that they commit with their plan to become popular globally. Language used in these kind of contents is various, for example Korean, Japan and English.

As an international language, English plays a crucial role in K-pop popularity. English is one of most widely spoken language globally, with over 1.75 billion people speakers all around the world. English is the Language which used in many fields such as education, Employment, Business, The Internet, Press and Media, and entertainment (Rao, 2019). Ilyosovna (2020) said that English is the gate to open with more carer opportunities. In South Korea Itself, English is seen as one of the most important language. Ahn & Lee (2020) and Lee (2004) Explain how English plays significant role in three keys sector in South Korea, such as education, entertainment and commerce. In education, English is a critical tool for measuring academic success, with students, parents, and educators focusing on high score test to gain an opportunity to get in a prestigious university and get a better job opportunity. English is mandatory subject to learn from early age, and proficiency in the

language is crucial for excelling in Suneung (College Scholastic Ability Test). In entertainment, English is particularly used in television drama, song lyrics, or reality shows used creatively to attract viewers and convey professionalism and modernity. English is seen as a symbol of success but also a source of anxiety, for example media which shows idol's struggle in English in humorous context that led to an Idol to be made fun of. In commerce, English is integrated into advertisement as a marker of trustworthiness and modernity. In K-pop itself, English is used in lyric, content, interview, Live streaming and many more. It is done to engage an international audiences.

English in K-pop is used as the strategy to engage existing fans and also to attract potentially new ones by making the music accessible to global audiences. English lyrics in K-pop song act as a 'hook' to catch listener's attention. This lyrics is usually repetitive that can stuck in your head and is able create an emotional connection between the song and the listener that then can be an emotional bridge between fans and the idol. Faiza (2020) stated that K-pop use English to stimulate fan engagement by helping international listener feels connected to their idols, while also serving as a tool for self-learning English. This strategy is applied in many song, for example "Dynamite" by BTS which is made entirely in English and became a massive hit on global charts. Another song is for example "Kill This Love" by BlackPink with catchy lyrics "let's kill this love" makes the song

memorable. Jin & Ryoo (2014) explain that English in K-pop serves not only as communication tool but also key marketing tool that helps K-pop idol appeal to international fans. In line with that Schneider (2023) explain that English in K-pop song lyrics reflected the global success of Korean popular music and its global cultural exports, allow K-pop to reach broader audiences. One notable example is NCT, a group with unique concept of unlimited members. This group is divided into several sub-unit for example NCT 127. NCT 127 is one of sub-units which often put English in their song like "cherry bomb," where phrases "I'm the biggest hit on the stage" allow the fans and listeners to easily sing along and connected to the group.

NCT, is an acronym of Neo Culture Technology, a South Korean boyband formed by SM Entertainment in January 2016. This group has a unique concept which is unlimited number of members, currently totalling 26 members. This group is divided into several sub-unit, such as NCT 127, NCT DREAM, NCT U, WayV, NCT DoJaeJung, and NCT Wish.

NCT 127 is the longitude number of Seoul, Korea, which this sub-unit based on that also happen to be active internationally (SM Entertainment, n.d.). NCT 127 was consisting of 10 members, Tael, Johnny, Taeyeong, Yuta, Doyoung, Jaehyun, WinWin, Jungwoo, Mark, Haechan, However WinWin is currently inactive in this sub-unit but rather active in other NCT's sub-unit, WayV. One of the members, Tael quit this group in 2024. With this,

NCT 127 members currently has 8 members including Johnny, Taeyong, Yuta, Doyoung, Jaehyun, Jungwoo, Mark and Haechan. This group consist of 3 members who are fluent in English including Mark who's born and raised in Canada, Johnny Who's born and also raised in Chicago, and Jaehyun who lived in America for 4 years. With those ability, Mark, Johnny, and Jaehyun act as a bridge of communication between members and international fans. The rest of the members is also able to speak English but not as fluent.

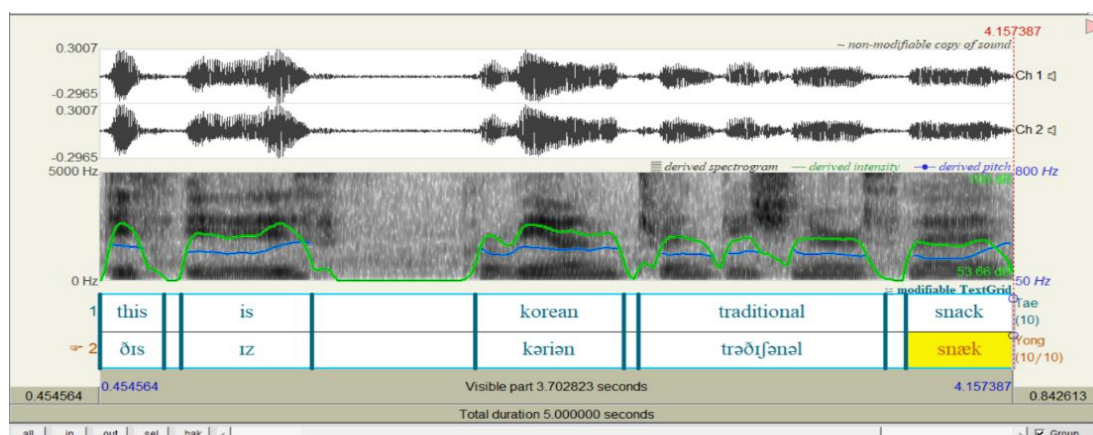
Fluency is an ability to speak or make a bunch of question in a short period of time. Fluency can be define as an ability of someone to speaks and arrange a sentence without a pause (Shahini & Shahamirian, 2017). In line with that, Jong, Pacilly, & Heeren (2021) determined a fluency as an term of speed speech without hesitation such as silent and filled pause. Fluency is

also an ability to focus on the content of the speech to communicate effectively (Harmer, 2015). With that information, we can conclude that fluency is an ability to speak without a hesitation and pause focusing on the content of the speech to achieved effective communication.

To know how fluent and how far is NCT 127's members can speak in English, researcher had watched YouTube videos featuring NCT 127's Members Speaking English and downloading it as a sources of the research and covert it into audio format (.mp3).

The audio that has been collected then processed and translated into pictures which contents duration, intonation, and sound intensity from the speaker. To do those particular things, the researcher use praat software which become the media to visualize sounds into pictures format which able to prove fluency in English.

Picture 1. Praat Interface



2. Research Method

This research uses qualitative method by describing the results of

experiment. The object of this research is member of K-pop group, NCT 127. Data was collected by

analyzing YouTube videos where the members speaking English. the audio then download and convert it into .wav format to makes the analysis easier. The analysis is using software Praat to measure the frequency, pitch, intonation and sound intensity. This approach allow to look into the member's speech that contained pauses and pronunciation, helping to understand their level of English

3. Results and Discussion

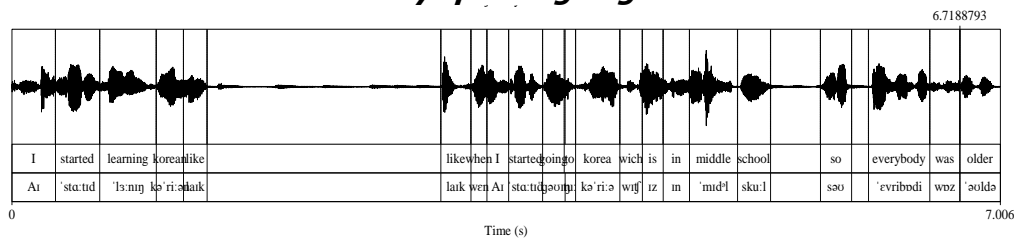
After analysing the audio of NCT 127's members speaking in

English, the researcher started to see who is the members of NCT 127 that is fluent in English and Who is not. To gain more information about NCT 127's English fluency, the researcher had break downed the analysis into each members below.

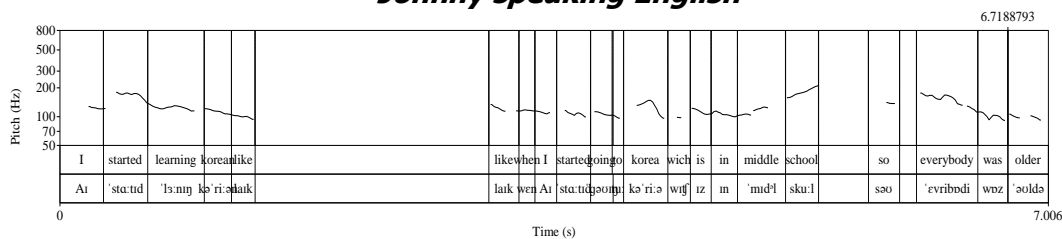
a. Johnny

Johnny is the eldest member of NCT 127. He born and raised in Chicago which makes him fluent in English. This can be seen in this analysis below

Picture 2
Johnny speaking English



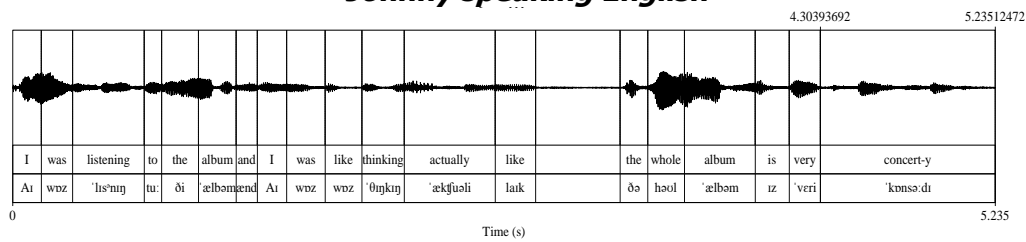
Picture 3.
Johnny speaking English



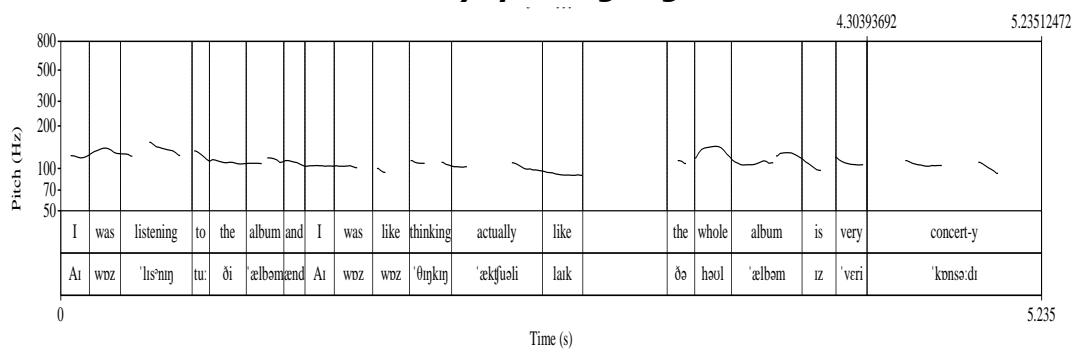
In the picture above 21 words is spoken within 7.00 second. The frequency image shows how Johnny able to pronounce the sentence with interconnected form. Although he pause about 1.66 second, but it's the natural pause because he did it thinking about the memory about

when he started learned korean. The pitch image shows how he able to pronounce the words with up and down intonation and he also doing it very naturally. His grammar is perfect. He also has a good vocabulary.

