

Existence of Diphthongs in Urdu Language

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INTRODUCTION

Annotation

- Phoneme
- Syllable
- Word
- Break Indexes
- Tone





ISSUES

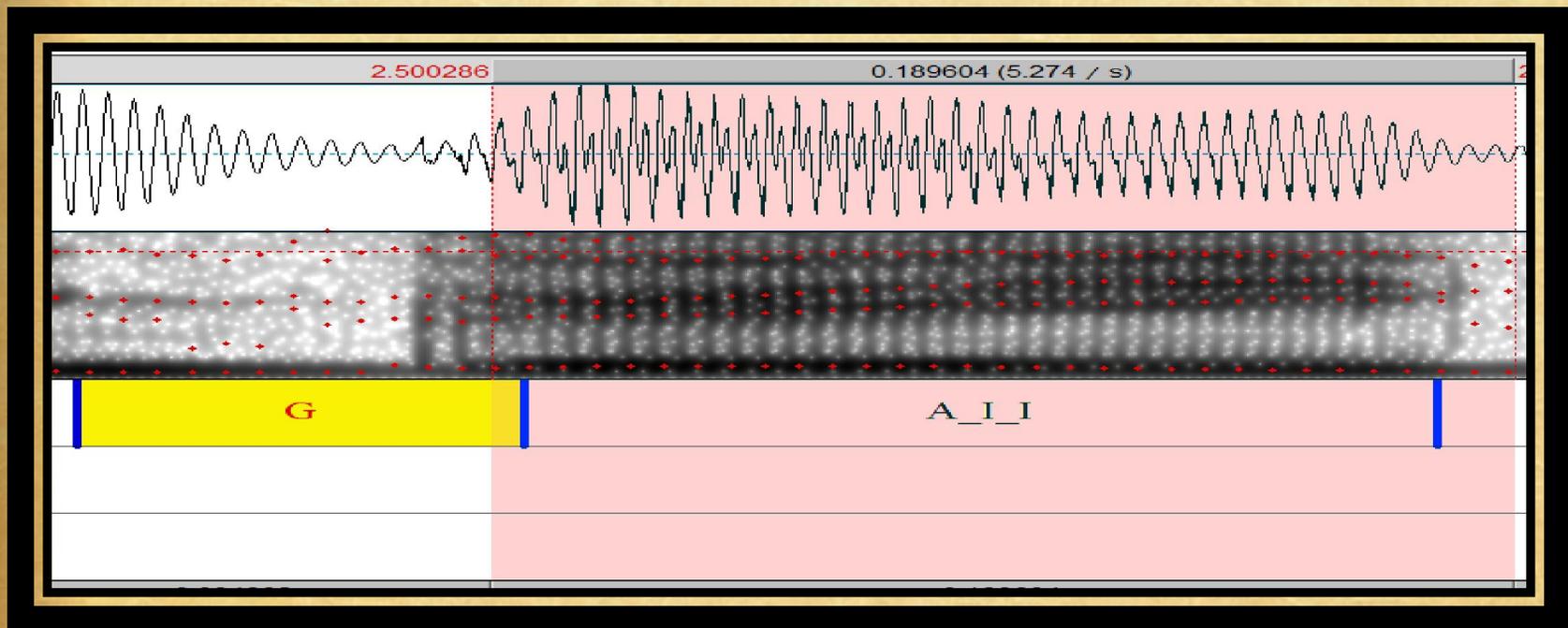
- ◆ Several issues
- ◆ Almost solved
- ◆ Certain are still unsolved & under study
- ◆ One of them is diphthong





Diphthong

- ♦ Diphthong is a vowel sound in which the tongue changes position to produce the sound of two vowels. (Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary).





DEFINITION (PHONETICS)

- ♦ In **phonetics**, a vowel in which there is a noticeable sound change within the same syllable
- ♦ The process of moving from one vowel sound to another is called *gliding*, and thus another name for **diphthong** is **gliding vowel**.





