# AN ANALYSIS OF CONNECTED SPEECH IN IF I LET YOU GO SONG BY WESTLIFE

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ABSTRACT. Spoken language sometimes sounds distinct from written language nonetheless it has the same meaning. There are several components that influence these divergences, for example connected speech. Considering dialect and focusing on the descriptive analysis, the study examines the connected speech in a song by Westlife entitled If I Let You Go based on the formation. This paper aims to permit understanding of connected speech in Westlife lyrics through an overview of connected speech. Correspondingly, it will provide information about the role of connected speech, such as in improving communication skills and its pronunciation. The result of the research implies that in the lyrics shows several types of connected speech, which has different function in enhancing communication skills with different accent. The study argues that Westlife encloses various connected speech, such as catenation, elision, intrusion and geminates to produce a cohesive flow within the song.

Keywords: Connected speech; Westlife; Communication; Language

#### INTRODUCTION

English has developed into a global language and utilized in most of nations which create differences, especially in accents and dialects. Dialects have influences at pronunciation, flow, and speaking rate. All these components compose a linguistics aspect known as connected speech either connected discourse. Connected Speech might become a great challenge for nonnative listeners since the sound has potency to sound different than the regular speech. Connected speech processing (CSP) is of great significance to individuals' language and cognitive development (Bi, H., Zare, S., Kania, U., & Yan, R., 2022). Whereas these problems should not happen in English learners, because it will make sound awkward, difficult to understand and the worst is decreasing the learners' quality (Jannah, 2022).

The accents or dialects that use connected speech is British accent. According to Daniel Jones (1917) British accent has been known for nearly a century as received pronunciation -RP-yet he named it public school pronunciation, afterward the appellation obtainstransformation into General British. British accents are spread across United Kingdom, for instance England, Ireland, Scotland, and nearby islands. Ireland, one of the British accent speakers, has Westlife as their well-known artist. They have produced many popular songs and one of them titled If I Let You Go released in 1999. Influenced by the accents, If I Let You Go song obtains many linguistics aspects such as connected speech.

Linguistics has a big role in every prospect of language and culture, including in a song. A

song can be exhaustive with linguistic support, such as in phonological terms. According to Cohn & Huffman (2013), phonology corresponds to the cognitive aspects of sound structures and patterns. Preceding studies have explored connected speech in different court. First, Connected Speech Aspect of Elision (Diani, 2018). Second, Learning Connected Speech by Pronouncing Song Lyrics (Jannah, Wijaya, Ro'ifah, 2022). The studies analyse the connected speech focusing on one category. Conversely, this research will focus on dialects, categories of connected speech, and its role.

The purpose of This analysis is to identify the connected speech and dialects in the song entitled If I Let You Go by Westlife. Furthermore, this research will also classify the category of connected speech in the lyrics.

#### **METHODE**

To interpret this study, researcher entailed descriptive qualitative method. Content analysis was utilized for accumulating the data. Content analysis is an interpretive and naturalistic approach. It is both observational and narrative in nature and relies less on the experimental elements normally associated with scientific research (reliability, validity, and generalizability) (Ethnography, Observational, research, and Narrative Inquiry, 1994-2012). This method involves listening session and transcribing technique to collect data from the song entitled If I Let You Go by Westlife. References are taken from e-books and journals from the internet.

Analysing the collected data, the researcher utilizes several techniques, for instance data

display, and elaborating conclusion. This research will examine the connected speech aspect such as catenation, elision, intrusion, geminates, and elaborate on its form. The election of descriptive qualitative methods for this research is referring to the research objectives, particularly to detect connected speech that are mentioned in the If I let you go by Westlife. The data served in this research are description using phonetic transcripts, elaboration of categories, and explanation of how dialects can affect the pronunciation is qualitative research. Qualitative research is a type of research that explores and provides deeper insights into realworld problems (Moser A, Korstjens I. Series: Practical guidance to qualitative research. Part 1: Introduction. Eur J Gen Pract. 2017 Dec;23(1):271-Creswell (2002) noted that qualitative research is the approach to data collection, analysis, and report writing differing from the traditional, quantitative approaches.