Picture 4
Johnny speaking English



Picture 5
Johnny speaking English



In the picture above 18 words is spoken within 5.23 second. The frequency image shows ho Johnny able to pronounce the the sentence with interconnected form. The pause he did between the word 'like' and 'whole' is because he thinking about the right word to choose. The pitch image shows that he able to pronounce the words with up and down intonation and use the punctuation on content word like 'album' 'listening' 'thinking.' In this sentence, Johnny use the word 'concert-y' which is do not exist in English but he doing it because the concept suffix -ly at the end of the word that exist in English which indicates the changing part of speech from adjective to adverb. This suffix usually changing the meaning of the word for example the word 'happy' when add with -ly become 'happily' in meaning is "in happy manner." however, in this context the word

concert-y means "concert material" or "have a right atmosphere to bring in the concert." With this word, Johnny shows that he able to use the concept which exist in English than modifying it to his own use, this procces is called affixation. Van Goethem (2020) defined Affixation as a key of morphological process in human languages which enabling the creation of new lexemes and adapting word forms to their contexts. To simplify, Umera-Okeke (2008) explain that Affixation is a process of word formation in English, where letters are added at the beginning or the end of words to change their meaning.

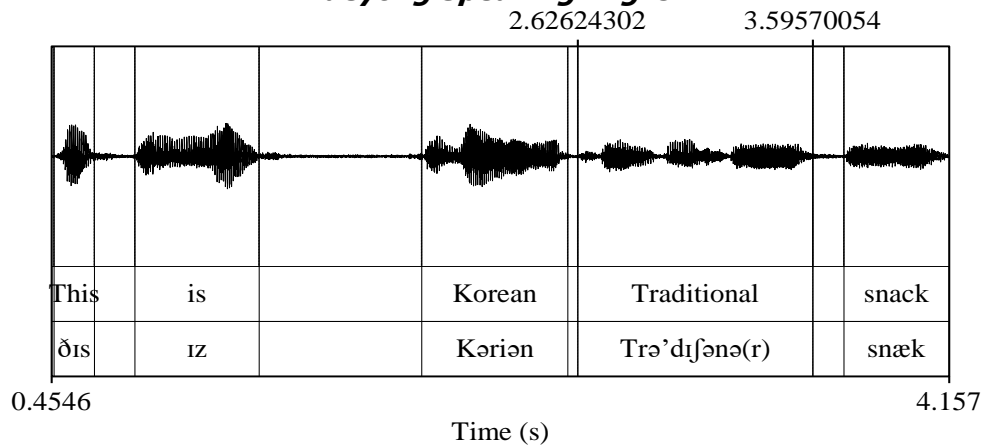
From the analysis above we can say that Johnny is fluent in English, this can be proven by how he able to speaks with minimum pauses, even the pauses he takes is only because he need to remember his memory about his past when he

first learning korean. He also able speak with up and down intonation naturally. Lastly he able to use affixation to create a new word that is understandable for English speakers.

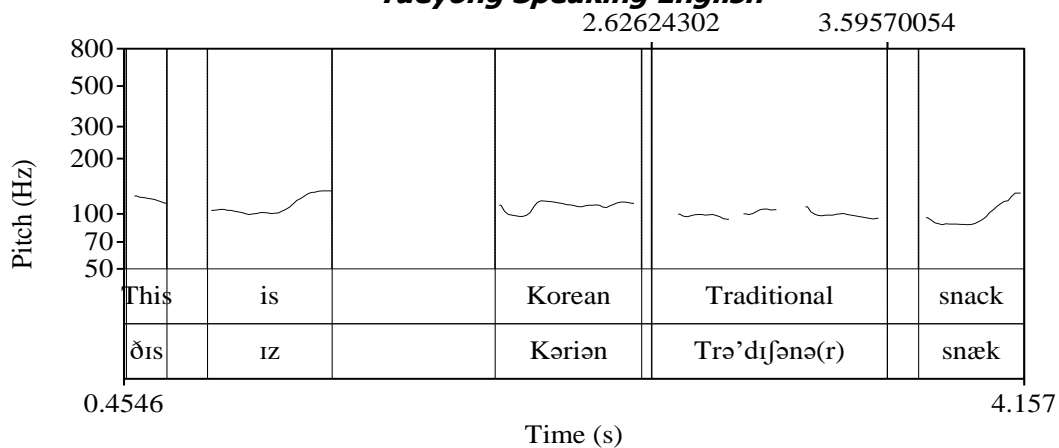
b. Taeyong

Taeyong is the Leader of NCT 127. He able to speak in English but not as fluent. We can see this from the picture below

Picture 6
Taeyong Speaking English



Picture 7
Taeyong Speaking English



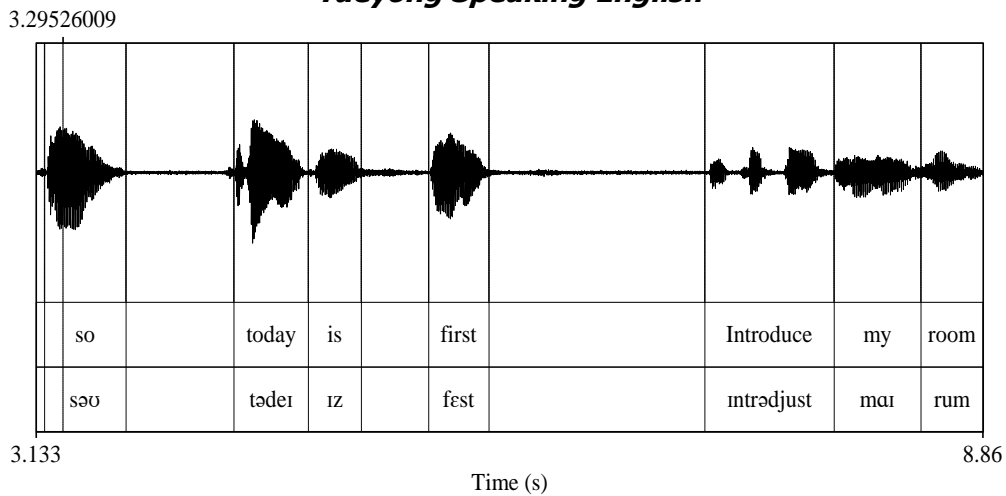
From this image we can found that 5 words is spoken within 3,70 second. The frequency image shows how Taeyong able to articulate that words with a little pause. The pause shows is 0.67 second. The pitch image shows how Taeyong able to pronounce the words with up and

down intonation and use punctuation on content words like the word korean, traditional, snack. From the content itself, Taeyong able to speak with correct English grammar although its still in basic level. However in pronunciation aspect, Taeyong mispronounced the word

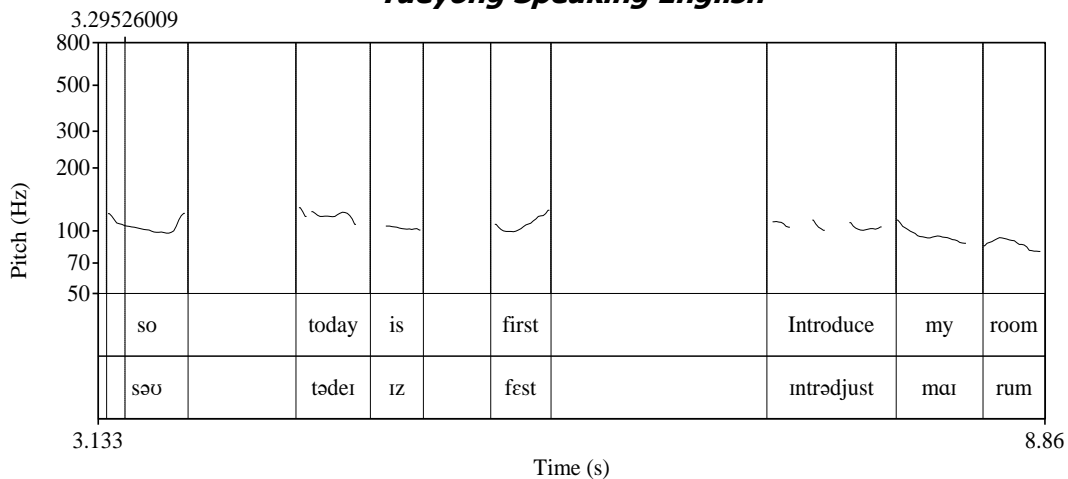
'traditional' by saying [Trə'dɪʃənə(r)] with /r/ sounds at the end of the word instead of [Trə'dɪʃənəl] with /l/ sound at the end of the word. This can cause by the phonotactic constrains in korean where /r/ and /l/ sounds are represent by one symbol /ㄹ/ (rieul). Because of sound /r/ and /l/ are represent by single symbol, it

makes it hard for korean to differenciate these sounds. This in line with Son & Lim (Son & Lim, 2023) research with the results that Korean college students show a higher error rate in pronouncing /r/ than in /l/ in english perception and production.

Picture 8
Taeyong Speaking English



Picture 9
Taeyong Speaking English



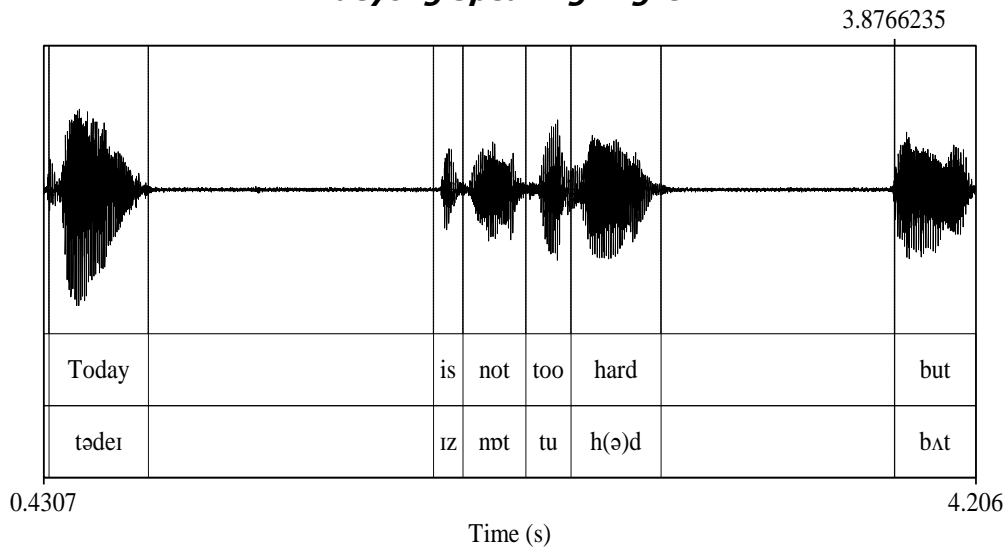
From the picture above, 7 words is spoken within 5.72 second. The frequency image shows that taeyong pronounced the words with a slight pause about 1.30 second.