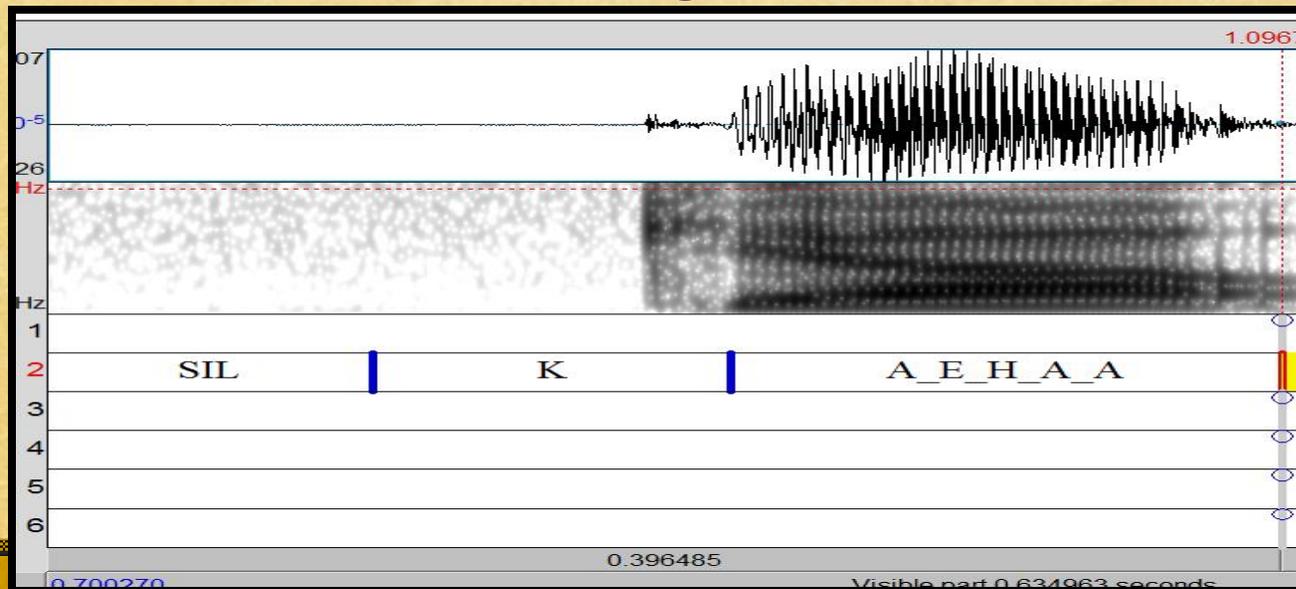
Dichotomy of diphthong definition

- ◆ Ladefoged (1982: 171) asserts, “ Diphthongs are single vowels with continuously changing qualities”.
- ◆ Catford (1977:215) describes, “ a diphthong may be defined as a combination of two perceptually different vowel sounds within one or same syllable”.



Cont.....

- ◆ Diphthong is a **single sound** produced when two vowels (one dominant in **duration** and **stress**, one reduced in duration and stress) are paired together in a sequence”.(Linda I. House : Introductory Phonetics and Phonology)





Difference between pure vowels and Diphthongs

"pure" vowels are said to have one target tongue position

diphthongs have a moving tongue.





CHARACTERISTICS

- ♦ A diphthong being a combination of two vowels has three critical points where their formants present some meaningful information. These critical points are:
 - ♦ On glide
 - ♦ Transition phase
 - ♦ Off glide





1. On glide of a diphthong which represents only the first vowel of the diphthong
2. Transition phase in which a shift from first vowel to the second one occurs.
3. Off glide of a diphthong which represents the last vowel in the diphthong.

