

Sound Systems of English

LG.236, Lecture 8

September 8, 2008

Investigating Thai Loan Phonology

What's Tinglish?

- Thai + English = Tinglish (a.k.a. “Thainglish”, “Tenglish”)
 - By-product of the efforts of Thai speakers to learn English
 - Not really a dialect: varies greatly from L2 learner to L2 learner
 - How do we find patterns?
- Loanwords
 - Modern Thai has a number of words borrowed from English
 - It's possible for a Thai speaker to know them without having ever studied English
 - Here we expect to see the “real” impact of Thai phonology on English words
- Kenstowicz and Suchato¹ analyze English borrowings in Thai
 - 800-word corpus of words in an English-Thai dictionary and observed in the speech of Thai students in the U.S.

¹Kenstowicz, M. & Suchato, A., “Issues in loanword adaptation: A case study from Thai,” *Lingua* 116, 2006.

Thai Phonology

- Relevant properties of Thai²
 - Syllable template: CRV(V)C
 - Segment inventory

p ^h	t ^h	c ^h	k ^h	ʔ
p	t	c	k	
b	d			
f	s			h
	l, r			
m	n		ŋ	
w		j		

i iː	ɨ ɨː	u uː
e eː	ə əː	o oː
ɛ ɛː	a aː	ɔ ɔː

- Q: How do English sounds map on to Thai phonology?

²K&S discuss appearance of tone on English loan words, but it's rather complicated, so we won't get into it here.

Context-Free Mappings

- Most of the time, sounds correspond straightforwardly

<i>English</i>	<i>Thai</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Thai</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Thai</i>
p^hin	phīn	file	fāaj	link	líŋ
t^hone	thōon	solo	sōolôo	rum	rām
chip	chīp	hand	hēen	web	wép
k^hitty	khīttîi	mail	mēew	yard	jáat
bit	bīt	noise	nóoj		
data	dāatāa	fishing	fitchîŋ		

Context-Free Mappings (cont.)

- But sometimes not...

g -> k		d_ʒ -> c		z -> s	
<i>English</i>	<i>Thai</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Thai</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Thai</i>
goal	kōo	to jam	cēɛm	zip	síp
green	kriin	joy	cōɔj	zulu	sūulūu
degree	dīikrīi	eject	īicèk	busy	bīisīi
	ʃ -> ch		θ -> t		
	<i>English</i>	<i>Thai</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Thai</i>	
	shirt	cháat	thyroid	tājrōɔj	
	show	chōo	thankyou	tɛŋkwīiw	
	fashion	fēechân	wreath	liit	
			footpath	futbaat	

- Adaptation Rules (GenAm → Tenglish)
 - Velar Devoicing: [g] → [k]
 - Alveolar Fricative Devoicing: [z] → [s]
 - Affricate Devoicing: [dʒ] → [c]
 - Esh-Affrication: [ʃ] → [ch]
 - TH-stopping: [θ] → [t]

Context-Sensitive Mappings

- English [v] has a slightly different behavior

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- What's happening here?
- Adaptation Rules (GenAm → Tinglish)
 - Voiced Labiodental Lenition: [v] → [w] / σ [__
 - Voiced Labiodental Fortition: [v] → [p] / elsewhere

Phonotactics

- Initial sC clusters:

<i>English</i>	<i>Thai</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Thai</i>
spare	s ^ə pēe	screen	s ^ə kriin
sponsor	s ^ə pɔ̄ɔnsə̄ə	scan	s ^ə kēen
style	s ^ə tāaj	plaster	phláats ^ə tə̄ə
sticker	s ^ə tikkə̄ə	gymnastic	jĩmnáats ^ə tik

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- Adaptation Rule (GenAm → Tinglish)
 - Initial Cluster Epenthesis: [sC] → [s^əC] / #__

Phonotactics (cont.)

- Final consonant clusters

<i>English</i>	<i>Thai</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Thai</i>
act	ʔék	coil	khɔ̄ɔj
camp	khém	news	niw
climax	khlāimɛ̀k	strike	s ^ə tráj
milk	míw	down	dāaw
lift	líp	ice	áj
physics	fíʔsík		

- What's happening here?

Phonotactics (cont.)

- Final consonant clusters

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- What's happening here?
- Adaptation Rules (GenAm → Tinglish), crucially ordered
 - Glide Formation: [ɪ, U] → [j, w] / C#
 - Final Cluster Deletion: C₁C₂ → C₁ / __#

The Big Question

- Summary of GenAm → Tinglysh Adaptation Rules
 - Context-Free Rules
 - Velar Devoicing: [g] → [k]
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- How do we analyze all this in terms of rankings and constraints?