

Title:

Dialectal and acoustic features of Vietnamese monophthongs

Abstract:

Vietnamese has over thirty syllable nuclei, eleven of which are monophthongs while others are diphthongs. As noted in Thompson (1965) and Han (1966), these eleven monophthongs are distinct phonemes with minimal pairs. However, it's also noted that four vowels /a, ɐ, ʌ, ə/ have a near-complementary distribution, and their acoustic characteristics are similar, except for length. Thus, are these four vowels distinct from one another in speakers' production? What are the articulatory and acoustic features of these monophthongs? Is there any merging in the system? In order to answer these questions, I will present the result from my acoustic analysis of careful speech data from 18 native speakers of Vietnamese total for three dialects: Hanoi, Saigon and Hue.