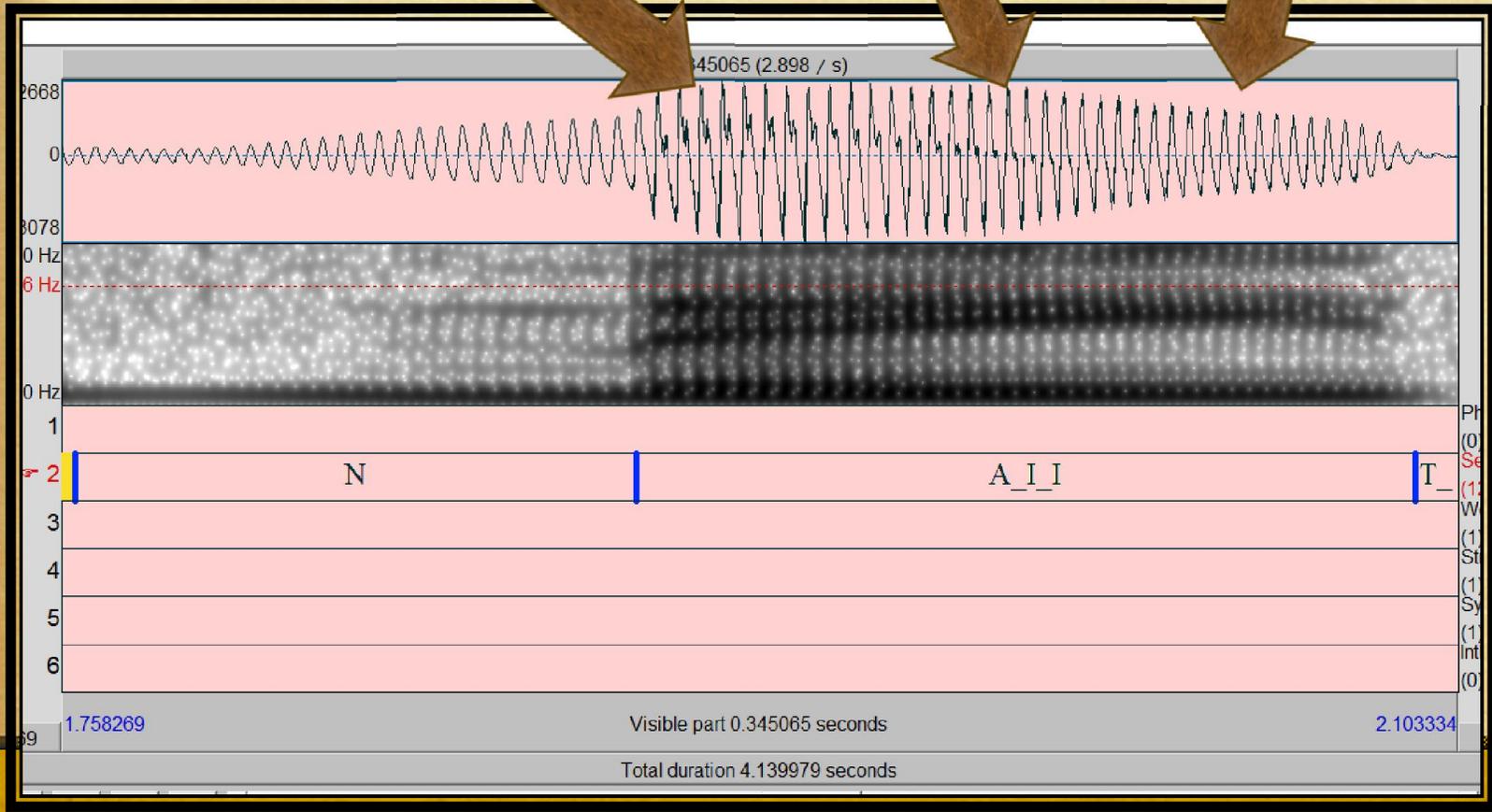


Existence of Diphthongs in Urdu Language

On glide

Transition phase

Off glide

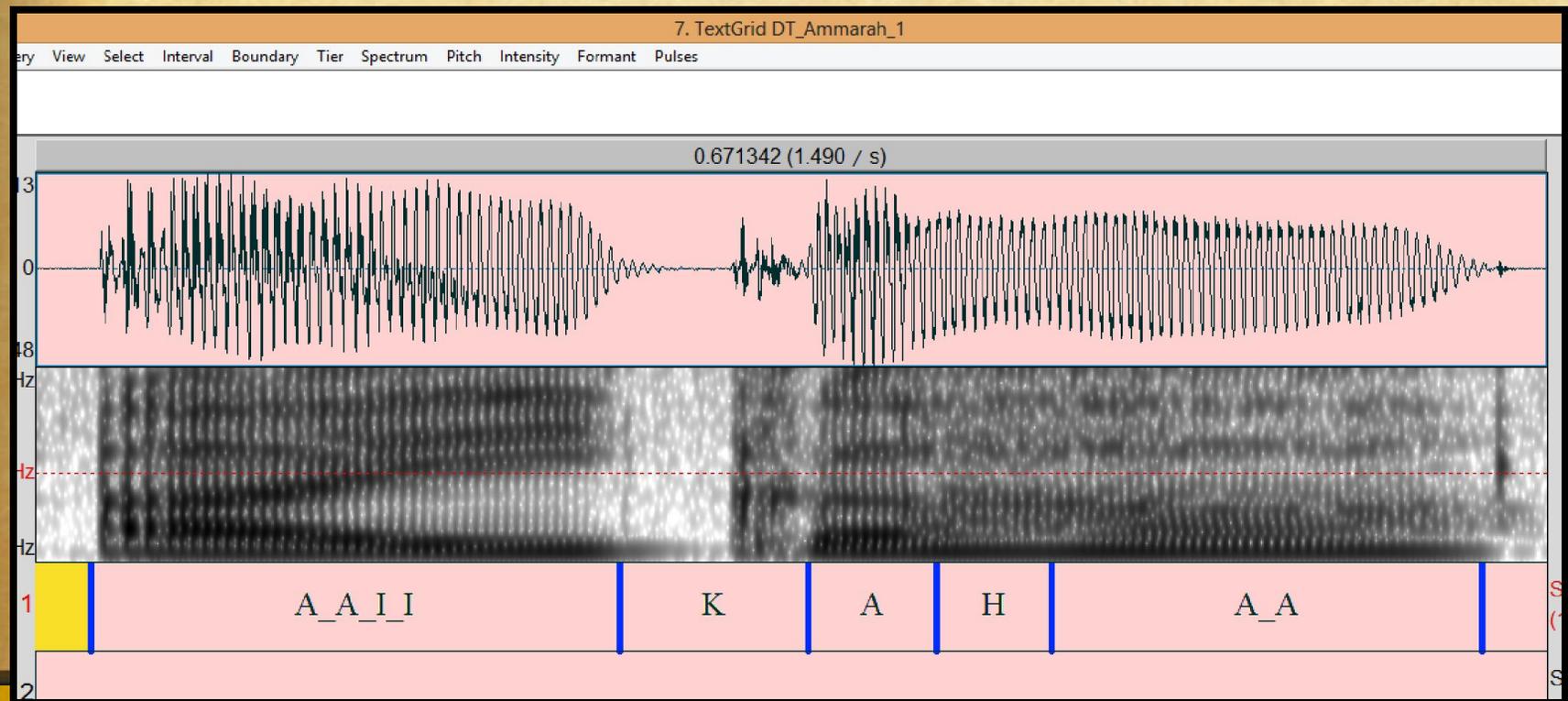


Key features of diphthongs

- ◆ In phonological patterns, diphthongs are labeled using a single “V” (not “V V”) because they act as one sound.
- ◆ It is important to note that the close combination of the two vowels causes each of the vowels to lose its pure quality.(The vowels in combination behaving as one sound ,lose their original sound).

Cont...

- ◆ For instance, the /a/ in [ai] is quite different from the /a / in [kəha] .



Cont...

- ♦ one vowel can be in reduced and unstressed form whilst the second one would be stressed and having comparatively long duration.
- ♦ Transition of segments of diphthongs is slower and more gradual than other segments.
- ♦ Although diphthongs are considered as the combination of two vowels, never put the length marker (:) when combine and transcribe them in phonetic symbols.



Types of Diphthongs

(Classification on the basis of its second component)

- Falling Diphthongs
- Closing Diphthongs
- Centering Diphthongs





□ Falling Diphthongs

LADEFOGED(1993)

The first part of a diphthong is usually more prominent than the last, such are called Falling Diphthongs.

- ❖ The last part is often so brief and transitory that it is difficult to determine its exact quality.
- ❖ Furthermore, the diphthongs often do not begin and end with any of the sounds that occur in simple vowels.
- ❖ From this perspective this phenomenon in Urdu still under study





□ Rising Diphthongs

- The second component is more longer than the first, and these are called Rising diphthongs.
- Urdu has rising diphthongs where the duration of the off glide is greater than the on glide.
 - A_E_H_A_A
 - I_U_U_N
 - A_A_Y





□ Centering Diphthongs