These are procedure which researcher do in order to assure that this research is done well:

# 1. Preparation

The first step researcher did before decide this topic is to identify the research objectives. Moreover, the researcher hopes that this paper may give benefit and new knowledge to the reader in the future.

# 2. Implementation

The Researcher visits journal website reqularly in order to collect related references and use it as a supporting data. Furthermore, the selected data is applied as the basis of research during the analysis and implied it.

# 3. Finishing

However, this paper might still require revisions, the researcher hopes the reader's understanding. Then, the writer provides conclusion and suggestion sessions in this paper.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

This chapter will provide the data analysis and elaborate on the results of the research. All of the data in this paper are taken from a song entitled If I Let You Go by Westlife which is released in the 1999. To classify and elaborate the types of connected speech based on the formation, researcher discovered four types of connected speech in the song entitled If I Let You Go by Westlife.

#### a. Catenation

**Table 1. Catenation** 

Lyrics	Time	Line	The connected words
pas <u>s a</u> way	0:08	1	"Pass away" sounds like
			pasaway (/paːsəˈweɪ/)
an <u>d I</u>	0:11	2	"And I" sounds like andI (/əndaɪ/)
hid <u>e it</u>	0:18	3	"Hide it inside" sounds like
<u>in</u> side			hideitinsinde (/haɪdɪnˈsaɪd/)
kee <u>p o</u> n	0:22	4	"Keep on" sounds like keepon
1			(/ki:pvn/)
an <u>d on</u> ce	0:37	7	"And once" sounds like
			andonce (/əndwʌns/)
wa <u>y ou</u> t	0:44	8	"Way out" sounds like wayout
-			(/wei aut/)
i <u>f I</u>	0:47	9	"If I" sounds like IfI (/ɪfaɪ/)
wi <u>ll I</u>	0:57	11	"Will I" sounds like (/wɪlaɪ/)
fa <u>de aw</u> ay	1:19	14	"Fade away" sounds like (/
			feidə wei/)
su <u>ch a</u>	1:27	17	"Such a shame" sounds like (/sʌtʃə/)
<u>sh</u> ame			, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
sooner or	1:37	19	"Sooner or" sounds like (/su:n
			ə(r)ɔ:/)
thin <u>king</u>	2:38	27	"Thinking about" sounds like
<u>ab</u> out			(/θιηkιηəˈbaʊt/)
bac <u>k at</u>	3:01	31	"Back at" sounds like (/bækət/)

## b.Elision

Table 2. Elision

Lyrics	Time	Line	The connected words
Can't	0:12	2	"Can not" is shortened as "can't" and pronounced /ka:nt/
I've	0:32	6	"I have" is shortened as "I've" and pronounced /aɪv/
I'm	0:39	7	"I am" is shortened as "I'm" and pronounced /aim/
There's	1:21	15	"There is" is shortened as "There's" and pronounced /ðeəz/
It's	1:27	17	"It is" is shortened as "It's" and pronounced / its/
We're	1:29	17	"We are" is shortened as "we're" and pronounced /wiə(r)/

## c. Intrusion

Table 3. Intrusion

Lyrics	Time	Line	The connected words
Bu <u>t I</u>	0:24	4	"But I" is more like "buraı" (/ˈbətaɪ/)
T <u>o as</u> k	1:33	18	"To ask" is more like "turask" (/tua:sk/)

## d. Geminates

Table 4. Geminates

Lyrics	Time	Line	The connected words
Ho <u>w wi</u> ll	1:03	12	"How will" turns into "how-ill"
Go <u>t t</u> o	1:41	19	"Got to" turns into "got-u"

Based on the data of the research, if I Let You Go by Westlife enclose several connected speech aspects, e.g. catenation, elision, intrusion, and geminates which effect the pronunciation of the words. The explanation of each connected speech will be expounded in a table to make a clear portrayal of data analysis.