The pitch image shows that Taeyong able to pronounced the words with up and down intonation. He also uses punctuation on content words like 'first' 'introduce' 'room.' From the

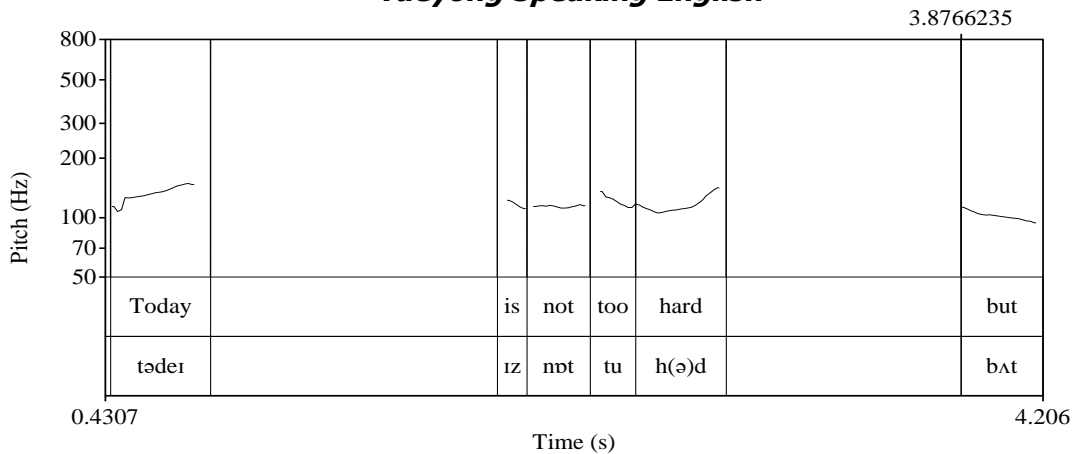
content itself, Taeyong speaking with incorrect grammar. He said "so, today is first introduced my room" while with the correct grammar it should be "so, today is the first time I'll

introduce you to my room". The vocabulary used is still in basic level. However, he can pronounce the words correctly.

Picture 10
Taeyong Speaking English



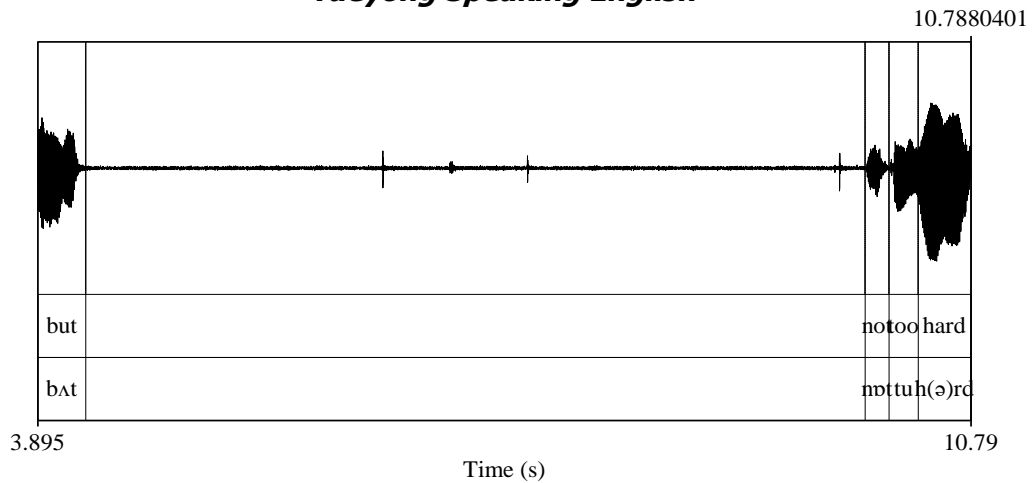
Picture 11
Taeyong Speaking English



From the picture above, 6 words are spoken within 3.86 seconds. The frequency image shows that Taeyong is able to pronounce words although there is still a pause of about 1.18 seconds. The pitch image shows how he is able to pronounce the words with up and down intonation.

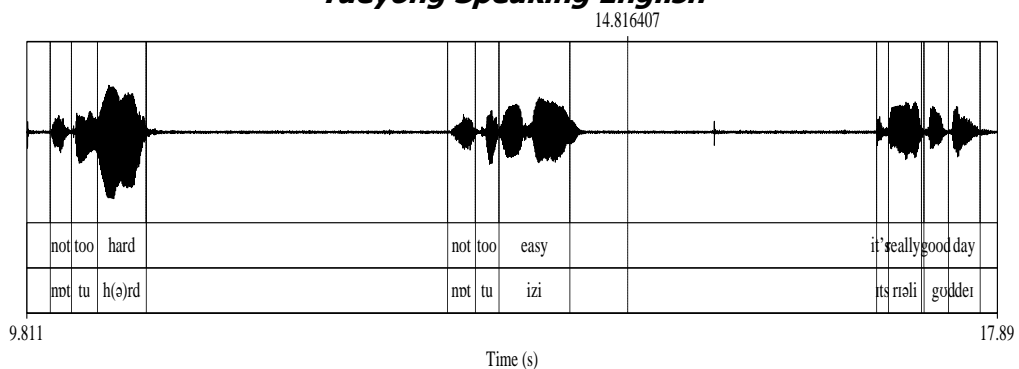
He is also able to put punctuation in content words like hard and today. From the content of his speech, it shows that he mispronounced the word hard by saying [h(ə):d] instead of [hɑ:d]. The vocabulary he used is still in the basic level.

Picture 12
Taeyong Speaking English

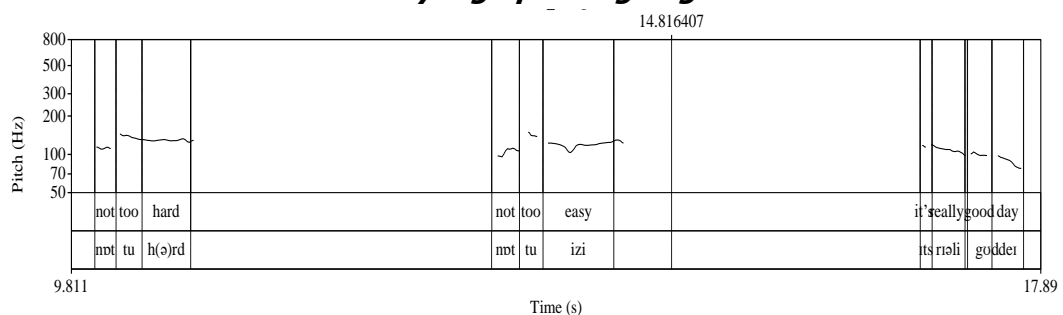


After the word 'but' he pause indicates that he is limited in terms a little long, about 5.57 second to of vocabulary. think about the next word. This

Picture 13
Taeyong Speaking English



Picture 14
Taeyong Speaking English



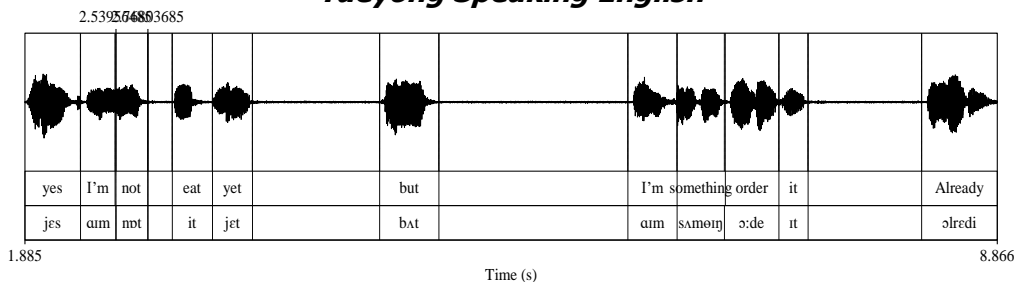
After that he continues talking in 7.67 second with 10 words. The image show a significant pause with 2.48 between the word 'hard' and

'not' continue by 2.46 second pause between the words 'easy' and 'it's.' This pause happen because needs a little time to think about the word he

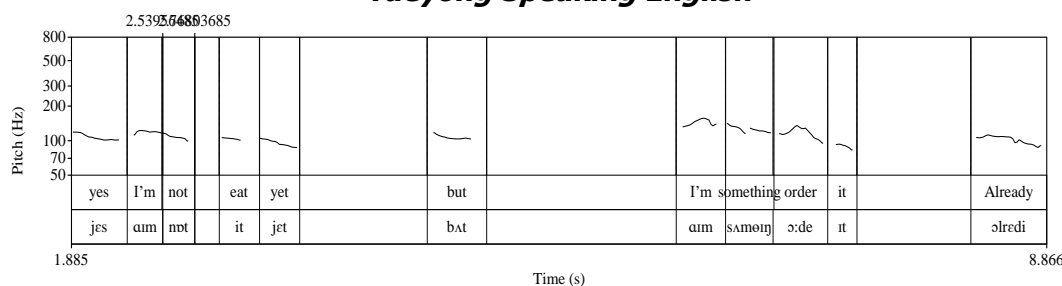
going to say next. The pitch image shows that he able to pronounce the words with up and down intonation. He also able uses punctuation in

content words such as hard, day, too. He once again mispronounce the word 'hard' by saying [h(ə):d].

Picture 15
Taeyong Speaking English



Picture 16
Taeyong Speaking English



The image above is shows when Taeyong answer a question and answer session on his instagram account that is recorded by fans in YouTube. It shows that 11 words is spoken in 6.98 second. The images show that he pronounced words with slightly pause about 0.91 second between the word 'yet' and 'but' then he pause a little longer about 1.35 second. Then he stopped again to think with 0,70 second between the word 'it' and 'already.' The pitch image shows that he able to pronounced the words with up and down intonation. From the content of his speech, it shows that he use incorrect grammar and his vocabulary is still very limited. He

also used contradictory answer by answering the question with positive word 'yes' but continue with negative sentence 'I'm not eat yet.'

