Thai

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Thai

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Standard Thai is spoken by educated speakers in every part of Thailand, used in news broadcasts on radio and television, taught in school, and described in grammar books and dictionaries. It has evolved historically from Central Thai, the regional dialect of Bangkok and the surrounding provinces.

The transcription of The North Wind and the Sun is based on recordings made by three cultivated speakers of the language, who were asked to read the passage in a relaxed way. In fact, we find them all to have used a fairly formal colloquial style, apparently equivalent to Eugénie J.A. Henderson's "combinative style" (Henderson 1949). In a more deliberate reading of the text many words in the passage would be transcribed differently. The main features subject to such stylistic variation are vowel quantity, tone, and glottal stop. Thus, for example, /tɛ̀ː/ 'but' is likely under weak stress to be /tɛ̀/ with a short vowel; the modal auxiliary /tɕa̰ʔ/ 'about to' becomes /tɕā/, with change of tone from low to mid and loss of final glottal stop. The prosodic and syntactic factors that seem to be at work here remain to be thoroughly explored.

Consonants

	Bilabial	Labio-dent.	Dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Plosive	p pʰ b			t tʰ d			k kʰ	ʔ
Nasal	m			n			ŋ	
Fricative		f		s				h
Affricate					tɕ tɕʰ			
Trill				r				
Approx-imant						j	w	
Lateral Approx.				l				

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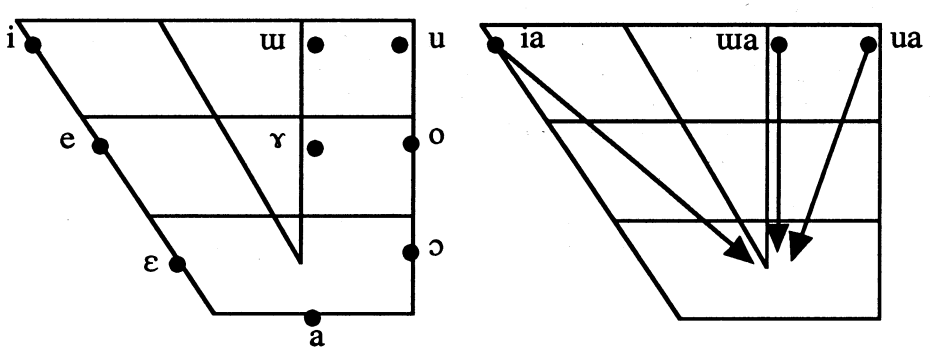
p	pâː	'elder aunt'	t	tām	'to pound'	k	kâːŋ	'fish bone'
pʰ	pʰâː	'cloth'	tʰ	tʰām	'to do'	kʰ	kʰâːŋ	'side'
b	bâː	'insane'	d	dām	'black'	ŋ	ŋāː	'tusk'
m	māː	'to come'	n	nāː	'ricefield'	w	wān	'day'
f	fă̄j	'pimple'	s	să̄j	'clear'	j	jāːm	'watchman'
			r	rák	'to love'	ʔ	ʔûan	'fat'
			l	lák	'to steal'	h	hă̄j	'earthen jar'
			tɕ	tɕāːm	'to sneeze'			
			tɕʰ	tɕʰāːm	'dish'			

Vowels

There are nine vowels. Length is distinctive for all the vowels. (In some phonological treatments, /V:/ is analyzed as /VV/.) Although small spectral differences between short and long counterparts are psychoacoustically detectable and have some effect on vowel identification (Abramson & Ren 1990), we find the differences too subtle to place with confidence in the vowel quadrilateral. The vowel /a/ in unstressed position, including the endings of the diphthongs /ia ɯa ua/, is likely to be somewhat raised in quality. The final segments of the other two sets of phonetic diphthongs: (1) [iu, eu, ɛu, ɛːu, au, aːu, iau] and (2) [ai, aːi, ɔi, ɔːi, ui, ɤːi, uai, ɯai] are analyzed as /w/ and /j/ respectively:



i	krìt	'dagger'	iː	krīːt	'to cut'	ia	rīan	'to study'
e	ʔēn	'ligament'	eː	ʔēːn	'to recline'	ɯa	rɯ̄an	'house'
ɛ	pʰɛ́ʔ	'goat'	ɛː	pʰɛ́ː	'to be defeated'	ua	rūan	'to be provocative'
a	fă̄n	'to dream'	aː	fă̄ːn	'to slice'			
ɔ	klɔ̀ŋ	'box'	ɔː	klɔːŋ	'drum'			
o	kʰôn	'thick (soup)'	oː	kʰôːn	'to fell (a tree)'			
u	sùt	'last, rearmost'	uː	sŭ̄ːt	'to inhale'			
ɤ	ŋɤ̌n	'silver'	ɤː	dɤ̌ːn	'to walk'			
ɯ	kʰɯ̂n	'to go up'	ɯː	kʰlɯ̂ːn	'wave'			

