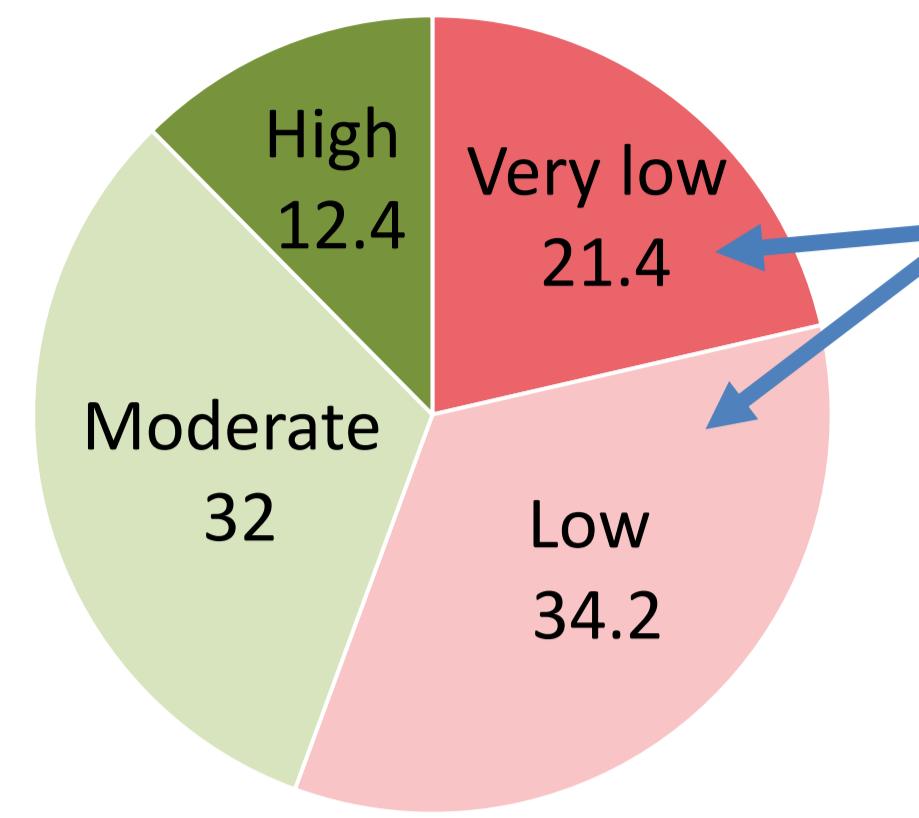


# Intelligible English Pronunciation for Japanese Learners in Global Communication

Ehime University Senior High School

## Introduction

Q. Are you confident in your English pronunciation?



Not confident: 55.6%

Japanese learners are not confident in pronunciation

※1

## Question 1

Changes in target pronunciation for Japanese learners (Course of Study)



