

**PHONETIC ACCOMMODATION OF MONOPHTHONG
VOWELS IN MAIN CHARACTERS' UTTERANCES IN “IN
BRUGES” MOVIE**

A THESIS

**Presented in a Partial Requirements for Completing the Sarjana Degree
in Department of English Literature**



by
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2025**

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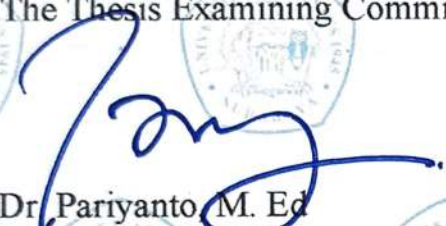
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ABSTRACT

Phonetic accommodation refers to how speakers adjust their pronunciation in interaction, either by becoming more similar (convergence) or more different (divergence) from each other. This study focuses on the phonetic accommodation between two main characters, Ray and Ken, in the movie *In Bruges*. This study aims to identify the types of phonetic accommodation that occur in utterances between them, how their accent differences influence this process, and whether the interaction reflects experimental speech behavior. The analysis was conducted on 50 utterances containing monophthong vowels, taken from the characters' dialogues. Each vowel was examined using acoustic analysis through *Praat*, a software used to measure formant frequencies (F1, F2, and F3) in speech. In addition to formant measurements, contextual factors such as emotional tone, conversational stance, and scene situation were also considered to see how interactional context may affect speech behavior. The results show that divergence occurs more frequently than convergence. Ray produced 23 utterances with phonetic accommodation, with only 3 classified as convergence, while Ken showed 27, with 3 convergence instances as well. Most convergence phenomena are partial and only affect one formant, while the rest of the features remain distinct. Both speakers tend to retain features of their accents, Irish English for Ray and British English for Ken, throughout various scenes. Ray consistently maintains his Irish accent and keeps his back vowels away from Ken's range, while Ken's vowels often shift from Standard Southern British (SSB) English norms. A few phenomena of convergence appear in emotionally neutral interactions, but overall, both characters maintain phonetic distance. These findings suggest that phonetic accommodation in a movie can still reflect real phenomena, where speech is influenced not only by accent but also by identity, emotional stance, and interactional context.

Keywords: *formant, In Bruges, monophthong, phonetic accommodation, vowel*

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