Taeyong as a non-native speaker able to speak English but still in the level of beginner. This can be prove by the way he pronounced a certain word incorrectly. This also can be proven by pauses that he did when he trying to talks in English. He did a lot of pauses which indicates his lower level of English. This in line with Williams & Korko (2019) finding about how advanced speakers produced fewer silents pauses per minute than lower intermediate speakers. The vocabulary he uses also still in very beginner level. This

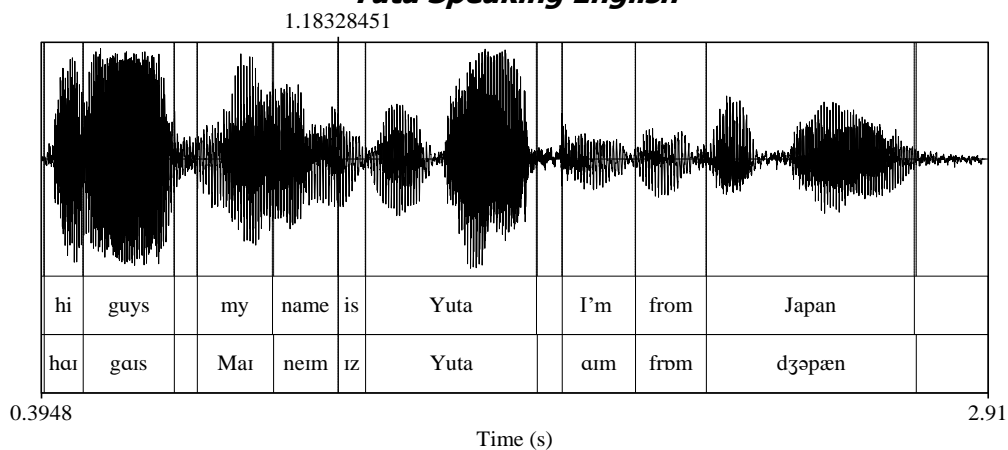
lead to the conclusion that taeyong is not fluent in English.

c. Yuta

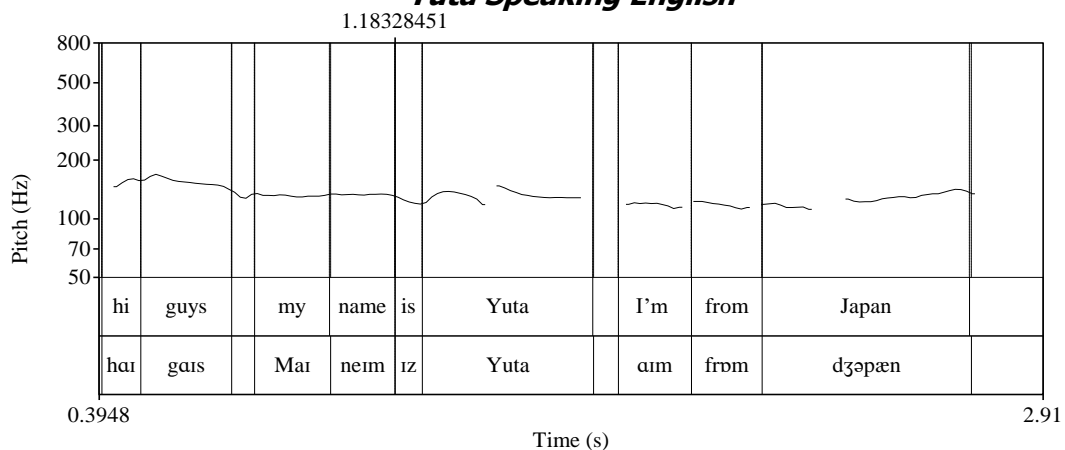
Yuta is a member with a Japanese as a first language. He able to speak korean since he is a Korean idol K-pop. With Japanese and

Korean, it makes him a bilingual. In English itself, Yuta is not fluent. He speaking in English with the level of beginner. The vocabulary he uses is still very common knowledge and very basic. This can be proven from the data below.

Picture 17
Yuta Speaking English



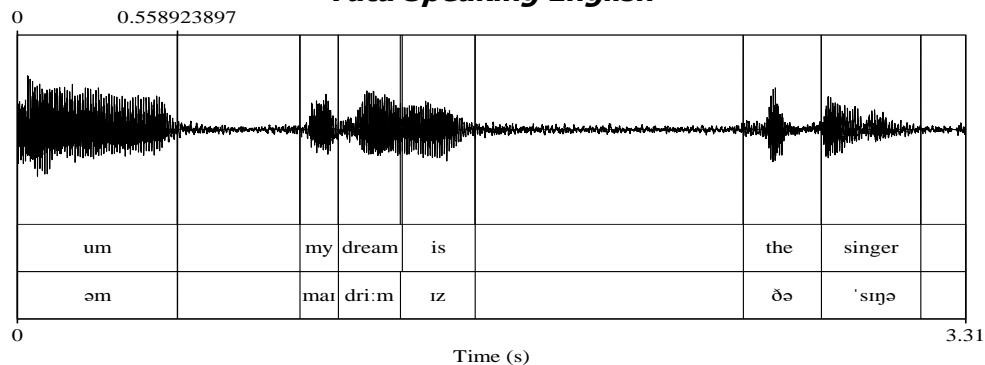
Picture 18
Yuta Speaking English



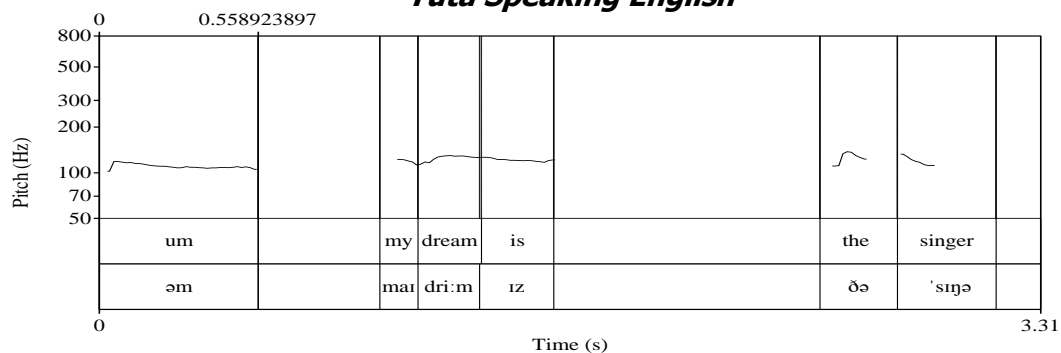
From the picture above, 9 words is spoken within 2.51 second. The frequency image shows that Yuta able to spoken a words without a significant pauses and with the interconnected shapes. From the pitch image, it shows that he tend to

speak in flat intonation there's not much punctuation he uses especially in content words like name, from, Japan. The vocabulary he uses is still very basic. His pronunciation is also still influenced with Japanese accent.

Picture 19
Yuta Speaking English



Picture 20
Yuta Speaking English



In the picture above 5 words is spoken within 3.31 second. The frequency image shows that Yuta speaks in disconnected from. From the pitch image, it shows that he tend to speak in flat intonation. At the end of the sentence, he fasten his duration of speech. The image shows that he uses filler word at the first of the sentene within 0.57 second then continuing with 0.42 second pause. The filler word he uses is indicating that he is unsure about what he will say next. This in line with Zhu et al (2023) statement that says Non-linguistic filler words like "um" indicates the expression of hesitation or uncertainly. Between the word 'is' and ' the' he pauses his speech about 0.98 second indicates that he is thinking about what he

should say next. Daly (1994) explain how unfilled pauses in speech reflects speakers uncertainty in formulating the sentence. The vocabulary he uses is still basic and the pauses indicates his limitation in terms of vocabulary. In this sentence, he say it with incorrect grammar by saying "my dream is, the singer" he misses some words hence his speech seems incomplete. The correct sentence should be "my dream is to be a singer."

With the analysis above, we can conclude that Yuta is not fluent in English. This can be proven by the pauses he did when he speak in English. In a simple sentence, he pause twice. From the content of his speech, he mainly using basic vocabulary. His grammar uses is

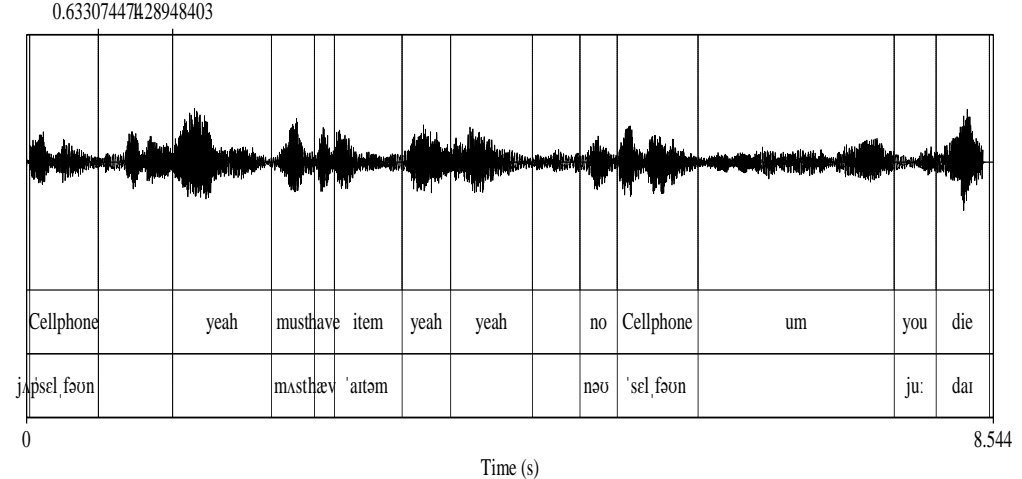
mostly incorrect. Lastly he uses filler word, for example is "um" as a sign of confussion.

d. Doyoung

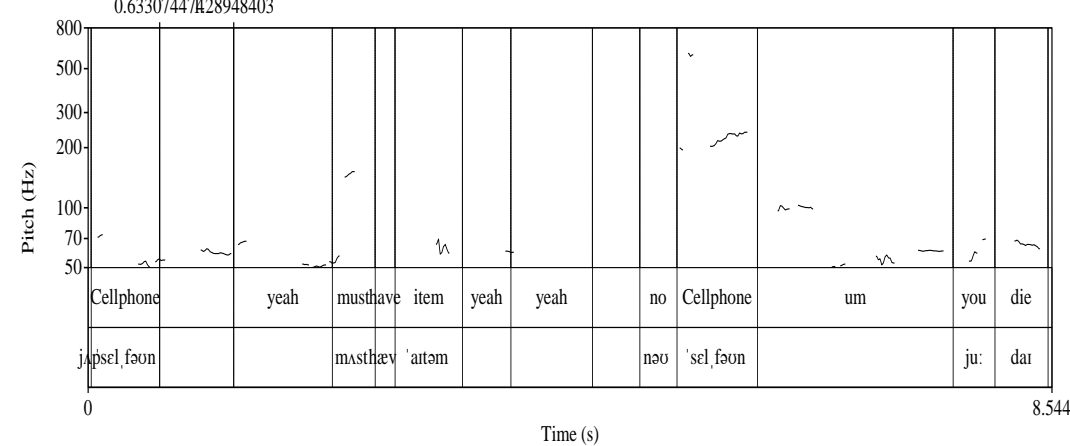
Doyoung take position as a vocalist in this group. As a vocalist, Doyoung do some of cover song with English lyric, for

example "Breathe" by Ariana Grande. In terms of pronunciation in song, Doyoung have a perfect pronunciation. However, in conversation Doyoung lack in vocabulary. This can be proven with analysis below