Tones

There are five tones in Standard Thai: high /˝/, mid /¯/, low /ˋ/, rising /ˇ/, and falling /ˆ/.

kʰā:	'to get stuck'	kʰá:	'to engage in trade'
kʰà:	'galangal'	kʰǎ:	'leg'
kʰâ:	'I'		

Stress

Primary stress falls on the final syllable of a word. The last primary stress before the end of a major prosodic group commonly takes extra stress.

Conventions

The feature of aspiration is manifested in the expected fashion for the simple prevocalic oral stops /pʰ, tʰ, kʰ/. The fairly long lag between the release of the stop and the onset of voicing is filled with turbulence, i.e., noise-excitation of the relatively unimpeded supraglottal vocal tract. In the special case of the "aspirated" affricate /tɕʰ/, however, the noise during the voicing lag excites a narrow postalveolar constriction, thus giving rise to local turbulence. It is necessarily the case, then, that the constriction of the aspirated affricate lasts longer than that of the unaspirated one (Abramson 1989). Not surprisingly, it follows from these considerations that the aspiration of initial stops as the first element in clusters occurs during the articulation of the second element, which must be a member of the set /l, r, w/.

Only /p, t, k, ʔ, m, n, ŋ, w, j/ occur in syllable-final position. Final /p, t, k, ʔ/ have no audible release. The final oral plosives are said to be accompanied by simultaneous glottal closure (Henderson 1964, Harris 1972). Final /ʔ/ is omitted in unstressed positions. Initial /t/ and /f/ are velarized before close front vowels.

The consonant /r/ is realized most frequently as [ɾ] but also as [r]. Perceptual experiments (Abramson 1962: 6–9) have shown that the distinction between /r/ and /l/ is not very robust; nevertheless, the normative attitude among speakers of Standard Thai is that they are separate phonemes, as given in Thai script. This distinction is rather well maintained by some cultivated speakers, especially in formal speech; however, many show much vacillation, with a tendency to favor the lateral phone [l] in the position of a single initial consonant. As the second element of initial consonant clusters, both /l/ and /r/ tend to be deleted altogether.

In plurisyllabic words, the low tone and the high tone on syllables containing the short vowel /a/ followed by the glottal stop in deliberate speech, become the mid tone when unstressed, with loss of the glottal stop.

THE INTERNATIONAL PHONETIC ALPHABET (revised to 1993)

CONSONANTS (PULMONIC)

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Plosive	p b			t d		ʈ ɖ	c ɟ	k g	q G		ʔ
Nasal	m	ɱ		n		ɳ	ɲ	ŋ	N		
Trill	B			r					R		
Tap or Flap				ɾ		ɽ					
Fricative	ɸ β	f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ	ʂ ʐ	ç ʝ	x ɣ	χ ʁ	ħ ʕ	h ɦ
Lateral fricative				ɬ ɮ							
Approximant		ʋ		ɹ		ɻ	j	ɰ			
Lateral approximant				l		ɭ	ʎ	ʟ			

Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a voiced consonant. Shaded areas denote articulations judged impossible.

CONSONANTS (NON-PULMONIC)

Clicks		Voiced implosives		Ejectives	
ʘ	Bilabial	ɓ	Bilabial	ʼ	as in:
ǀ	Dental	ɗ	Dental/alveolar	pʼ	Bilabial
ǃ	(Post)alveolar	ʄ	Palatal	tʼ	Dental/alveolar

