

Standard Chinese (Beijing)

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The style of speech illustrated is that typical of the educated younger generation in Beijing. The recording is that of a 25-year-old female graduate student who has lived all her life in Beijing.

Consonants

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Palatal	Velar
Plosive	p p ^h		t t ^h				k k ^h
Affricate			ts ts ^h		tʃ tʃ ^h	tɕ tɕ ^h	
Nasal	m		n				ŋ
Fricative		f	s		ʃ	ç	x
Approximant	w				ɹ	j	
Lateral Approximant			l				

p	paɿ	‘eight’	t	taɿ	‘to build’	k	kɤɿ	‘song’
p ^h	p ^h aɿ	‘to lie prone’	t ^h	t ^h aɿ	‘he/she’	k ^h	k ^h ɤɿ	‘subject’
m	maɿ	‘mother’	n	naɿ	‘to include’	ŋ	aŋɿ	‘dirty’
f	faɿ	‘to send’	s	saɿ	‘to cast’	x	xɤɿ	‘to drink’
			ts	tɕaɿ	‘to circle’			
			ts ^h	ts ^h aɿ	‘to wipe’			
				ʃ	ʃaɿ			‘sand’
				tʃ	tʃaɿ			‘residue’
				tʃ ^h	tʃ ^h aɿ			‘to insert’
				ç	çiaɿ			‘shrimp’
				tɕ	tɕiaɿ			‘to add’
				tɕ ^h	tɕ ^h iaɿ			‘to nip off’
w	waɿ	‘frog’	l	laɿ	‘to pull’	ɹ	ɹənɿ	‘person’
						j	jaɿ	‘duck’

Syllabic consonants

ɹ	sɹ̩	'to think'
	ʃɹ̩	'poem'

Vowels

i	i̯	'clothes'	in̩	'sound'
y	y̯	'fish'	yn̩	'dizzy'
a	fa̯	'to send'	an̩	'safe'
ə	ə̯	'son'	ən̩	'favour'
u	u̯	'house'	xu̯ŋ	'bombing'
ɹ	ɹ̩	'goose'		

Diphthongs

ai	ai̯	'sorrow'		
au	au̯	'hollow'		
ou	ou̯	'Europe'		
uo	ʃuo̯	'to speak'		
ei	xei̯	'black'		
ye	ɕye̯	'boot'	ɕyen̩	'to announce'
ie	ɕie̯	'some'	ɕien̩	'fresh'
ia	ɕia̯	'shrimp'	ɕian̩	'fragrant'
ua	xua̯	'flower'	xuan̩	'merry'
uə			xuən̩	'marriage'
iu			ciu̯ŋ	'chest'

Triphthongs

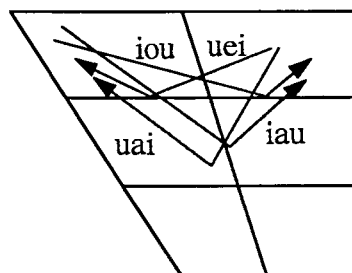
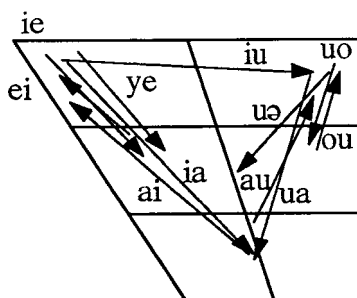
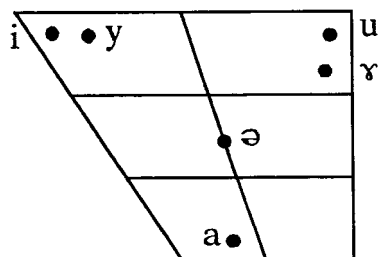
iau	ciau̯	'to disappear'
uai	ʃuai̯	'to fall down'
iou	ciou̯	'to rest'
uei	xuei̯	'ash'

Tones (citation forms)

[˥]	(high level)	[pa˥]	'eight'
[˧˥]	(mid to high rising)	[pa˧˥]	'to pull out'
[˧˥˩]	(mid to low to mid dipping)	[pa˧˥˩]	'to hold'
[˥˩]	(high to low falling)	[pa˥˩]	'father'

Conventions**Consonants, syllabic consonants, vowels, diphthongs, and triphthongs**

Syllable-initial [t, t^h, n] and syllable-final [n] are apico-laminal denti-alveolar; syllable-initial [s, ts, ts^h] are apico-laminal or laminal denti-alveolar; syllable-initial [ʃ, ʒ, tʃ, tʃ^h] are apical post-alveolar; syllable-initial [ç] is lamino-anterodorsal post-alveolar or pre-palatal; syllable-initial [tɕ, tɕ^h] are apico-anterodorsal or lamino-anterodorsal alveolo-palatal; and



syllable-initial [l] is apical denti-alveolar or apical alveolar. [c, tɕ, tɕʰ] occur only before [i] or [y]. Voiceless syllable-initial obstruents often become voiced when the following rhyme is associated with the neutral tone. [m] occurs only in syllable-initial position; [n] occurs in both syllable-initial and syllable-final positions; and [ŋ] occurs only in syllable-final position. [w] has a free variant form of [u].