Native English Speakers

Various Englishes

※2

Changes in English audio in listening Test for University Admissions

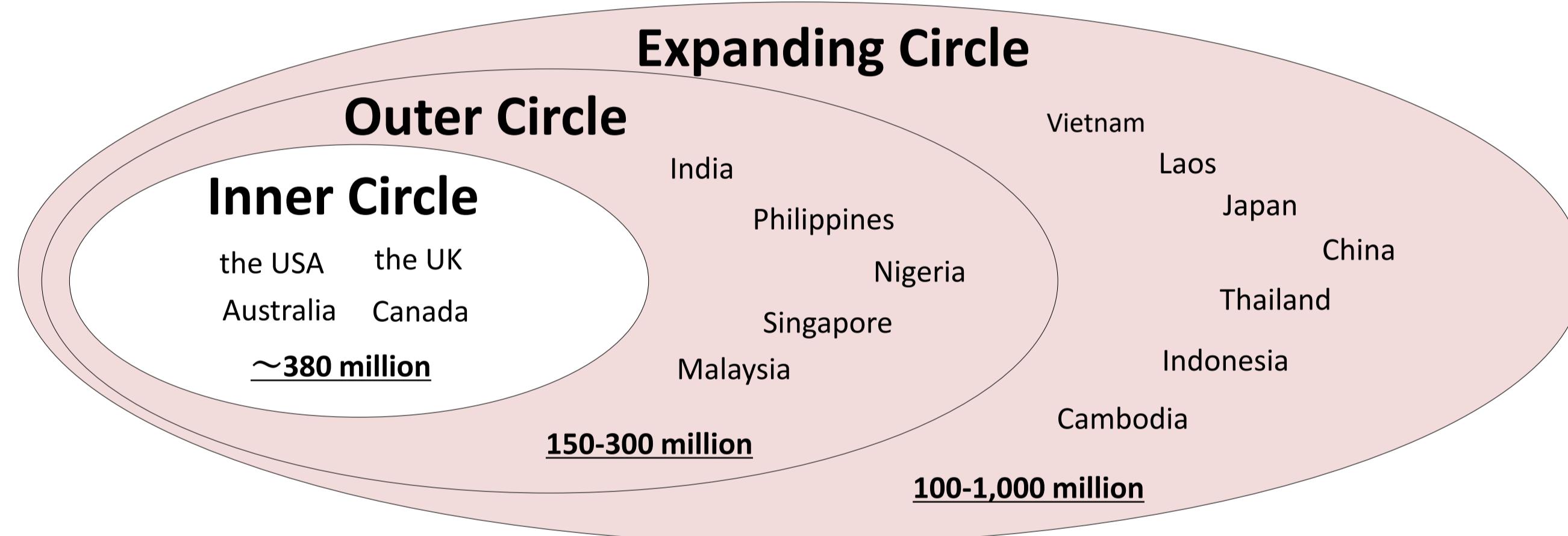
American English: 80%  
British English: 15%  
Asian English: 5%

