

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, /tê:/ 'but' is likely under weak stress to be /tè/ with a short vowel; the modal auxiliary /tɕā?/ '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.

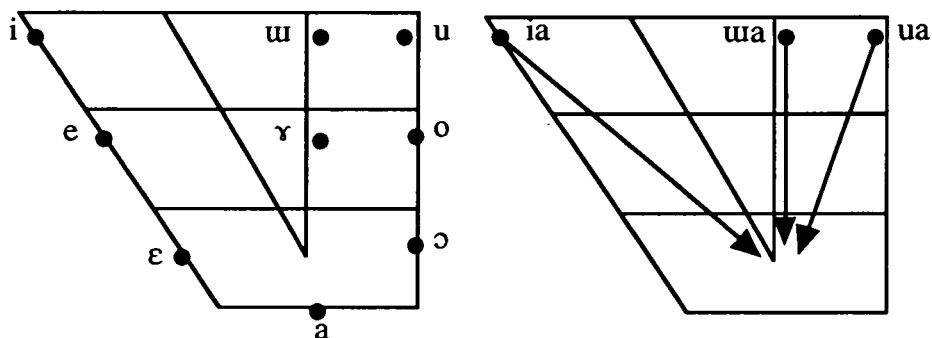
Consonants

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

p	pā:	'elder aunt'	t	tām	'to pound'	k	kā:ŋ	'fish bone'
p ^h	p ^h ā:	'cloth'	t ^h	t ^h ām	'to do'	k ^h	k ^h ā:ŋ	'side'
b	bā:	'insane'	d	dām	'black'	ŋ	ŋā:	'tusk'
m	mā:	'to come'	n	nā:	'ricefield'	w	wān	'day'
f	fāj	'pimple'	s	sāj	'clear'	j	jā:m	'watchman'
			r	rāk	'to love'	ʔ	ʔūan	'fat'
			l	lāk	'to steal'	h	hāj	'earthen jar'
			tɕ	tɕā:m	'to sneeze'			
			tɕ ^h	tɕ ^h ā:m	'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 wa ua/, is likely to be somewhat raised in quality. The final segments of the other two sets of phonetic diphthongs: (1) [iu, eu, e:u, eɪu, au, a:u, iau] and (2) [ai, aɪ, ɔi, ɔɪ, ui, ɹi, uai, uai] are analyzed as /w/ and /j/ respectively:



i	kɹ̄t	'dagger'	i:	kɹ̄:t	'to cut'	ia	riān	'to study'
e	ʔēn	'ligament'	e:	ʔē:n	'to recline'	ua	rūān	'house'
ɛ	p ^h éʔ	'goat'	ɛ:	p ^h é:	'to be defeated'	ua	rūān	'to be provocative'
a	fān	'to dream'	a:	fā:n	'to slice'			
ɔ	klòŋ	'box'	ɔ:	klò:ŋ	'drum'			
o	k ^h ōn	'thick (soup)'	o:	k ^h ō:n	'to fell (a tree)'			
u	sùt	'last, rearmost'	u:	sù:t	'to inhale'			
ɤ	ŋɹ̄n	'silver'	ɤ:	dɹ̄:n	'to walk'			
u	k ^h ūn	'to go up'	u:	k ^h lū:n	'wave'			

Tones

There are five tones in Standard Thai: high /˥/, mid /˨/, low /˩/, rising /˨̌/, and falling /˨̌/.

k ^h ā˥:	‘to get stuck’		k ^h á˥:	‘to engage in trade’
k ^h ā˨:	‘galangal’		k ^h ǎ˥:	‘leg’
k ^h ā˩:	‘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 /p^h, t^h, k^h/. 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 /tʃ^h/, 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 [r] but also as [r̥]. Perceptual experiments (Abramson 1962: 6–9) have shown that the distinction between /r/ and /r̥/ 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.

Transcription of recorded passage

kʰā'nà? tʰi̯ ,lōm'nũa lé ,pʰrá?á'tʰít | kām'lāŋ 'tʰi̯aŋ kán 'wá: | 'kʰrāj̯ t̄cā 'mì:
 pʰá'lāŋ 'má:k kwà 'kán | kō 'mì: 'nák,d̄r̄:n'tʰā:ŋ 'pʰū: 'nuŋ 'd̄r̄:n 'pʰā:n 'mā: |
 'saj̯ 'sũa,kān'nā:w || ,lōm'nũa lé ,pʰrá?á'tʰít 't̄cũŋ ,t̄ok'lōŋ kán 'wá: | 'kʰrāj̯ tʰi̯
 ,sá:'mā:t 'tʰām hāj̯ 'nák,d̄r̄:n'tʰā:ŋ 'pʰū: 'ní: | 'tʰò:t 'sũa,kān'nā:w ?òk 'dāj̯
 ,sám'rèt 'kò:n | t̄cā 'tʰū: 'wá: | pēn 'pʰū: tʰi̯ 'mì: pʰá'lāŋ 'mā:k 'kwà: || 'lé? 'lé:w |
 ,lōm'nũa kō krā'pʰū: 'pʰát 'jā:ŋ 'sùt rē:ŋ || t̄è 'jūŋ 'pʰát rē:ŋ 'mā:k 'kʰūn 'pʰi̯aŋ
 'dāj̯ | 'nák,d̄r̄:n'tʰā:ŋ kō 'jūŋ 'dũŋ 'sũa,kān'nā:w 'hāj̯ krā't̄cʰáp káp̄ 't̄ua 'mā:k
 'kʰūn 'pʰi̯aŋ 'nán || 'lé? 'nāj̯ tʰi̯ 'sùt | ,lōm'nũa kō 'l̄r̄:k 'lōm 'kʰwā:m
 pʰāj̯jā:m || 't̄cā:k 'nán | ,pʰrá?á'tʰít t̄cũŋ 'sà:t 'sé:ŋ ?ān 'ró:n 'rē:ŋ ?òk 'mā: ||
 'nák,d̄r̄:n'tʰā:ŋ kō 'tʰò:t 'sũa,kān'nā:w ?òk 'tʰān 'tʰi̯: || 'nāj̯ tʰi̯ 'sùt | ,lōm'nũa
 t̄cũŋ 't̄cām 't̄oŋ 'j̄w̄:m 'ráp̄ 'wá: | ,pʰrá?á'tʰít mī: pʰá'lāŋ 'mā:k 'kwà: 't̄on ||

The passage in Thai script

ขณะที่ลมเหนือและพระอาทิตย์กำลังเคียงกันว่าใครจะมีพลังมากกว่ากัน ก็มีนักเดินทางผู้
 หนึ่งเดินผ่านมา ใส่เสื้อกันหนาว ลมเหนือและพระอาทิตย์จึงตกลงกันว่า ใครที่สามารถ
 ทำให้นักเดินทางผู้นี้ถอดเสื้อกันหนาวออกได้สำเร็จก่อน จะถือว่าเป็นผู้ที่มีพลังมากกว่า และ
 แล้ว ลมเหนือก็กระพือพัดอย่างสุดแรง แต่ยิ่งพัดแรงมากขึ้นเพียงใด นักเดินทางก็ยิ่งดึงเสื้อ
 กันหนาวให้กระชับกับตัวมากขึ้นเพียงนั้น และในที่สุดลมเหนือก็เลิกล้มความพยายาม จาก
 นั้นพระอาทิตย์จึงสาดแสงอันร้อนแรงออกมา นักเดินทางก็ถอดเสื้อกันหนาวออกทันที ใน
 ที่สุดลมเหนือจึงจำต้องยอมรับว่าพระอาทิตย์มีพลังมากกว่าตน

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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				