Diphthongs ending on schwa /ə/ are called Centering Diphthongs.

- ◆ English examples

[ɪə], [ɛə], and [ʊə]

- ◆ In Urdu, we have not any diphthong ending on schwa.



Literature Review

- ◆ This shows that the perceptual identification of diphthongs is speaker-dependent to a great extent.
- ◆ It showed that the diphthongs are usually made up of one long and one short vowel. They were not found to be made up of two long vowels.
- ◆ This study shows that Urdu has rising diphthongs (second vowel is of longer duration) which are very uncommon in the rest of the languages including English.

Waqar & Waqar 2003

◆

Cont....

- ♦ Sometimes the underlying syllables, which exist in the writing style or the syllable in the mind of a speaker, differ from the surface form of syllables or the syllables that are spoken.
- ♦ **Kea:** (KA_E_H_A_A) Deletion of j کیا
- ♦ **Kiũ:** (KI_U_U_N) Deletion of j کیوں
- ♦ **Hui:** (HU_I_I) Deletion of v ہوئی

Cont....

- ◆ The monosyllabic word contains a diphthong: “əe”
n əe ,g əe
- ◆ Most of the cases they are formed from the deletion of the consonants: “ʔ”, “j” and “v”.
- ◆ In Urdu diphthongs, most of the underlying vowels are long. The first one loses its timing slot and it shows the formants of its corresponding short vowel.

Segment Marking of Diphthongs

- Described below seven diphthongs are identified in Urdu language during this annotation process.

Sr.#	Urdu Letter	IPA	CISAMPA
1	ی، ے، ِ	əi:	A_I_I
2	ے، ے، ِ	əe:	A_A_Y
3	آ	ɑ:e:	A_A_A_Y
4	آی	ɑ:i:	A_A_I_I
5	و، ِ	ɪũ:	I_U_U_N
6	آء	æɑ:	A_E_H_A_A
7	و، ِ	ui:	U_I_I

Suggested Diphthongs??????

- ♦ A_I_I_N آئیں
- ♦ A_A_A_Y_N
- ♦ A_A_A_Y_H کائنات، جائزہ
- ♦ U_A_A

“If long vowels produce methodological headaches, diphthongs are a positive migraine.” (Lass 1984: 95).

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Questions