1. Catenation Lyrics line 1

Table 5. The process of catenation

The process of catenation				
Lyrics	Main form	After connected speech		
Day after day Time pass away	Pass away	It sounds like pasaway (/ pa:səˈweɪ/)		

In the phrase "pass away" the "s" is joined with the "a" sound in "away" and it becomes almost like a single word and it is pronounced /pa:səˈwei/. This analysis is considered pass away as featured by catenation in behalf of the blending of "s" and "a". This catenation process ensues if one word ends with a vowel and the next word begins with a vowel. This process is wielded to make the phrase easier to pronounce and keep the rhythm in a song.

Lyrics line 2

Table 6. The process of catenation

The process of catenation					
Lyrics Main form After connected speech					
And I just can't get	And I	It sounds like andI (/			
you off my mind andai/)					

In the phrase "and I" the "n" is joined with the "I" sound in "I" and it becomes almost like a single word and it is pronounced /əndaı/. This analysis is considered and I as featured by catenation in behalf of the blending of "n" and "I". This catenation process occurs if one word ends with a consonant and the next word begins with a vowel. This process is wielded to make the phrase easier to pronounce when people need to speak rapidly.

Lyrics line 3

Table 7. The process of catenation

The process of catenation				
Lyrics	Main form	After connected speech		
Nobody knows I hide it inside	Hide it inside	It sounds like hideitinsinde (/haɪdɪnˈsaɪd/)		

In the phrase "hide it inside" the "d" is joined with the "i" and the "t" joined with the "i" sound in "it" also "inside" and it becomes almost like a single word and it is pronounced / haɪdın saɪd/. This analysis is considered hide it

inside as featured by catenation in behalf of the blending of "s" and "a". This catenation process ensues if one word ends with a consonant and the next word begins with a vowel. This process is wielded to make the phrase easier to pronounce and speak more effectively.

## Lyrics line 4

Table 8. The process of catenation

The process of catenation				
Lyrics Main After connected speech				
I keep on searching,	Keep on	It sounds like keepon		
but I can't find		(/ki:pvn/)		

In the phrase "keep on" the "p" is joined with the "o" and it becomes almost like a single word and it is pronounced / ki:ppn /. This analysis is considered keep on as featured by catenation because the blending of "p" and "o". This catenation process occurs if one word ends with a consonant and the next word begins with a vowel. This process is wielded to make the phrase easier to pronounce and make it sounds like a native.

Lyrics line 7

Table 9. The process of catenation

The process of catenation				
Lyrics Main form After connected speech				
And once again I'm thinking about	And once	It sounds like andonce (/əndwʌns/)		

In the phrase "and once" the "n" is joined with the "o" and it becomes almost like a single word and it is pronounced /əndwʌns/. This analysis is considered and once as featured by catenation because the blending of "n" and "o". This catenation process ensues if one word ends with a consonant and the next word begins with a vowel. This process is wielded to make the phrase easier to pronounce and speaking more effective.

Lyrics line 8

Table 10. The process of catenation

The process of catenation				
Lyrics Main form After connected speech				
Taking the	Way out	It sounds like wayout (/wei		
easy way out aut/)				

In the phrase "way out" the "ei" is joined with the "o" and it becomes almost like a single word and it is pronounced /weiaut/. This

analysis is considered way out as featured by catenation in behalf of the blending of "s" and "a". This catenation process happens if one word ends with a vowel and the next word begins with a vowel as well. This process is used to make speaking more effective and keep the rhythm in a song.

Lyrics line 9

Table 11. The process of catenation

The process of catenation				
Lyrics Main After connected speech form				
But if I let you go, I will never know	If I	It sounds like IfI (/ɪfaɪ/)		

In the phrase "if I" the "f" is joined with the "I" and it becomes almost like a single word and it is pronounced /weiaut/. This analysis is considered If I as featured by catenation because the blending of "f" and "I". This catenation process happens if one word ends with a consonant and the next word begins with a vowel. This process is used to keep the rhythm and keep the flow of a song.