SUPRASEGMENTALS

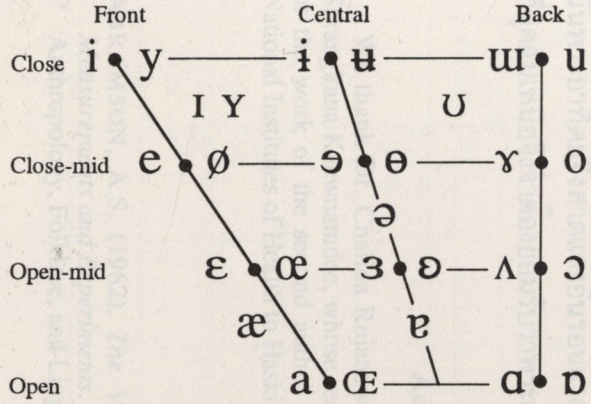
ˈ	Primary stress	ˌfoʊnəˈtɪʃən
ˌ	Secondary stress	
ː	Long	eː
ˑ	Half-long	eˑ
˘	Extra-short	ĕ

TONES & WORD ACCENTS

LEVEL			CONTOUR	
e̋ or ˥	Extra high		ě or ˩	Rising
é ˦	High		ê ˨	Falling
ē ˧	Mid		e᷄ ˥˩	High rising

~~ɟ~~	~~Palatal~~	~~ɡ~~	~~Velar~~	~~k'~~	~~Velar~~
‖	Alveolar lateral	ɢ	Uvular	s'	Alveolar fricative

VOWELS



Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a rounded vowel.

OTHER SYMBOLS

- ʍ Voiceless labial-velar fricative
- w Voiced labial-velar approximant
- ɥ Voiced labial-palatal approximant
- ʜ Voiceless epiglottal fricative
- ʢ Voiced epiglottal fricative
- ʡ Epiglottal plosive

- ɕ ʑ Alveolo-palatal fricatives
- ɺ Alveolar lateral flap
- ʃ͡ɧ Simultaneous ʃ and x

Affricates and double articulations can be represented by two symbols joined by a tie bar if necessary.

k͡p t͡s

- ˘ Extra-short ĕ
- . Syllable break ɹi.ækt
- | Minor (foot) group
- ‖ Major (intonation) group
- ‿ Linking (absence of a break)

è	Low	ē	Low rising
ȅ	Extra low	ě	Rising-falling
↓	Downstep	↗	Global rise
↑	Upstep	↘	Global fall

etc.

DIACRITICS

Diacritics may be placed above a symbol with a descender, e.g. ŋ̊

◌̥	Voiceless	n̥ d̥	◌̤	Breathy voiced	b̤ a̤
◌̬	Voiced	s̬ t̬	◌̰	Creaky voiced	b̰ a̰
◌ʰ	Aspirated	tʰ dʰ	◌̪	Linguolabial	t̪ d̪
◌̹	More rounded	ɔ̹	◌ʷ	Labialized	tʷ dʷ
◌̜	Less rounded	ɔ̜	◌ʲ	Palatalized	tʲ dʲ
◌̟	Advanced	u̟	◌ˠ	Velarized	tˠ dˠ
◌̠	Retracted	i̠	◌ˤ	Pharyngealized	tˤ dˤ
◌̈	Centralized	ë	◌̴	Velarized or pharyngealized	ɬ
◌̽	Mid-centralized	e̽	◌̝	Raised	e̝ (ɪ̝ = voiced alveolar fricative)
◌̩	Syllabic	ɹ̩	◌̞	Lowered	e̞ (β̞ = voiced bilabial approximant)
◌̯	Non-syllabic	e̯	◌̘	Advanced Tongue Root	e̘
◌˞	Rhoticity	ə˞	◌̙	Retracted Tongue Root	e̙

◌̃	Nasalized ẽ
◌ⁿ	Nasal release dⁿ
◌ˡ	Lateral release dˡ
◌̚	No audible release d̚
◌̪	Dental t̪ d̪
◌̺	Apical t̺ d̺
◌̻	Laminal t̻ d̻

