

Information about Thai speech

1. A comparison between Thai and English phonology

Aspect	Language	Number	Details	Source
Consonants	Thai	44 consonant forms & 21 consonant sounds	/p ^h , ʔp, b, t ^h , ʔt, d, k ^h , ʔk, ʔ, m, n, ŋ, r, f, s, h, j, l, w, tɕ, tɕ ^h /	Lorwatanapongsa, & Maroonroge (2007)
	English	24 consonants	/p, b, t, d, k, g, m, n, ŋ, θ, ð, f, v, s, z, ʃ, ʒ, h, tʃ, dʒ, j, w, ɹ, l/	Smit (2004)
Consonant clusters	Thai	12+ syllable-initial clusters		Lorwatanapongsa, & Maroonroge (2007)
	English	Approx. 29 syllable-initial and many syllable-final consonant clusters	Many 2 and 3 element consonant clusters in initial position including /pl, bl, kl, gl, fl, sl, pɹ, bɹ, tɹ, dɹ, kɹ, gɹ, θɹ, fɹ, ʃɹ, pj, tj, fj, mj, nj, sm, sn, sp, st, sk, spl, spɹ, stɹ, skw/ and many 2 to 4 element consonant clusters in final position	McLeod (2007) Smit (2004)
Vowels and diphthongs	Thai	18 vowel forms + 15-18 diphthongs + 3 triphthongs	Vowels: /i, i:, u, u:, e, e:, ɤ, ɤ:, o, o:, ɛ, ɛ:, ɔ, ɔ:, a, a:/ Diphthongs: /ai, au, eu, uɪ, iu, ai̯ a:u, e:u, i:a, u:a, u:a, e:u, ɤ:i, u:i, ɔ:i/ Triphthongs: /iau, uau, uai/	Lorwatanapongsa, & Maroonroge (2007)
	English (US-General American)	14 vowels + 3 diphthongs	Vowels: /i, ɪ, e, ɛ, æ, ə, ɝ, ɜ, u, ʊ, o, ʌ, ɔ, ɑ/ Diphthongs: /aɪ, aʊ, ɔɪ/ (Smit also lists 5 'r'-colored diphthongs)	Smit (2007)
	English (Canadian)	14 vowels + 3 diphthongs	Vowels: /i, ɪ, e, ɛ, æ, ə, ɝ, ɜ, ʌ, ʊ, o, ʌ, ɔ, ɑ/ Diphthongs: /aɪ, ʌʊ, ɔɪ/	Bernhardt, & Deby (2007)
	English (UK-Received Pronunciation)	12 vowels + 8 diphthongs	Vowels: /i, ɪ, ɛ, æ, a, ə, ɜ, u, ʊ, ʌ, ɔ, ɒ/ Diphthongs: /aɪ, aʊ, ɔɪ, eɪ, oʊ, ɪə, eə, uə/	Howard (2007)
	English (Australian)	12 vowels + 8 diphthongs	Vowels: /i:, ɪ, e, æ, ɐ, ɐ, ɔ, o:, ʊ, ʉ, ɜ:, ə/ ⁱ OR /i, ɪ, e, æ, a, ʌ, ɒ, ɔ, u, ʊ, ɜ, ə/ ⁱⁱ Diphthongs: /æɪ, ae, əɜ, əɔ, ɔɪ, ɪə, e:, uə/ ⁱ OR /eɪ, aɪ, oʊ, aʊ, ɔɪ, ɪə, eə, uə/ ⁱⁱ	ⁱ Harrington, Cox, & Evans, (1997) ⁱⁱ Mitchell (1946)
	English (New Zealand)	12 vowels + 8 diphthongs	Vowels: /i, ɪ, ɛ, æ, ə, ɜ, u, ʊ, ʌ, ɔ, ɒ, ɑ/ ⁱ OR /i, ɪ, e, æ, a, ə, ɜ, ʊ, ʌ, ɔ, ɒ/ ⁱⁱ Diphthongs: /aɪ, aʊ, ɔɪ, eɪ, oʊ, ɪə, eə, uə/ ⁱ OR /ai, aʊ, ɔɪ, eɪ, oʊ, ɪə, eə, uə/ ⁱⁱ	ⁱ Bauer & Warren (2004) ⁱⁱ Maclagan (2009)

Tones	Thai	5 tones	Middle, low, high, falling, rising	Lorwatanapongsa, & Maroonroge (2007)
	English	0 tones	-	
Syllable shape	Thai	C ₍₀₋₁₎ V(V)C ₍₀₋₁₎	CV, VC, CVV, CVC	Lorwatanapongsa, & Maroonroge (2007)
	English	C ₍₀₋₃₎ VC ₍₀₋₄₎	The smallest syllable is V and the largest is CCCVCCCC <i>strengths</i> .	Smit (2004) McLeod (2007)
Stress-timed or syllable-timed?	Thai	Syllable-timed		Lorwatanapongsa, & Maroonroge (2007)
	English	Stress-timed	Syllables can be strong or weak. Stress also is used for emphasis.	
Varieties	Thai		Common forms of Central Thai dialect are Street Thai and Elegant Thai.	Lorwatanapongsa, & Maroonroge (2007)
	English	Many dialects	Many dialects including General American English, Received Pronunciation (England), Scottish English, Irish English, Australian English, New Zealand English, South African English etc.	
Writing system	Thai	Thai script		Lorwatanapongsa, & Maroonroge (2007)
	English	Latin alphabet	Latin script loosely related to phonetic realizations of the consonants and vowels.	

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2. Thai speech assessments

For a list of speech assessments in Thai see: www.csu.edu.au/research/multilingual-speech/speech-assessments

3. Monolingual speech acquisition (summaries and studies written in English)

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Summaries and studies of multilingual Thai speech acquisition

None known