General English has 14 or 15 different vowels which are all oral vowels. In contrast, Taiwanese has six oral and four nasal vowels. In addition to these ten vowels, there are seven nasal diphthongs and their oral counterparts, with an additional /io/. These discrepancies motivated the researcher to compare the vowel nasality between English and Taiwanese speakers when they are uttering the syllables of CV and CVN. The researcher invited 13 native Taiwanese speakers and 13 English speakers with the equal ratio of genders in the two groups. All the subjects were asked to read 14 Taiwanese word of CV syllables and 11 English words of (C)VN syllables to compare the different performance between the two groups. The sounds were recorded and transferred into digital files. Linguists generally agreed that the values of the amplitude and the frequency will be lowered when the vowels are nasalized. In this study, the software TF32 was employed to extract the values of the amplitudes and the frequencies for each vowel at the onset, 25%, 50%, 75%, and offset points of the vocalic portions. The values were compared to explore whether the two groups utter the vowels in the two contexts, Taiwanese CV and English (C)VN, respectively.

Keywords: nasality, nasal vowel, pronunciation