Non-native audio was added to the listening section

To become more familiar with various English pronunciations

※3

Changes in English-Speaking Populations



native < non-native

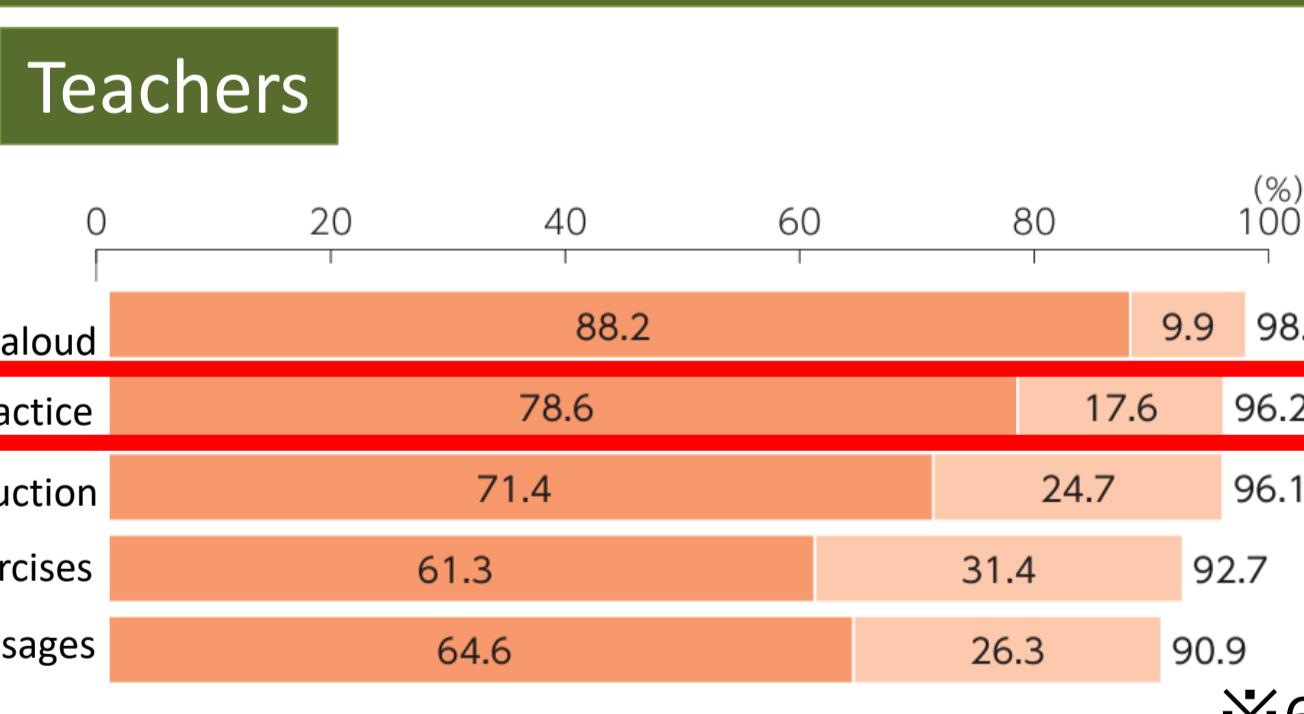
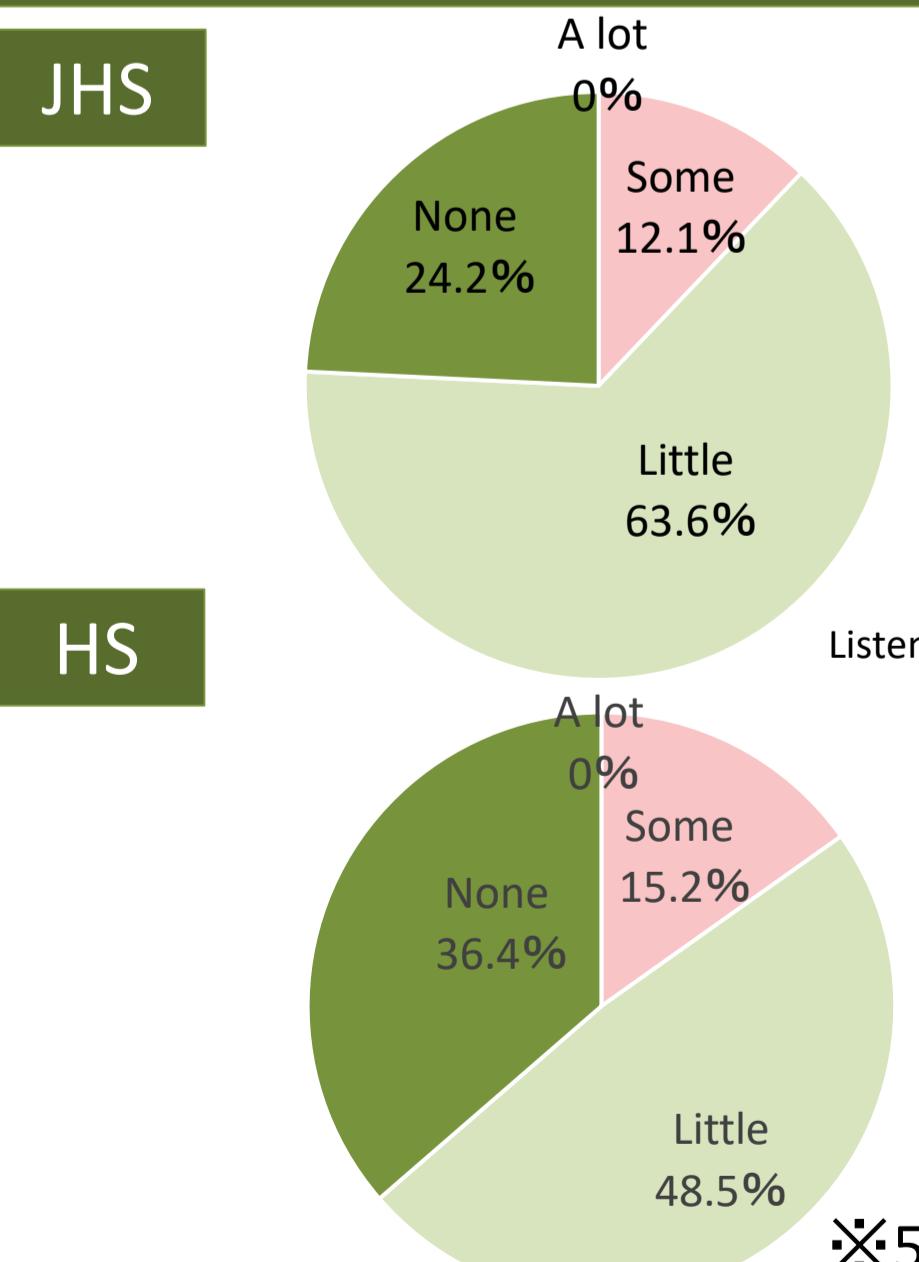
Kachru's Three Circle of English (adapted from Kachru)

