Chinese (Hong Kong Cantonese)

ERIC ZEE

Phonetics Laboratory, Department of Chinese, Translation and Linguistics,
City University of Hong Kong, 83 Tat Chee Avenue, Kowloon, Hong Kong

The style of speech illustrated is that typical of the educated younger generation in Hong Kong. The recording is that of a 22-year-old male university student who has lived all his life in Hong Kong.

Consonants

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Labial-Velar	Glottal
Plosive	p pʰ			t tʰ			k kʰ	kʷ kʷʰ	
Affricate				ts tsʰ					
Nasal	m			n			ŋ		
Fricative		f		s					h
Approximant						j		w	
Lateral Approximant				l					

p	pa˥	'father'	t	ta˥	'dozen'
pʰ	pʰa˥	'to lie prone'	tʰ	tʰa˥	'he/she'
m	ma˥	'mother'	n	pʰan˥	'to climb'
f	fa˥	'flower'	s	sa˥	'sand'
			ts	tsa˥	'to hold'
			tsʰ	tsʰa˥	'fork'
w	wa˥	'frog'	j	jɐu˥	'worry'
			l	lɐu˥	'angry'

k	ka˥	'to add'
kʰ	kʰa˥	'truck'
ŋ	pʰaŋ˥	'to cook'
kʷ	kʷa˥	'melon'
kʷʰ	kʷʰa˥	'to boast'
h	ha˥	'shrimp'

Vowels

Monophthongs

(1) or (2)

i	iː	si˥	'silk'	hip˦	'to assist'	him˥	'moderate'
y	yː	sy˥	'book'	hyt˦	'blood'	syn˥	'sour'
ɛ	ɛː	sɛ˥	'to lend'	hɛk˦	'to eat'	sɛŋ˥	'sound'
œ	œː	hœ˥	'boot'	sœk˦	'to whittle'	sœŋ˥	'hurt'
a	aː	sa˥	'sand'	hak˦	'guest'	sam˥	'three'
ɔ	ɔː	sɔ˥	'comb'	hɔk˦	'shell'	fɔŋ˥	'square'
u	uː	fu˥	'husband'	fut˦	'wide'	fun˥	'cheerful'
ɪ	ɪ			sɪk˥	'colour'	sɪŋ˥	'star'
ɵ	ɵ			sɵt˥	'shirt'	sɵn˥	'to inquire'
ɐ	ɐ			sɐp˥	'wet'	sɐm˥	'heart'
ʊ	ʊ			sʊk˥	'uncle'	sʊŋ˥	'loose'

Diphthongs

(1) or (2)

ai	aːi	sai˥	'to waste'
ɐi	ɐi	sɐi˥	'west'
au	aːu	sau˥	'basket'
ɐu	ɐu	sɐu˥	'to receive'
ei	ei	hei˥	'rare'
ɛu	ɛːu	tɛu˦	'to throw'
ɵy	ɵy	sɵy˥	'bad'
ɔi	ɔːi	sɔi˥	'gill'
ui	uːi	fui˥	'ash'
iu	iːu	siu˥	'to burn'
ou	ou	sou˥	'beard'
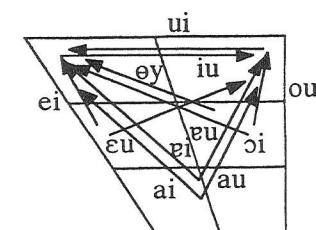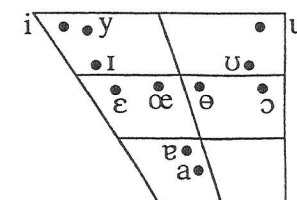
Tones

˥	(high, level)	si˥	'silk'	sɪk˥	'colour'
˦	(mid, level)	si˦	'to try'	sit˦	'to reveal'
˧	(low-mid, level)	si˧	'matter'	sɪk˧	'to eat'
˨	(low-mid to low, falling)	si˨	'time'		
˩	(low-mid to high, rising)	si˩	'history'		
˧	(low-mid to mid, rising)	si˧	'city'		

Conventions

(a) Consonants, vowels and diphthongs

Syllable-final plosives [p, t, k] are unreleased, i.e. [p˺, t˺, k˺]. Syllable-initial [t, tʰ, n] and final [t, n] are apico-laminal denti-alveolar; syllable-initial [s, ts, tsʰ] are laminal alveolar; and syllable-initial [l] is apical denti-alveolar or apical alveolar. [n] rarely occurs in syllable-initial position; syllable-initial [ŋ] is often deleted. [i, y, ɛ, œ, a, ɔ, u] occur in open syllables as well as syllables closed by a plosive or nasal. In open syllables, [i, y, u] are about cardinal; [ɛ] = [ɛ�]; [œ] = [œ̞]; [ɔ] = [ɔ̞]; and [a] = [a̠]; [i, y, u, ɛ, œ̞, ɔ, a̠] are lowered in syllables closed by a plosive or nasal. [i, y, ɛ, œ, a, ɔ, u] are long in open syllables and short (a third shorter) in syllables closed by a plosive or nasal. [ɪ, ɵ, ɐ, ʊ] which occur only in syllables closed by a plosive or nasal are extra-short (two thirds shorter than [i, y, ɛ, œ, a, ɔ, u] in open syllables). All diphthongs are long; the first elements in [ai, au, ɔi, ui, iu, ɛu] are longer than the second elements; and the first elements in [ɐi, ɐu, ei, ɵy, ou] are similar to the second elements in length. [au] = [aʊ]; [ai] = [aɪ]; and [ɛu] = [ɛʊ]. The alternative transcriptions for vowels and diphthongs given above differ in whether these length distinctions are indicated.

