

CHAPTER II



Definition of Terms

Phonology Phonology deals with the study of the phones of language.

Phoneme A phoneme of the language is a minimum unit of distinctive sound-feature.<sup>7</sup>

Allophone The several variants of speech sounds, which constitute a phoneme.<sup>8</sup>

Symbolism

- / / phonemic symbols
- [ ] phonetic symbols

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<sup>7</sup> Leonard Bloomfield, Language, ( New York; Henry Holt and Company, 1933 ) p. 79

<sup>8</sup> Mario Pei and Frank Ceynor, Dictionary of Linguistics, ( New York; Philosophical Libray, 1954) p. 9

Thai PhonemesConsonants

			Labial	Labio-dental	Alveolar	Alveo-palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stops	voiceless	aspirated	ph		th		kh	
		unaspirated	p		t		k	
	voiced	unaspirated	b		d			
Affricates	voiceless	aspirated				ch		
		unaspirated				c		
Fricatives	voiceless			f	s		h	
Lateral	voiced				l			
Trill	voiced				r			
Nasals	voiced		m		n		ŋ	
Semi-vowels	voiced		w			y		

VowelsSimple Vowels

	<u>front</u>		<u>central</u>		<u>back</u>	
	<u>short</u>	<u>long</u>	<u>short</u>	<u>long</u>	<u>short</u>	<u>long</u>
<u>high</u>	i	ii	ɨ	ɨɨ	u	uu
<u>mid</u>	e	ee	ə	əə	o	oo
<u>low</u>	ɛ	ɛɛ	a	aa	ɔ	ɔɔ

Diphthongs

<u>short</u>	ia	ɨa	ua
<u>long</u>	iaa	ɨaa	uaa

Tones

/ unmarked /	mid tone
/ ˆ /	low tone
/ ˆ˘ /	falling tone
/ ˈ /	high tone
/ ˘ˈ /	rising tone

Stress

Stress is morphemically conditioned in Thai and is not treated in this study.

English Phonemes



Consonants

	<u>Bilabial</u>	<u>Labio-dental</u>	<u>Dental</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Alveo-Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Uvular</u>
Stop	vl. p			t	ch	k	
	vd. b			d	j	g	
Fricative	vl.	f	θ	s	sh	h	x
	vd.	v	ð	z	zh		
Nasal	m			n		ŋ	
Lateral				l			
Semi-vowel	w			r	y		

Vowels

	<u>Front</u>	<u>central</u>	<u>back</u>
high	i		u
mid	ɪ	ə	ʊ
low	e		o
	ɛ	ɔ	
	æ		ɑ

Diphthongs

/ eɪ /

/ aʊ /

/ oɪ /

French PhonemesConsonants

	<u>Bilabial</u>	<u>Labio-dental</u>	<u>Dental</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Alveo-palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Uvular</u>
Stop	vl. p vd.		t			k	
Fricative	vl. vd.	f v	s z		ʃ ʒ		
Lateral			l				
Trill						r	ʀ
Nasal	m		n		ɲ		
Semi-vowel	w				j, y		

Vowels

	<u>front</u>	<u>central</u>	<u>Back</u>
high	/ i / / e /	<i>rounded</i> / y / <i>rounded</i> / ø /	/ u / / o /
mid	/ ε /	<i>rounded</i> / œ /	/ ɔ /
low		/ a /	/ ɑ /

Note: Certain unit phonemes both in Thai, English and French are represented by a sequence of phonemes. This was supply to enable the thesis to be typed more easily. For purposes of clarification however it should be noted that / ch / = / ʃ /, or / tʃ / (IPA)  
/ zh / = / ʒ / or / ʒ / (IPA), / sh / = / ʃ / (IPA) or / ʃ / (IPA)  
/ ng / = / ŋ / (IPA)

## Procedures

The corpus of data used in this study is the recorded speech of 2 groups of informants: English-speaking and French-speaking residents in Thailand. Each group contains 12 informants. All of them were asked to read Thai words from a prepared list. This list consists of 250 wellknown Thai words such as: place names, names of historical periods, kings and dynasties, some well-known people, universities and schools, and common Thai words and expressions. The words in this list are expected to be known by most western residents in Thailand. The informants first deleted those words they did not know, and subsequently only those words they knew were recorded.

The data from the recordings were tabulated to show the different frequencies of the right and wrong pronunciations of various phonemes made by the two groups. These phonemes were then linguistically analyzed according to their differences from the Thai pronunciation.

Suggestions for preparing materials for teaching Thai to English and French speakers were made at the last stage from the result of the findings of this study, and also for the Romanization of Thai words for speakers of English and French backgrounds.