Lyrics line 11

Table 12. The process of catenation

The process of catenation				
Lyrics	Main form	After connected speech		
Will I ever see you smiling back at me?	Will I	It produces a sound like (/wɪlaɪ/)		

In the phrase "Will I" the "I" is joined with the "I" and it becomes almost like a single word and it is pronounced / wilai/. This analysis is considered will I as featured by catenation because the blending of "f" and "I". This catenation process happens if one word ends with a consonant and the next word begins with a vowel. This process is used to make the speaker sounds like a native and speaks more quickly.

Lyrics line 14

Table 13. The process of catenation

The process of catenation		
Lyrics	Main form	After connected speech
Why can't this feeling just fade away?	Fade away	It releases a sound like (/feɪdəˈweɪ/)

In the phrase "fade away" the "d" is joined with the "a" and it becomes almost like a single

word and it is pronounced /feidə'wei/. This analysis is considered fade away as featured by catenation because the blending of "d" and "a". This catenation process happens if one word ends with a consonant and the next word begins with a vowel. This process is used to make the speaker speak more fluently and enhance communication skills.

Lyrics line 17

Table 14. The process of catenation

The process of catenation			
Lyrics Main form After connected sp			
It's such a shame we're worlds apart	Such a	It produces a sound like (/sʌtʃə/)	

In the phrase "such a" the "ch" is joined with the "a" and it becomes almost like a single word and it is pronounced /sʌtʃə /. This analysis is considered such a as featured by catenation because the blending of "ch" and "a". This catenation process happens if one word ends with a consonant and the next word begins with a vowel. This process is used to make the speaker speak more quickly and eloquently.

Lyrics line 19

Table 15. The process of catenation

The process of catenation			
Lyrics	Main form	After connected speech	
But sooner or later	Sooner or	It makes a sound like	
I got to choose		sooneror (/su:n ə(r)ɔ:/)	

In the phrase "sooner or" the "r" is joined with the "o" and it becomes almost like a single word and it is pronounced /su:nə(r)ɔ:/. This analysis is considered sooner or as featured by catenation because the blending of "d" and "a". This catenation process happens if one word ends with a consonant and the next word begins with a vowel. This process is used to make the speaker speaks like a native.

Lyrics line 27

Table 16. The process of catenation

The process of catenation			
Lyrics	Main form	After connected speech	
Once again I'm thinking about	U	It sounds like thinkingabout (/θιηκιηο 'baut/)	

In the phrase "thinking about" the "ng" is joined with the "a" and it becomes almost like a

single word and it is pronounced /  $\theta$ ıŋkıŋə baut/. This analysis is considered thinking about as featured by catenation because the blending of "ng" and "a". This catenation process happens if one word ends with a consonant and the next word begins with a vowel. This process is used to make the speaker sounds like a native.

Lyrics line 31

Table 17. The process of catenation

The process of catenation			
Lyrics Main form After connected speech			
Will I ever see you smiling back at me?	Back at	It produces a sound like (/bækət/)	

In the phrase "back at" the "k" is joined with the "a" and it becomes almost like a single word and it is pronounced /bækət/. This analysis is considered back at as featured by catenation because the blending of "k" and "a". This catenation process happens if one word ends with a consonant and the next word begins with a vowel. This process is used to make the speaker sounds like a native and makes a rhythm of a song.

2 Elision Lyrics line 2

Table 18. The process of elision

The process of elision			
Lyrics	Main form	After connected speech	
And I just can't get you off my mind	Cannot	"Can not" is shortened as "can't" and pronounced / ka:nt/	

In the phrase "can't" which has "cannot" as the basic form and pronounce as/ku:nt/ after loss of phoneme. The above processes occur as a shortened form in morphology terms of words. On the other hand, Elision can also happen when the last sound of a word disappears. This process is used to make the speaker sounds more eloquently and make a rhythm of a song.