[ɿ] occurs only in isolation or after [s, ts, tsʰ, ʃ, tʃ, tʃʰ]. [ɿ] in isolation or when following [ʃ, tʃ, tʃʰ] is a syllabic apical post-alveolar approximant; when following [s, ts, tsʰ] it is a syllabic apico-laminal or laminal denti-alveolar approximant. Syllabic apico-laminal or laminal denti-alveolar and syllabic apical post-alveolar approximants, often called apical vowels, occur only in open syllables.

Vowels [i, y, a, u] occur in open syllables as well as syllables closed by a nasal; [ɤ] occurs only in open syllables. In open syllables, [i, y, u] are about cardinal, [a] = [a̠], and [ɤ] is slightly diphthongized from [ɤ] to [ʌ]. In syllables closed by a nasal, [i, y] are about cardinal, [a] = [a̠], and [u] = [u̠]. [ə] is a plain mid-central schwa in syllables closed by a nasal; in open syllables [ə] is rhotacized, i.e. [ə̃].

Diphthongs [ai, au, ou, uo, ei] occur only in open syllables; [ie, ia, ye, ua] occur in open syllables and syllables closed by a nasal; and [uə, iu] occur only in syllables closed by a nasal. [ai] = [ai̠], [au] = [au̠], [ou] = [ou̠], [uo] = [uo̠], [ei] = [ei̠], [ie] = [ie̠], [ye] = [ye̠], [ua] = [ua̠], and [iu] = [iu̠].

All triphthongs occur only in open syllables. In [iau, uai, iou, uei], [a] = [a̠], [o] = [o̠], and [e] = [e̠].

A rhyme which may be a monophthong, diphthong, triphthong, ‘vowel+nasal’, or ‘diphthong+nasal’ may undergo *er-hua*. *er-hua* refers to suffixation of a rhotacized subsyllabic [ə̃] to a rhyme, or to rhotacization of a vowel or a sequence of two vowels in a rhyme. In the cases where the rhyme ends with [o], [ɤ] or [u], the vowel is rhotacized, i.e. [õ], [ɤ̃] or [ũ], instead of the rhyme being suffixed with [ə̃]; and in the cases where the diphthong or triphthong ends with [i] or [e], [i] or [e] is deleted. Thus, [i, y, ɿ, a, u, ɤ] → [iə̃, yə̃, ɿə̃, aə̃, uə̃, ɤ̃], respectively; [ie, ye, ai, ei, ia, ua, uo, ou, au] → [iə̃, yə̃, aə̃, ə̃, iə̃, uə̃, uə̃, oũ, aũ], respectively; and [uai, uei, iou, iau] → [uaə̃, uə̃, iõ, iə̃], respectively. In the cases where the rhyme ends with [n], the nasal ending is deleted. Thus, [in, yn, ən, an] → [iə̃, yə̃, ə̃, aə̃], respectively; and [ien, yen, uən, uan] → [iə̃, yə̃, uə̃, uə̃], respectively. And, in the cases where the rhyme ends with [ŋ], the nasal ending is deleted and the rhyme is nasalized. Thus, [iŋ, əŋ, aŋ, uŋ] → [iə̃̃, ə̃̃, ã̃, ũ̃̃], respectively; and [iaŋ, uaŋ, iuŋ] → [iä̃̃, üä̃̃, iü̃̃], respectively.

Tones

[˥] on monosyllables may realize as [˥] or [˥]+silence+[˥]. On compounds, [˥] → [˥] before another [˥], and [˥] → [˥] before [˧, ˨, ˨] or the neutral tone; and optionally, [˥] → [˥] after [˧] or [˥] and before any tone, and [˥] → [˥] or [˥] before another [˥]. On a component syllable of a compound, [˧], [˥], [˥] or [˥] may lose its citation form and become the neutral tone. The pitch value for the neutral tone varies, depending mainly on the preceding citation tone. The general rules are: (˥) when following [˧], (˥) when following [˥], (˥) when following [˥], or (˥) when following [˥].

Transcription of recorded passage

iou˥ i˧ xuei˥ | pei˥ fəŋ˥ kən˥ tʰai˥ iaŋ˥(˥) tʃəŋ˥ tsai˥ naə˥ tʃəŋ˥ luən˥ ʃei˥ də(˥)
pən˥ lin˥ ta˥ || ʃuo˥ dʒə(˥) ʃuo˥ tʃə(˥) | lai˥ lə(˥) i˧ kə(˥) kuə˥ lu˥ tə(˥) | ʃən˥
ʃaŋ˥(˥) tʃʰuan˥ lə(˥) i˧ tɕien˥ xou˥ pʰau˥ tsɿ˥(˥) || tʰa˥ mən˥(˥) lian˥ tɕiou˥(˥) ʃaŋ˥
lian˥(˥) xau˥ lə(˥) | ʃuo˥ | ʃei˥ nən˥ ɕien˥ tɕiau˥ tʃei˥ gə(˥) kuə˥ lu˥ tə(˥) pa˥ dʰa˥
tə(˥) pʰau˥ tsɿ˥(˥) tʰuo˥ ɕia˥ lai˥ | tɕiou˥ suan˥ ʒɿ˥(˥) tʰa˥ də(˥) pən˥ lin˥ ta˥ ||