Transcription of recorded passage

kʰāˈnàʔ tʰî ˌlōmˈnŭa lé ˌpʰráʔāˈtʰít | kāmˈlāŋ ˈtʰiă̆ŋ kān ˈwâː | ˈkʰrāj tɕā ˈmîː pʰāˈlāŋ ˈmaːk kwà ˈkān | kô ˈmîː ˈnák˧dɤ̄ːnˈtʰāːŋ ˈpʰûː ˈnŭ̀ŋ ˈdɤ̄ːn ˈpʰàːn ˈmāː | ˈsàj ˈsŭ̄a˧kānˈnă̆ːw ‖ ˌlōmˈnŭa lé ˌpʰráʔāˈtʰít ˈtɕŭ̄ŋ ˌtòkˈlōŋ kān ˈwâː | ˈkʰrāj tʰî ˌsă̆ːˈmâːt ˈtʰām hâj ˈnák˧dɤ̄ːnˈtʰāːŋ ˈpʰûː ˈníː | ˈtʰɔ̀ːt ˈsŭ̄a˧kānˈnă̆ːw ʔɔ̀k ˈdaːj ˌsă̆mˈrèt ˈkɔ̀ːn | tɕā ˈtʰŭ̆ː ˈwâː | pēn ˈpʰûː tʰî ˈmīː pʰāˈlāŋ ˈmâːk ˈkwàː ‖ ˈléʔ ˈléːw | ˌlōmˈnŭa kô krāˈpʰūː ˈpʰát ˈjàːŋ ˈsùt ˈrēːŋ ‖ tè ˈjîŋ ˈpʰát ˈrēːŋ ˈmâːk ˈkʰŭ̄n ˈpʰĭ̄aŋ ˈdāj | ˈnák˧dɤ̄ːnˈtʰāːŋ kô ˈjîŋ ˈdŭ̄ŋ ˈsŭ̄a˧kānˈnă̆ːw ˈhâj krāˈtɕʰáp kàp ˈtūa ˈmâːk ˈkʰŭ̄n ˈpʰĭ̄aŋ ˈnán ‖ ˈléʔ ˈnāj tʰî ˈsùt | ˌlōmˈnŭa kô ˈlɤ̂ːk ˈlóm ˈkʰwāːm pʰājāˈjāːm ‖ ˈtɕàːk ˈnán | ˌpʰráʔāˈtʰít tɕŭ̄ŋ ˈsàːt ˈsĕ̆ːŋ ʔān ˈrɔ́ːn ˈrēːŋ ʔɔ̀k ˈmāː ‖ ˈnák˧dɤ̄ːnˈtʰāːŋ kô ˈtʰɔ̀ːt ˈsŭ̄a˧kānˈnă̆ːw ʔɔ̀ːk ˈtʰān ˈtʰîː ‖ ˈnāj tʰî ˈsùt | ˌlōmˈnŭa tɕŭ̄ŋ ˈtɕām ˈtôŋ ˈjɔːm ˈráp ˈwâː | ˌpʰráʔāˈtʰít mīː pʰāˈlāŋ ˈmâːk ˈkwàː ˈtōn ‖

The passage in Thai script

ขณะที่ลมเหนือและพระอาทิตย์กำลังเถียงกันว่าใครจะมีพลังมากกว่ากัน ก็มีนักเดินทางผู้หนึ่งเดินผ่านมา ใส่เสื้อกันหนาว ลมเหนือและพระอาทิตย์จึงตกลงกันว่า ใครที่สามารถทำให้นักเดินทางผู้นี้ถอดเสื้อกันหนาวออกได้สำเร็จก่อน จะถือว่าเป็นผู้ที่มีพลังมากกว่า และแล้ว ลมเหนือก็กระพือพัดอย่างสุดแรง แต่ยิ่งพัดแรงมากขึ้นเพียงใด นักเดินทางก็ยิ่งดึงเสื้อกันหนาวให้กระชับกับตัวมากขึ้นเพียงนั้น และในที่สุดลมเหนือก็เลิกล้มความพยายาม จากนั้นพระอาทิตย์จึงสาดแสงอันร้อนแรงออกมา นักเดินทางก็ถอดเสื้อกันหนาวออกทันที ในที่สุดลมเหนือจึงจำต้องยอมรับว่าพระอาทิตย์มีพลังมากกว่าตน

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Korean

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The variety of Korean spoken in and around Seoul, on which the following phonetic description is based, is widely recognized as the standard language of the Korean peninsula. It differs from the speech of Pyongyang in North Korea, however, in phonetic features such as vowel and consonant qualities, vowel length, accent, rhythm and intonation.

Consonants

	Bilabial	Labio-dent.	Dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Plosive	p p^h b			t t^h d			k k^h g	
Nasal	m			n			ŋ	
Fricative		f		s z				h
Affricate					c c^h ɟ			
Lateral Approx.				l				