

**Challenges faced by English as Foreign Language (EFL) learners in the perception and production of North American English (NAE) vowels: A case of Rwandan students in various US universities.**

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**Abstract**

This paper was meant to investigate the challenges that EFL learners from Rwanda encounter in the perception and production of North American English vowels. The participants were Rwandan EFL learners attending various US universities in academic year 2012-2013. In order to gather the information needed to carry out this investigation, questionnaires were distributed to the concerned students. The results showed that Rwandan EFL learners in the US face various challenges in their effort to optimize the perception and production of NAE vowels such as their big number and highly complex character. The influence of their L1 vowels system was also found to be one of the thorny challenges.