Picture 21
Doyoung Speaking English



Picture 22
Doyoung Speaking English

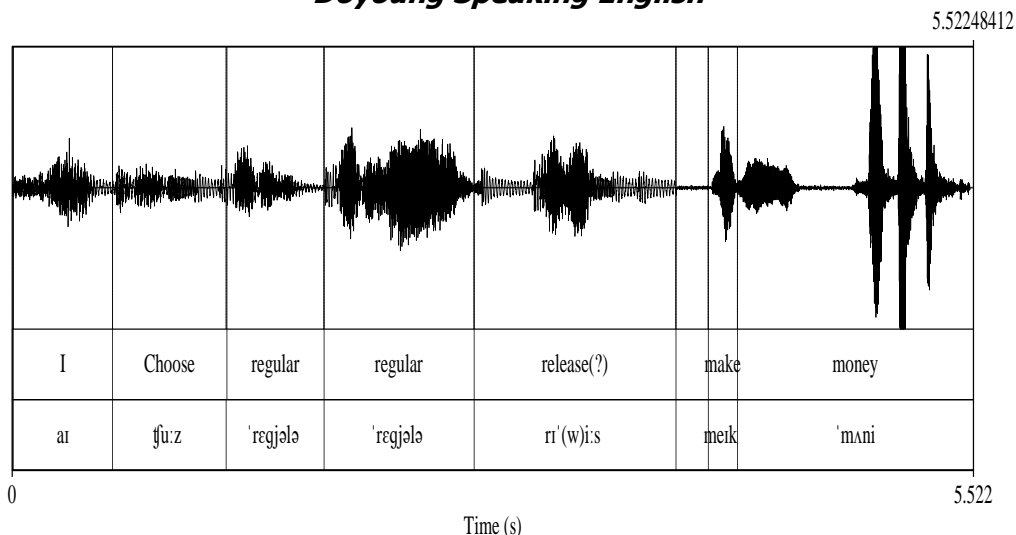


From the pictures above 8 words is spoken within 8.54 second with 1.73 second filler word "um". The frequency image shows that Doyoung able to talk with interconnected form. The pitch image shows that Doyoung able to

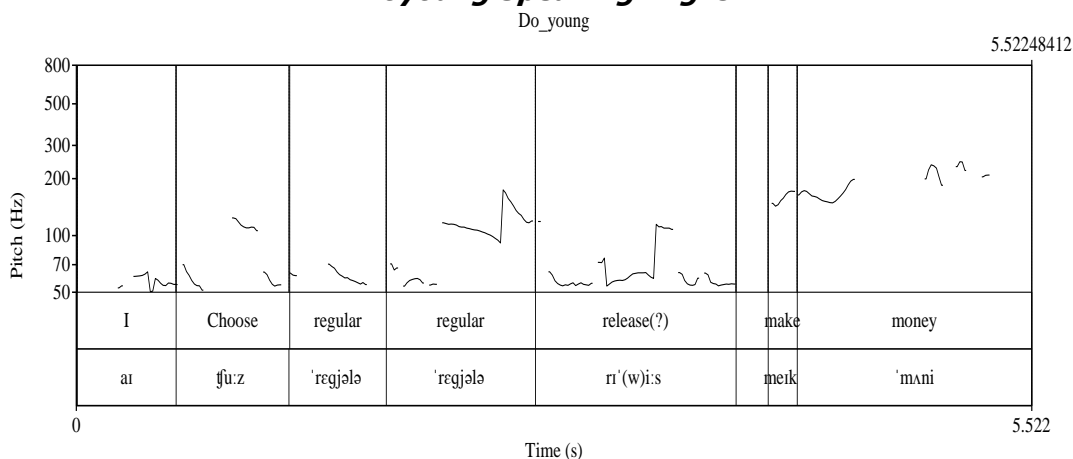
talk with up and down intonation and use punctuation in his speech so his speech is not flat. From the grammar aspect, he lost the auxiliary verb in "you die" that supposed to use auxiliary verb "will." The speech will complete if he were said "You will

die." His pronunciation is mainly still influence by korean accent.

Picture 23
Doyoung Speaking English



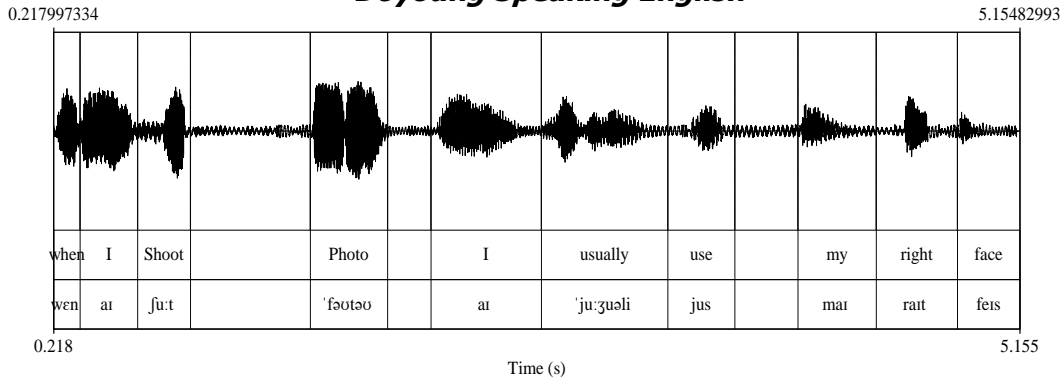
Picture 24
Doyoung Speaking English



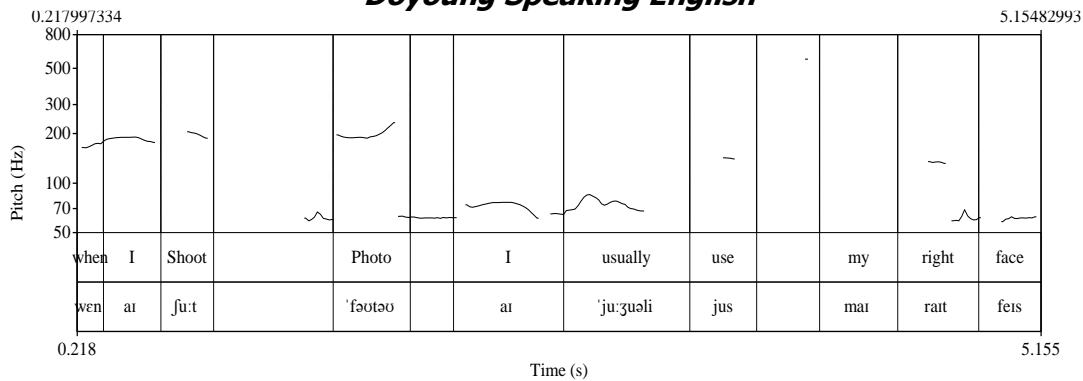
In the picture above, 7 words is spoken within 5.52 second. The frequency image shows how Doyoung able to pronounce a words with interconnected shapes. The pitch image shows that he able to pronounce his speech with ups and down intonation and use the punctuation that also used by native speaker. However, His pronunciation is still incorrect when he said "regular" because he said it

with unclear intonation. Also, his vocabulary is still limited, this can be seen in the pictures that he miss a conjunction "because" when he said "I choose regular, regular release make money" hence his speech is incomplete. His speech will become complete if he were say "I choose regular because regular release make money."

Picture 25
Doyoung Speaking English



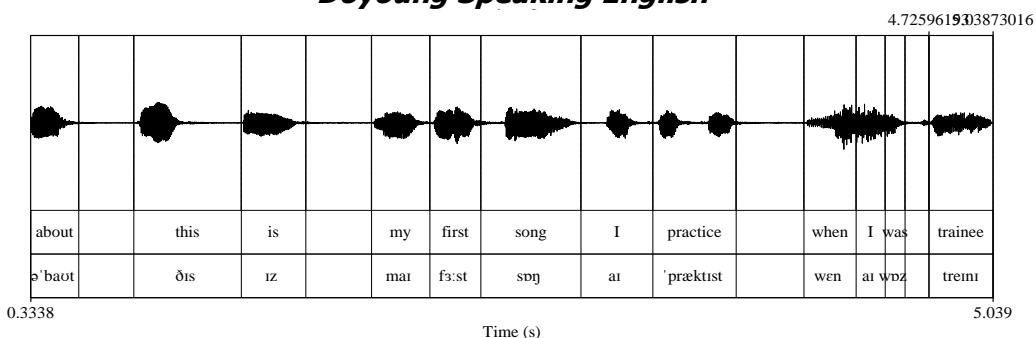
Picture 26
Doyoung Speaking English



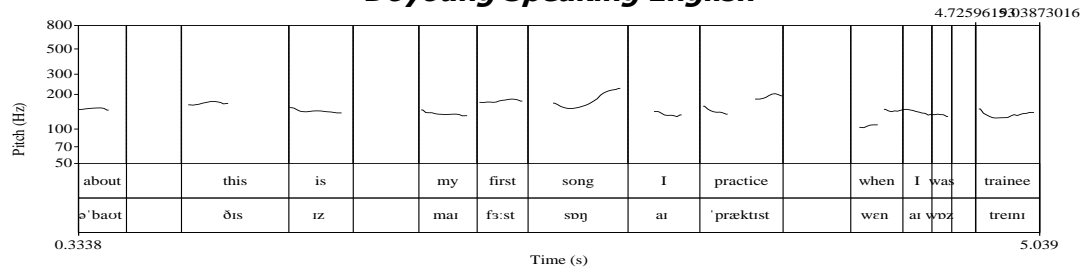
In this picture 10 words is spoken within 4.93 second. The frequency image shows that Doyoung speaks with disconnected form. This can be proven when he speaks 10 words there is 3 pauses he takes. He pauses 0.60 second between the words 'shoot' and 'photo' then continues by 0.25 second pause between the word 'photo' and

'I' then between the word 'use' and 'my' within 0.38 second. The pitch image shows that he able to pronounce word words with up and down intonation. From the content of his speech, he uses the terminology that is unusual. When we talk about face and picture, we usually use the word angle like 'my right angle.'

Picture 27
Doyoung Speaking English



Picture 28
Doyoung Speaking English



12 words is spoken within 4.39 second in pictures above. The frequency image shows that Doyoung pronounced words with disconnected form. He pauses a lot in this speech. This happen due to limited vocabulary. The pitch image shows that he able to pronounced the words with up and down intonation. His pronunciation is still influenced by korean accent. However in terms of grammar, he did a great job.