(b) Tones

[˥, ˧, ˨, ˩, ˩˧, ˨˦] (= high; mid; low-mid; low-mid to low, falling; low-mid to high, rising; low-mid to mid, rising) are long tones; [˨] is relatively shorter. The short or extra-short variants of [˥, ˧, ˨] occur on syllables closed by a plosive. On a compound-final syllable, [˧, ˨] and their variants and [˨] are often replaced by [˩].

Transcription of recorded passage

jɐuˈ jɛt˥ tsʰiˈ | pɛk˥ fʊŋˈ tʰʊŋˈ tʰai˨ jœŋ˨ hei˧ touˈ auˈ kɐmˈ pinˈ kɔˈ lɛk˥ tiˈ ‖ kʰɵyˈ teiˈ amˈ amˈ tʰɐiˈ touˈ jɐuˈ kɔˈ jɐnˈ haŋˈ kʷɔˈ | liˈ kɔˈ jɐnˈ tsœk˧ tsyˈ kinˈ taiˈ lɐuˈ ‖ kʰɵyˈ teiˈ tsɐuˈ waˈ lak˥ | pinˈ kɔˈ hɔˈ jiˈ tsɪŋˈ touˈ liˈ kɔˈ jɐnˈ tsʰɵyˈ tsɔˈ kinˈ lɐuˈ lɛˈ | tsɐuˈ synˈ pinˈ kɔˈ lɛk˥ tiˈ lak˥ ‖ jyˈ siˈ | pɛk˥ fʊŋˈ tsɐuˈ pɔk˧ mɛŋˈ kɐmˈ tsʰɵyˈ ‖ timˈ tsiˈ | kʰɵyˈ jytˈ tsʰɵyˈ tɛk˥ sɐiˈ leiˈ | kɔˈ kɔˈ jɐnˈ tsɐuˈ jytˈ hɐiˈ lɐˈ sɐt˥ kinˈ lɐuˈ ‖ tsɵyˈ hɐuˈ | pɛk˥ fʊŋˈ mouˈ saiˈ fuˈ | weiˈ jɐuˈ fɔŋˈ hei˧ | kɐnˈ tsyˈ | tʰɐi˨ jœŋ˨ tsʰɵt˥ leiˈ saiˈ tsɔˈ jɐt˥ tsɐnˈ | kɔˈ kɔˈ jɐnˈ tsɐuˈ tsɪk˥ hak˥ tsʰɵyˈ tsɔˈ kinˈ lɐuˈ lak˥ ‖ jyˈ siˈ | pɛk˥ fʊŋˈ weiˈ jɐuˈ jɪŋˈ syˈ laˈ ‖

Orthographic version (non-standard, vernacular)

有一次，北風同太陽喺度拗緊邊個叻啲。佢哋啱啱睇到有個人行過，哩個人着住件大褸。佢哋就話嘞，邊個可以整到哩個人除咗件褸呢，就算邊個叻啲嘞。於是，北風就搏命咁吹。點知，佢越吹得犀利，嗰個人就越係嗱實件褸。最後，北風冇晒符，唯有放棄。跟住，太陽出嚟晒咗一陣，嗰個人就即刻除咗件褸嘞。於是，北風唯有認輸啦。

The style of speech illustrated below is that of an educated speaker of Central Catalan as spoken in the area of Barcelona. The speech illustrated in the recording is that of a 26-year-old male speaker whose speech is representative of that variety.

Consonants

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Palatal	Velar
Plosive	p b		t d				k g
Affricate					tʃ dʒ		
Nasal	m			n		ɲ	ŋ
Trill				r			
Tap or Flap				ɾ			
Fricative		f		s z	ʃ ʒ		
Central Approximant						j	w
Lateral Approximant				l		ʎ	

/v/ does not occur in the Central Catalan system, but is present in some dialects (e.g. Majorcan Catalan, in the Camp de Tarragona).

p	*piga*	'speck'	t	*talla*	'size'	k	*casa*	'house'
b	*biga*	'beam'	d	*dalla*	'scythe'	g	*gasa*	'lint'
						tʃ	*metxa*	'fuse' (n)
						dʒ	*metge*	'doctor'
m	*mama*	'mum'	n	*mana*	'he commands'	ɲ	*manya*	'skill'
						ŋ	*sang*	'blood'
			r	*serra*	'saw' (n)	ɾ	*cera*	'wax'
f	*fosc*	'dark'	s	*passar*	'to pass'	ʃ	*eixut*	'dry'
			z	*pesar*	'to weigh'	ʒ	*ajut*	'help'
			j	*iaia*	'grandma'	w	*veuen*	'they see'
			l	*pala*	'shovel'	ʎ	*palla*	'straw'