Lyrics line 6

Table 19. The process of elision

The process of elision			
Lyrics	Main form	After connected speech	
I've never felt so much love before	I have	"I have" is shortened as "I've" and pronounced / aɪv/	

In the phrase "I've" which has "I have" as the basic form and pronounce as/arv/ after loss of phoneme. The above processes occur as a shortened form in morphology terms of words. On the other hands, Elision can also happen when the last sound of a word disappears. This process is used to make the speaker sounds like a native and easier to pronounce.

Lyrics line 7

Table 20. The process of elision

The process of elision			
Lyrics	Main	After connected speech	
	form		
And once again	I am	"I am" is shortened as "I'm"	
I'm thinking about		and pronounced /aim/	

In the phrase "I'm" which has "I am" as the basic form and pronounce as/aim/ after loss of phoneme. The above processes occur as a shortened form in morphology terms of words. On the other hands, Elision can also happen when the last sound of a word disappears. This process is used to make the speaker speak more fluently and shorten the phrase.

Lyrics line 15

Table 21. The process of elision

The process of elision			
Lyrics	Main	After connected speech	
	form		
There's no one like	There is	There is" is shortened	
you (no one like you)		as "There's" and	
		pronounced /ðeəz/	

In the phrase "There's" which has "There is" as the basic form and pronounce as/ðeəz/after loss of phoneme. The above processes occur as a shortened form in morphology terms of words. On the other hands, Elision can also happen when the last sound of a word disappears. This process is wielded to make the phrase easier to pronounce and keep the rhythm in a song.

Lyrics line 17

Table 22. The process of elision

The process of elision		
Lyrics	Main form	After connected speech
It's such a shame we're worlds apart	It is	"It is" is shortened as "It's" and pronounced / its/

In the phrase "It's" which has "It is" as the basic form and pronounce as/ its / after loss of phoneme. The above processes occur as a shortened form in morphology terms of words. On the other hands, Elision can also happen

when the last sound of a word disappears. This process is wielded to make the phrase easier to pronounce and keep the rhythm in a song. Lyrics line 17

Table 23. The process of elision

The process of elision			
Lyrics	Main form	After connected speech	
It's such a shame we're worlds apart	We are	"We are" is shortened as "we're" and pronounced / wiə(r)/	

In the phrase "We're" which has "we are" as the basic form and pronounce as/wio(r)/after loss of phoneme. The above processes occur as a shortened form in morphology terms of words. On the other hands, Elision can also happen when the last sound of a word disappears. This process makes the speaker sounds like a native.

#### 3 Intrusion

Lyrics line 4

Table 24. The process of intrusion

The process of intrusion			
Lyrics	Main	After connected	
Lyrics	form	speech	
I keep on searching,	But I	"But I" is more like	
but I can't find		"buraı" (/bətaɪ/)	

In the phrase "but I" the way pronounces as /bərai/ occurs when an extra sound squishes in between two words. The intruding sound is often a "j", "w", or "r". The above processes occur and affect the pronunciation of the words. This process makes the speaker sounds like a native.

Lyrics line 18

Table 25. The process of intrusion

The process of intrusion			
Lyrics	Main form	After connected speech	
I'm too shy to ask,	To ask	To ask" is more like	
I'm too proud to lose		"turask" (/tua:sk/)	

In the phrase "to ask" the way pronounces as /turask/ occurs when an extra sound squishes in between two words. The intruding sound is often a "j", "w", or "r". The above processes occur and affect the pronunciation of the words. This process makes the speaker sounds like a native and keep the flow of the song.