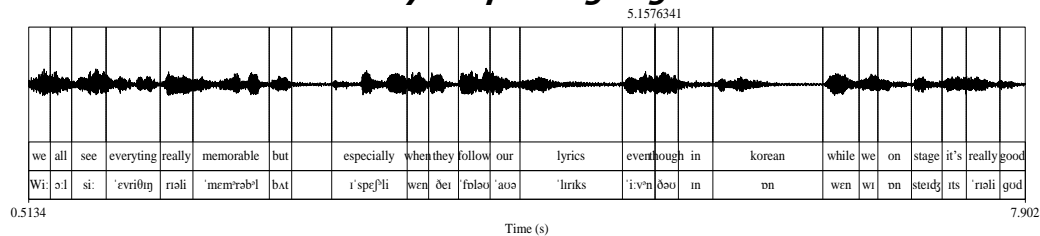
From the analysis above, we can conclude that doyoung is not

fluent in English. This can be proven by pauses he did when he speak. His vocabulary is also still limited. His grammar is also still incorrect most of the time.

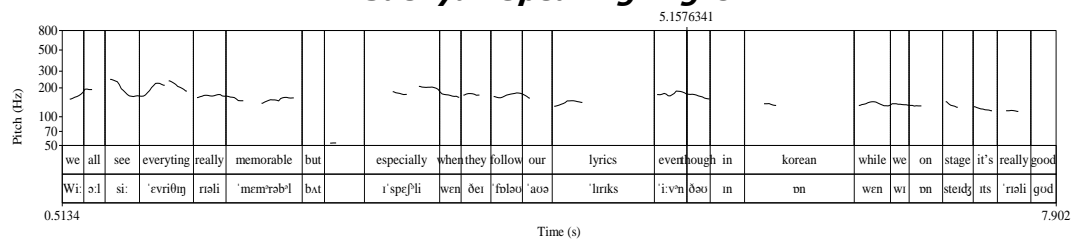
e. Jaehyun

Jaehyun is the member who used to live in America, spesifically in Connecticut for 4 years. He able to speak English and also fluent in it. This can be proven with analysis below.

Picture 29
Jaehyun Speaking English



Picture 30
Jaehyun Speaking English



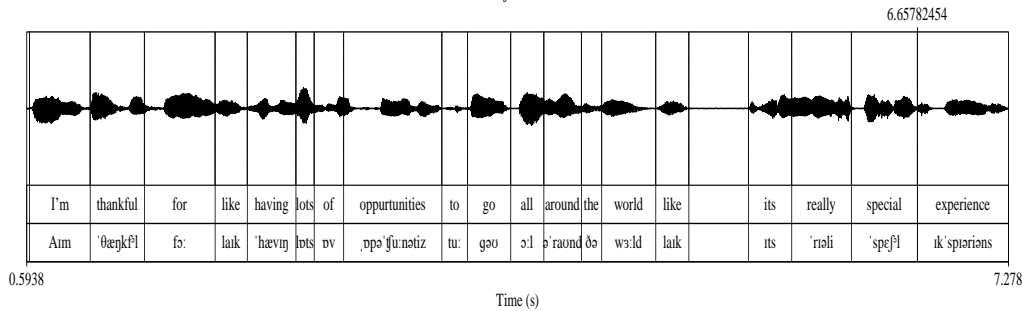
In the picture above 24 words is spoken within 7.38 second. The frequency image shows how Jaehyun able to pronounce the sentence with

interconnected form. The pitch image shows that he able to pronounce the words with up and down intonation naturally. He also

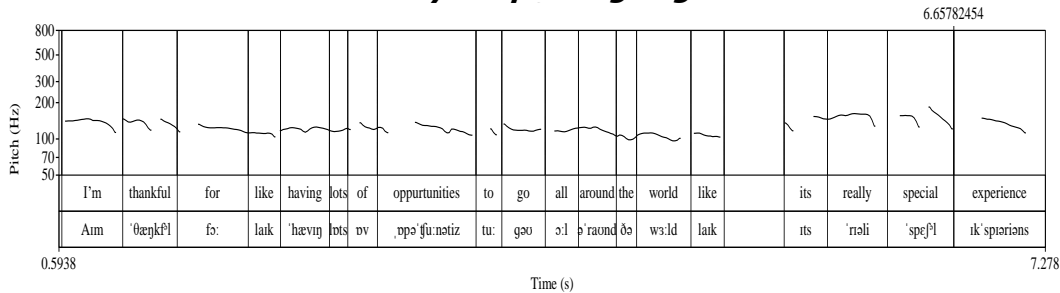
uses punctuation in content words like 'everything' 'memorable' 'stage.' His vocabulary is also good, proven how he able to use affixes like suffix -able in 'memorable,' and he also able to use the subordinating conjunction 'even though' that can

explain the contrast between two sentence, in this case is the fans that able to follow the lyrics even though the lyrics is in korean. This is because in this interview, Jaehyun talking about American fans that able to follow korean lyrics.

Picture 31
Jaehyun Speaking English



Picture 32
Jaehyun Speaking English



In the picture above, 19 words is spoken within 6.68 second. The frequency image shows that Jaehyun able to pronounce the sentence with interconnected form. The pitch image shows that he able to pronounce the words with up and down intonation naturally. Although he uses filler word 'like' in this sentence, but he doing it because he is a little bit nervous. His uses of vocabulary is on the intermediate level, proven by use uncommon use word for beginner like 'opportunities' and 'experience.'

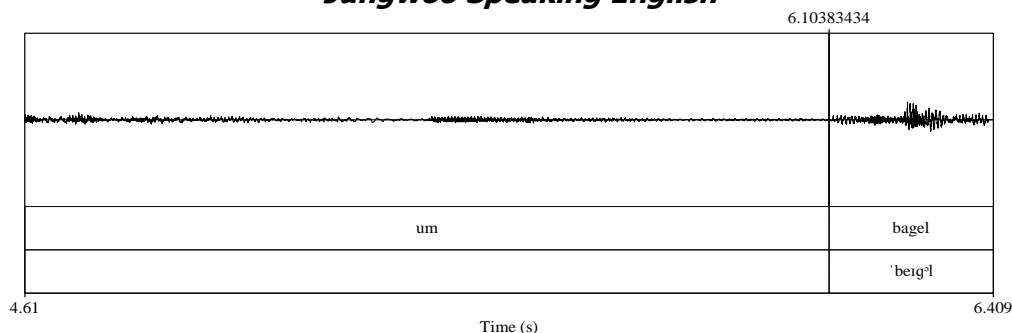
From the analysis above, we can conclude that Jaehyun is fluent

in English proven by interconnected form of sentence he did when he's speaking in English. He is also able to pronounce the words with up and down intonation naturally. Lastly he uses intermediate level of vocabulary.

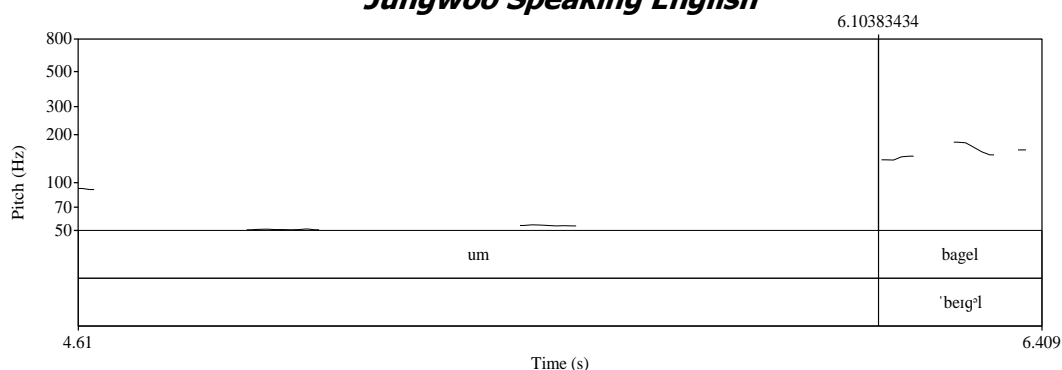
f. Jungwoo

Jungwoo is a member that is add later after NCT 127 debut. He is a member that is often use English in NCT 127 content. He likes to speak English even when his English is still not that good. He is not fluent in English, this can be proven with analysis below.

Picture 33
Jungwoo Speaking English



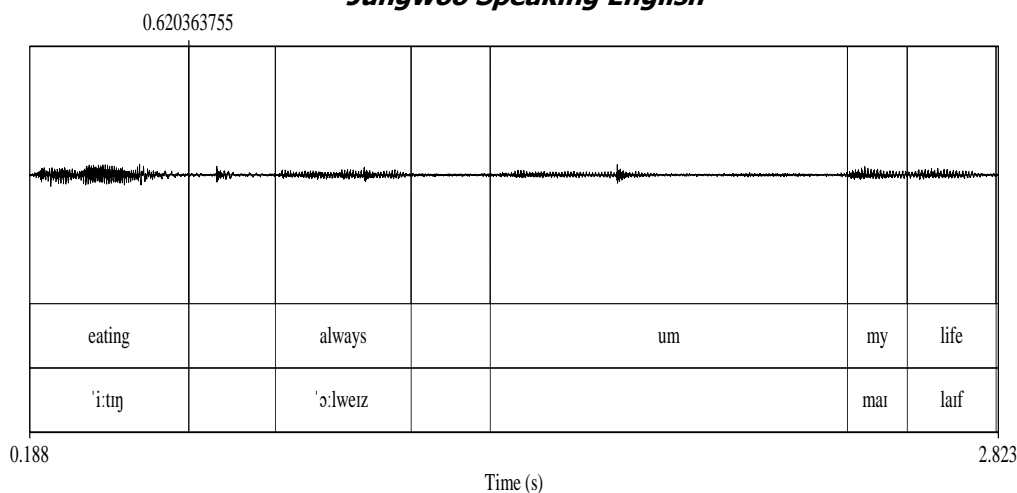
Picture 34
Jungwoo Speaking English



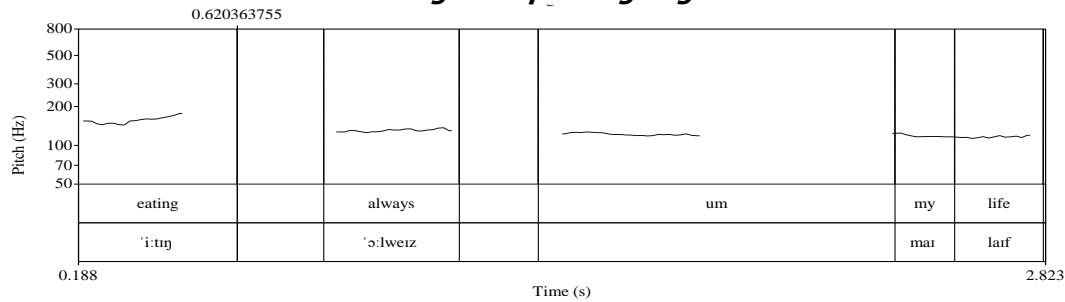
From the picture above, Jungwoo said a words with 1.79 second duration. From total duration 1.79 second, he said a filler word little longer than his speech itself, about 1.49 second. Filler word is a sign that he think about what word

he want to say later. This also in line with Zhu et al (2023) statement about filler words as a sign of uncertainty and confussion. From pitch image, we can see that he did a great in terms of punctuation.