※4

Most of communication occurs between non-native speakers

## Question 2

Q. How much pronunciation instruction did you receive / give?



Students → Not enough instruction  
Teachers → Sufficient instruction

Perception Gap: Students vs Teachers

※5

Effective ways to improve pronunciation

Students' perspectives

- Practice Individually
  - Listen & Repeat
  - Shadowing
  - Record for review
  - Use AI conversation tools

Teachers' perspectives

- Student-centered activities
  - Pair/group work, interactive tasks
- Provide feedback
- Provide explicit pronunciation guidance



## Research questions/Conclusion

Q1 What pronunciation should Japanese learners aim for?

### Pronunciation Goal

Not native-like English, but Intelligible English  
(Understandable by non-native speakers)

Q2 How can Japanese learners improve their pronunciation?

### Improvement Methods

Students' perspectives: Individual practice  
Teachers' perspectives: Student-centered activities  
Individual feedback  
Explicit pronunciation instruction

Q3 Which pronunciation should learners improve on?

### Improvement Targets

/r/ and /l/ , /f/ and /v/ , /ð/ and /θ/  
Clear pronunciation

## Question 3

Too many pronunciation elements

-Textbooks target native-like English  
-Learners don't know which elements to focus on  
(sounds, stress, intonation, linking)

Overwhelming!!

Twelve elements to focus for Intelligible English pronunciation

Category	Pronunciation Elements to Master
Consonants	Plosives: /p/, /t/, /k/, /b/, /d/, /g/
	Fricatives: /f/, /v/
	/r/
	Avoiding adding extra vowels
Vowels	/ə/ /ə/ (avoiding confusion with /s/ /z/)
	/h/ (avoiding confusion with [ɸ])
	Word-final /n/
	/ɜ:/ (as in NURSE)
Connected Speech	Length difference before fortis/ lenis consonants
	Stress in words with two or more syllables
	Rhythm (lengthen stressed syllables)
	Intonation (rising and falling Patterns)



2. For the audio clip you ranked number 4 (the most difficult to understand), please circle any parts where you felt the pronunciation was unclear or needs improvement.

I think Japan's rivers, lakes, and coastal areas face both challenges and changes. In rural valleys, those dry winters and sudden floods damage bridges and villages. The government and private groups develop fresh ideas for filtration and recycling. Volunteers cherish clean beaches, believing that healthy water shapes a brighter future.

Worksheet for the Survey



with Asian students at Asia Youth Leaders

Finding : Key pronunciation elements

### Consonants

/r/ and /l/ , /f/ and /v/ , /ð/ and /θ/

### Connected speech

Emphasize clear pronunciation rather than linking



Intelligible English Pronunciation

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