4 Geminates Lyrics line 12

Table 26. The process of geminates

The process of geminates			
Lyrics	Main form	After connected speech	
How will I know if I let you go?	How will	"How will" turns into "how-ill"	

In the phrase "how will" the way pronounces as/how-ill/. Geminates are lengthy or doubled consonants. When a word finishes with the same consonant sound as the next word begins, we frequently join and lengthen the sounds in connected speech. This process is wielded to make the phrase easier to pronounce.

Lyrics line 19

Table 1. 27 The process of geminates

The process of geminates			
Lyrics	Main form	After connected speech	
But sooner or later	Got to	"Got to" turns into	
I got to choose		"got-u"	

In the phrase "got to" the way pronounces into /got-u/. Geminates are lengthy or doubled consonants. When a word finishes with the same consonant sound as the next word begins, we frequently join and lengthen the sounds in connected speech. This process is wielded to make the phrase easier to pronounce and make it efficient.

A song is a piece of music which contains words intended to be vocally performed by the human voice (Yuliana, Hadi, Panjaitan, 2020). So, the pronunciation of each word is determined of who is the speaker, where is the speaker from, and its cultural terms. In this case, Westlife who origin from Ireland, use the British Accents for utilize in this song. Accents in British is divided into 40 dialects, for instance, Received Pronunciation (RP) which is utilized at London and Southeast England, Scottish, Northen Irish, Welsh, etc (Rumsey Cheryl, 2023). This variation has their own singularity. However, this uniqueness may lead into a quandary. Each dialect may sound different for learners and nonnative, for example at the lyrics 'but sooner or later' Westlife use connected speech catenation, which is a connected speech that happen when a consonant sound at the end of a word become joined to a beginning sound of a vowel in the next word, this linking is used for shorten and keep the rhyme. British English usually used in the listening comprehension part of IELTS. Yet, there are also other accents like American, Australian, Canadian, and other accents in the world. Besides, people actually can improve their listening comprehension by listen and practice to make themselves more familiar with the pronunciation. It can be begun by choosing the accent. British accents and American accents both of them has their own uniqueness. British accents might sound a little bit difficult for people who just learn how to understand English. On the other hand, American English seem more familiar in Indonesia.

There are several types of connected speech, many of them affect almost every aspect of pronunciation. Notwithstanding, connected speech is also affected by the accents or dialects of the speaker. The function of the connected speech and the way they influence the phoneme could make a big hurdle for nonnative because of it may alter a phrase into a new and unfamiliar sound. The effect regarding four types of the connected speech will be discussed below.

## A. Catenation

According to the data, this process seems to be the most common connected speech type in this segment hence this session has the biggest number out of four types of connected speech. This session has seventeen data from line 1 to line 31.

## B. Elision

Based on the result of the data analysis, this type of connected speech became the second biggest number. It contains six data. It is collected from the line 2 to line 17.

#### C. Intrusion and Geminates

Both of them contain two data so that they become the least collected data. The intrusion type is gathered from line 4 and line 18. Furthermore, the geminates types is compiled from line 12 and line 19.

Moreover, the accents and dialects which utilize by the band also give some influences to nonnative understanding. More familiar a person to an accent or dialect, it will be easier for them to understand each word of the song lyrics.

# **CONCLUSION**

English as a global language has become the most important subject and aspect in human society. However, English can be complicated because of the way a speaker pronounces the words. The usage of English in the worldwide create a difference of each nation which utilize English as their main language. Native-speakers will try to communicate efficiently. On the other hand, nonnative speakers will speak English clearly so that they can control the flow of words. This issue also occurs when nonnative listen to a song.

By transcribing and elaborating the lyrics, this study discovers that in a song entitled If I Let You Go by Westlife contains several types of connected speech which nonnative-speaker will appear it as an obstacle of listening session. In this song, there are twenty-three data which can be examined and categorized. Nevertheless, people can make themselves to be more familiar with the accent and the pronunciation so that they could improve their ability in listening session. Future research should focus on more general connected speech opt daily conversation on proving clearer aspect and require more detailed finding. Furthermore, this study measured a specific object which is a song.

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