Picture 35
Jungwoo Speaking English



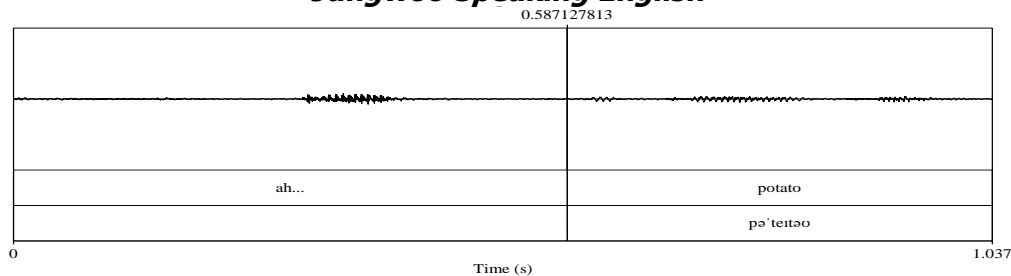
Picture 36
Jungwoo Speaking English



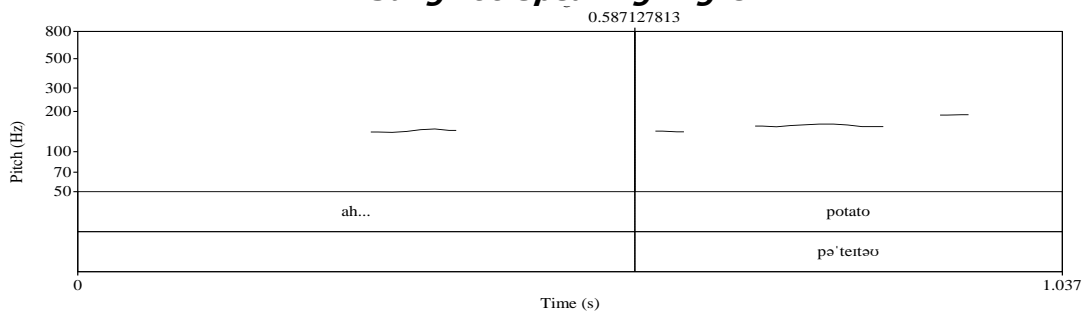
From the picture above, 4 words is spoken within 2.63 second. The frequency image shows that Jungwoo pronounce his speech with disconncted form due to pauses. He did a pause twice and then continue with 0.97 second filler word 'um.' This can happen because of limited in vocabulary. This also indicate that he is thinking a little about the next word he want to said. From the pitch image we can see that he pronounce the words is relative flat intonation. This indicate that he's still in beginner

level even in pronunciation aspect. This also can be happening due to his mothertounge being korean. As Tevis McGory (2001) explain how korean English speakers tend to follow their native languages intonational patterns patterns. from the grammar aspect, he misses auxialary verb between the word 'eating' and 'always' makes his speech incomplete. The complete sentece should be "eating is always my life" although this sentence still sounds unnatural.

Picture 37
Jungwoo Speaking English



Picture 38
Jungwoo Speaking English



In the picture above, Jungwoo said a word within 1.03 second.

However his specch is mainly fill with a filler word. This filler word take

0.58 second from over all duration. This speech is actually happen in interview where he asked “....” He seems not sure abot what the interviewer said and said this word to make sure. This can prove that from the aspect of listening, he is still on beginner level, beacause the question asked by the interviewer is an easy question. This also indicate Jungwoo’s lack in vocabulary. Stæhr (2009) explain how knowledge in vocabulary is important factor for succesfull listening comprehension in English as foreign language, with 98% lexical coverage needed for coping spoken text.

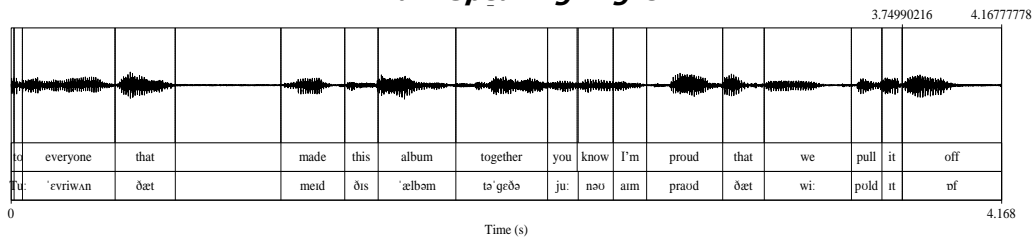
From the analysis above, we can conclude that Jungwoo is

not fluent, this can be proven by pauses he did when he speak english. He also often use filler word when he’s not sure about what he want to say next. Finally He also had a bad listening skill.

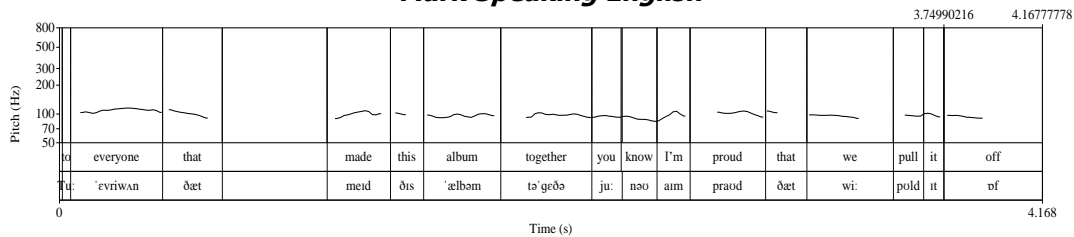
g. Mark

Mark lee born and raised in Canada which makes him fluent in English. he is also a rapper that uses a lot English in his rap which makes him more fluent since he have a lot of practice. Along with Johnny, he uses English a lot in their content. To prove how fluent Mark is in English, we can see in this analysis below.

Picture 39
Mark Speaking English



Picture 40
Mark Speaking English



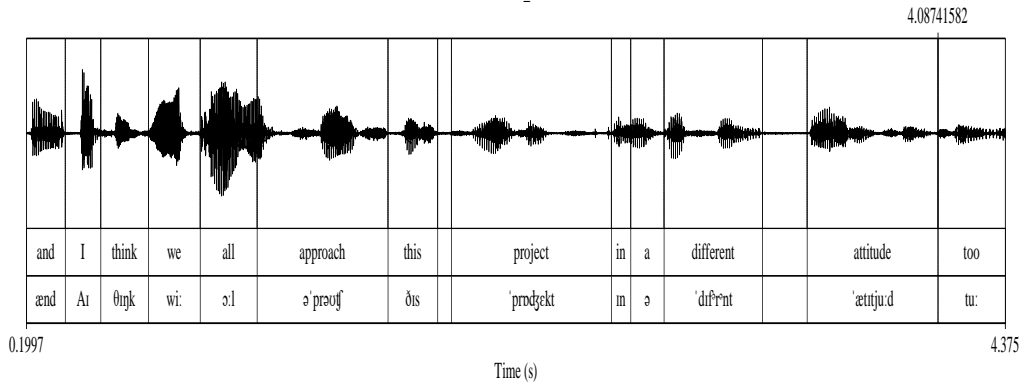
In the picture above 16 words is spoken within 4.16 second. The frequency image shows how Mark able to pronounce the sentence with interconnected form. Although he pause about 0.44 second between the word 'that' and 'made' but he doing it because he ned to take a brake due to nervousness. This in line with Abraham (2021)

explanation on how anxiety able to affecting your speech like shaky voice, quite voice, dry throat or loss voice, troubles to put words on thought, and stuttering, in this case all those things can make the speaker pauses his speech. The pitch image shows that he able to pronounce the words with up and down intonation naturally. The

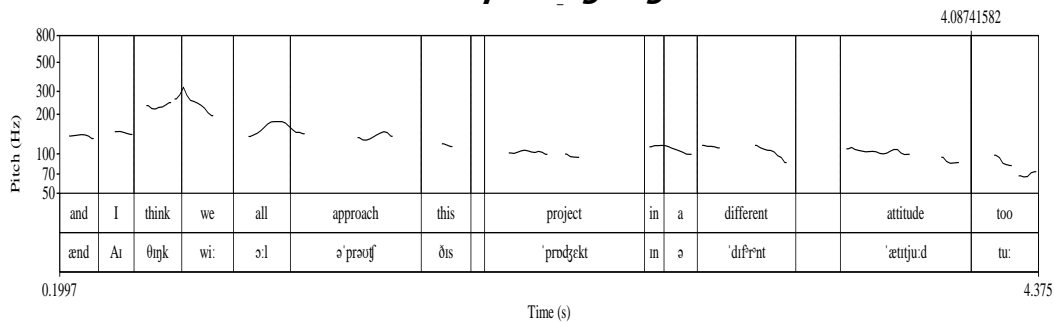
vocabulary he uses is in the intermediate level, this can be proven on how he able to use

collocation "pull it off" which means "able to doing this project even though its challenging."

Picture 41
Mark Speaking English



Picture 42
Mark Speaking English



The picture above shows 13 words that is spoken within 4.17 second. The frequency image shows that he able to pronounce the sentence with interconnected form. The pitch image shows how he able to pronounce the words with up and down and also natural intonation. The vocabulary he uses is also in intermediate level. This thing can be proven by uses of unusual word like 'approach' and 'attitude.' He also uses this sentence to enhance his words so it sounds 'next level.'

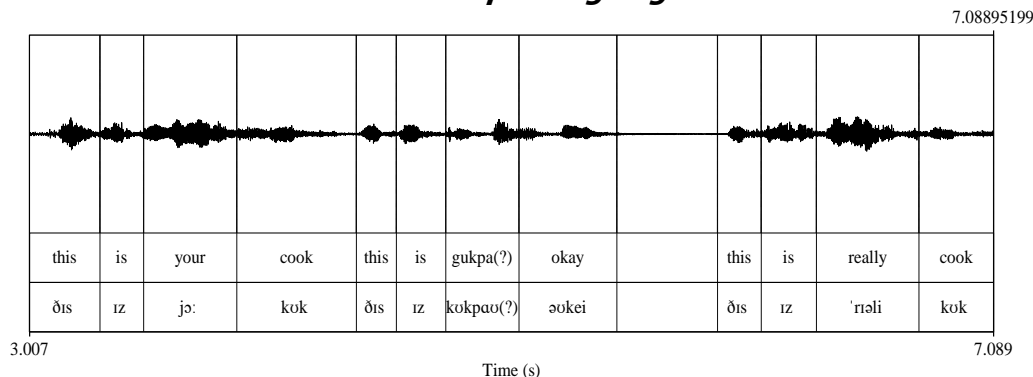
From the analysis above, we can conclude that mark lee is fluent in English. This can be proven by his natural speaking ability. He doesn't

pronounce the sentence in disconncted form and he also pronounce the words with up and down, natural intonation. Lastly he uses intermediate vocabulay to enhance his message.

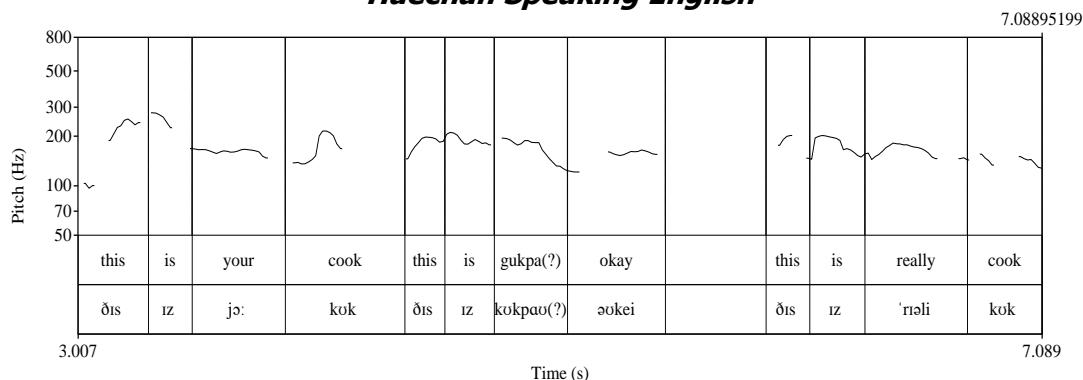
h. Haechan

Haechan take the *maknae* (the youngest) role in this group. His quiete close with Mark and Jhonny that makes him speak English often. He also active in other sub-unit NCT Dream along with Mark. Despite the fact that he's close with mark, Haechan is not fluent in English. This can be proven with the analysis below.

Picture 43
Haechan Speaking English



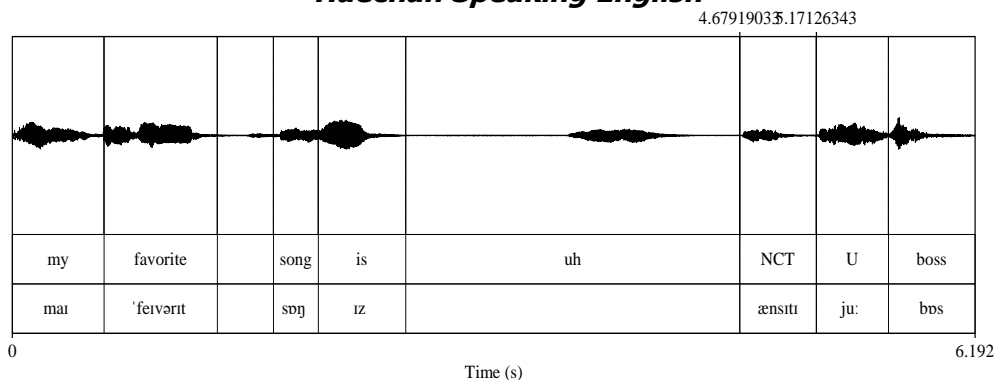
Picture 44
Haechan Speaking English



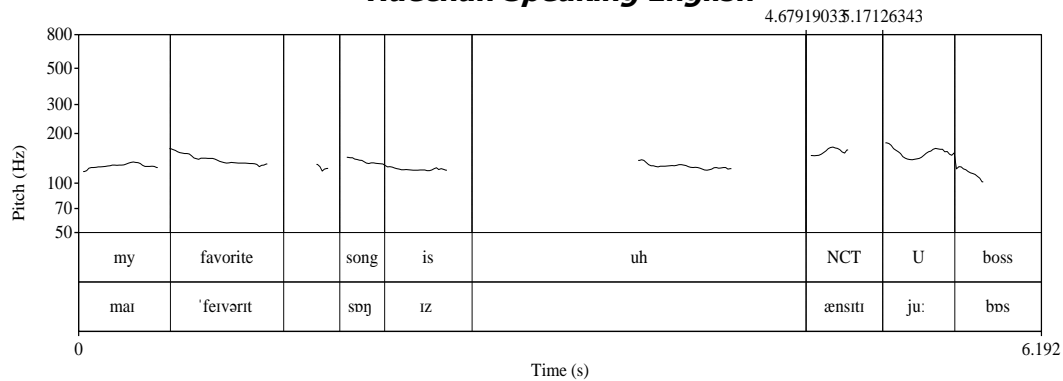
12 words is spoken within 4.08 second in the picture above. The frequency image shows how he is able to pronounce the sentence without pauses and interconnected form. The pitch image shows that he able to pronounce the words with up

and down intonation and use the punctuation on content words like 'cook' 'really'. However from the grammar he can speak with right grammar although he use easy vocabulary.

Picture 45
Haechan Speaking English



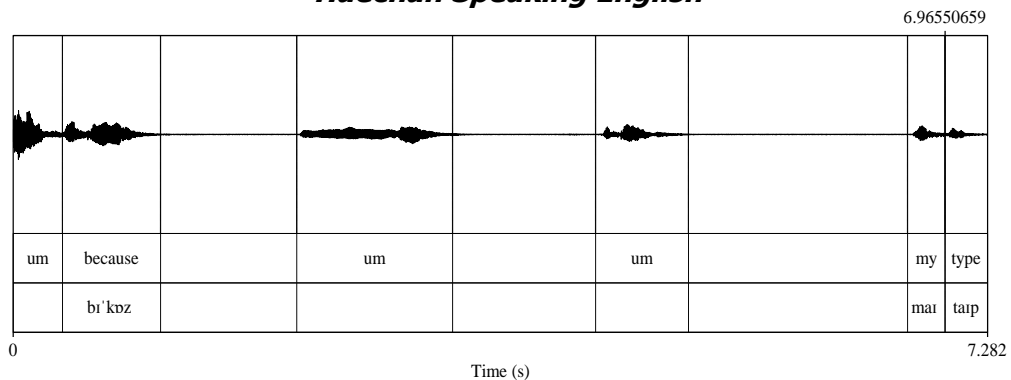
Picture 46
Haechan Speaking English



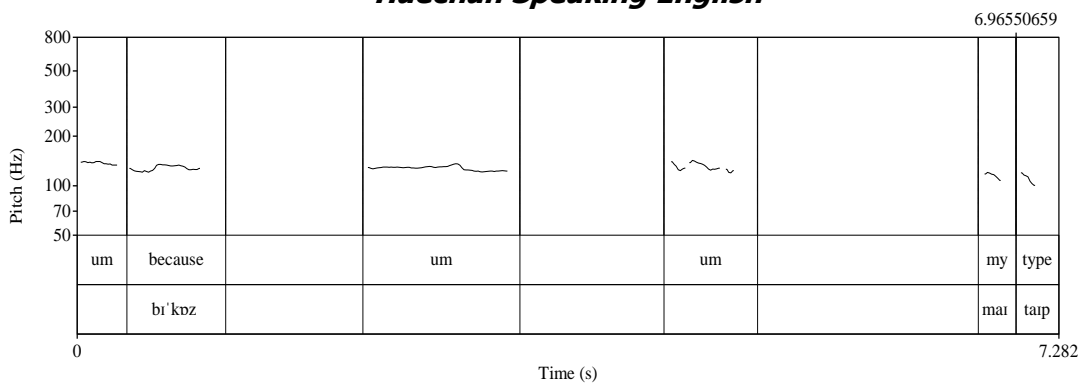
From the picture above, Haechn spoken 7 words within 6.19 second. From the frequency image, we can see that he speak with disconnected shapes by pause between the word 'favorite' and

'song' about 0.53 second. He continue the speech with 2.14 filler word 'um.' From grammar aspect, he's doing a good job although his vocabulary is still on the beginner level.

Picture 47
Haechan Speaking English



Picture 48
Haechan Speaking English



In the picture above, we can see that Haechan spoken 3 words in

7.68 second. From the frequency image, we can see that he tend to

speak English in choppy form because he pauses a lot and also uses filler words. He starts the speech with unclear words that are represented by the word 'um.' He continues with the word 'because' then pauses 1.00 second then filler word 'um' within 1.31 seconds that also contain breath sounds that indicate nervousness. After the second filler word Haechan continues his speech by pausing 0.99 seconds and continues with 0.68 seconds filler word 'um' and lastly he pauses again 1.58 seconds before continuing his next words 'my type.'

From the analysis above we can conclude that Haechan is not fluent in English, this can be proven by pauses and filler words that he did a lot in his speech. But the researcher believes that with a little practice he can be fluent in no time, this can be proven with his grammar that is right and also his vocabulary.

This research on English fluency of NCT 127 members is important to understand how language skills impact a K-pop group's ability to connect with an international audience. With K-pop's global popularity, English has become an important tool to interact with international fans. This study identifies members like Johnny, Jaehyun, and Mark as a bridge of communication with international fans. The other members also show their efforts to develop their English skills. These findings are relevant to K-pop marketing strategies to make English proficiency as a tool for universal communication.

The implications of this research extend to cultural and commercial aspects. From a cultural perspective, English proficiency enables NCT 127 members to engage more closely with fans, allowing them to expand their popularity globally. Commercially, their ability to speak in English allows them to enhance their image to appear more professional with the brand they represent. This encourages the Korean entertainment industry to focus on language development for their artists, strengthening K-pop's global reputation as an inclusive and competitive cultural product.

4. Conclusion

This research analyzes the English fluency of NCT 127 members by analyzing YouTube content featuring NCT 127 speaking in English that later on will be analyzed using software Praat. The analysis is focusing on the content of the speech such as pauses, grammar, and vocabulary. The results of this study show that members like Johnny, Jaehyun, and Mark are fluent in English, especially Johnny and Mark that grew up in an English-speaking environment/ they speak naturally, smoothly and use advanced vocabulary.

In contrast, members like Taeyong, Jungwoo, and Yuta show a lower fluency level, with frequent pauses, grammar mistakes, and lack of vocabulary. Haechan and Doyoung show potential to be fluent by showing their use of grammar and vocabulary although they still struggle in fluency. Overall, from this

analysis we can conclude that member like Johnny, Jaehyun and Mark is fluent in English while other member is still at the beginner level and they still have a room to improve their English ability.

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