

SUMMARY

Philippine Hybrid Hokkien (PHH) has a unified monophthongal system that is distinct from its source languages, maintaining a partial tense-lax distinction not typical of Hokkien, Tagalog, or varieties of Philippine English.

MIXED LANGUAGES

- A type of contact language alongside pidgins and creoles (Thomason 2001)
- Unreduced linguistic (sub)systems in single, coherent language
- Structural and phonological 'split'

PHILIPPINE HYBRID HOKKIEN

- Sources: Tagalog, English, Hokkien
- Lingua franca/L1 of Chinese Filipino community (metropolitan Manila & other major cities)
- Gonzales: evidence of structural 'split'

O di sawsaw -le di -e tomato sauce.
PRT 2SG dip -DUR 2SG GEN tomato sauce
'Dip it in the tomato sauce.'

Hokkien Tagalog English

Is there also a phonological split?

VOWELS OF SOURCE LANGUAGES

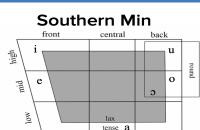


Figure 1. Southern Min monophthongs (Chappel 2018: 10)

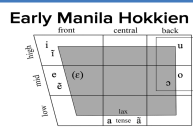


Figure 2. Early Manila Hokkien monophthongs (Kloter 2011: 152)

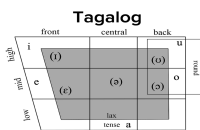


Figure 3. Tagalog monophthongs and their principal allophones (Schachter & Otones 1972:7)

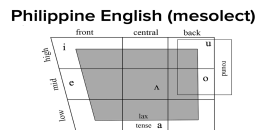


Figure 4. Mesolectal Philippine English (Tayao 2003:89)

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Do speakers distinguish between tense and lax monophthongs in PHH? (Analysis 1)
2. Do speakers map similar monophthongs from the three source languages onto the same phone? (Analysis 2)
3. Does the PHH vowel system vary among different segments of the speech community? (Analysis 1 & 2)

METHODOLOGY

- 34 Chinese Filipinos
- Nonsense reading passages
- 4562 vowel tokens, Praat
- NORM (Watt & Fabricius, mod)
- R (MANOVA > Pillai score)

Sample of Stimuli

Context (do not read)
The Barbie doll's baby is very fancy and handy because she loves bilo-bilo (a Filipino dessert), sisig, sitaw, and four tikoy's taste.

Read this

Barbie e baby yá fancy káp handy kasi i káp dí ya aí bilo-bilo, sisig, sitaw, káp sí e tikoy e bí só.

RESULTS: ANALYSIS 1

Tense vs. Lax contrasts

Contrast	Mean Pillai score	N spkrs with sig. contrast
[i] vs. [ɪ]	0.4488	29 (85.3%)
[e] vs. [ɛ]	0.3185	24 (70.6%)
[a] vs. [ɑ]	0.4882	27 (79.41%)
[a] vs. [ʌ]	0.0757	6 (17.64%)

higher Pillai score = less overlap, greater distinction

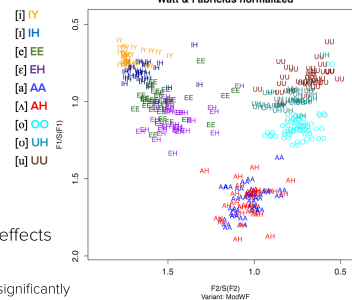


Figure 5. Mean formant values

Do these distinctions between tense and lax vowels vary by age and gender of speaker?

- No significant age and gender effects for all pairs except for [u] vs. [ʊ]

- Age * gender: middle-aged men have significantly higher Pillai scores than middle-aged women; effect not observed among younger participants. (F = 5.9672, p = 0.02068).

Analysis 1 (Conclusion)

- Evidence found for contrasts between all tense-lax pairs except [a] vs. [ʌ].
- Little variation among gender and age groups.
- [a] and [ʌ] merger yields eight vowel system: [i], [ɪ], [e], [ɛ], [a], [ɑ], [u], [ʊ].

But, is this system consistent across words from different source languages?

RESULTS: ANALYSIS 2

Tokens of each phone analyzed with respect to language context e.g. All [a] tokens in English, Tagalog, and Hokkien words

Hokkien vs. Tagalog vs. English Contrast

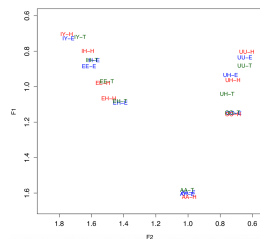


Figure 6. Older males (40-69)

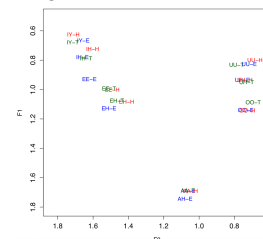


Figure 7. Older females (40-69)

Selected References: [1] Chappel, Hilary (2018). A sketch of Southern Min grammar. In Alice Vittrant & Justin Watkins (Eds.), *The Mainland Southeast Asia Linguistic area*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter. [2] Hall-Lew, Lauren. 2010. Improved representation of variance in measures of vowel merger. *Proceedings of Meetings on Acoustics* 9: 1–10. [3] Hay, Jennifer, Paul Warren, and Katie Drager. 2006. Factors influencing speech perception in the context of a merger-in-progress. [4] *Journal of Phonetics* 34: 458–484. [5] Kloter, Henning. 2011. *The Language of the Sangleys: A Chinese Vernacular in Missionary Sources of the Seventeenth Century*. Leiden, the Netherlands & Boston, NY: Brill. [6] Schachter, Paul and Fe T. Otones. 1972. *Tagalog reference grammar*. Berkeley, CA, Los Angeles, CA, & London, the United Kingdom: University of California Press. [7] Tayao, Ma. Lourdes G. 2004. The evolving study of Philippine English phonology. *World Englishes* 23(1): 77–90. [8] Van Gijn, Rik. 2009. The phonology of mixed languages. *Journal of Pidgin and Creole Languages* 24(1): 91–117.

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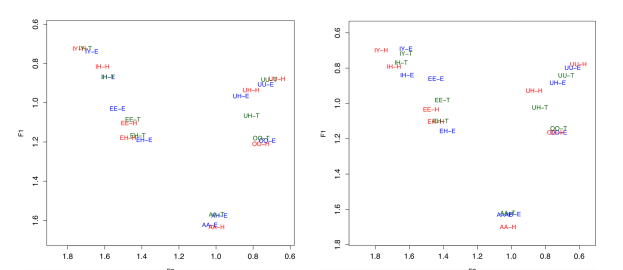


Figure 8. Younger males (21-39)

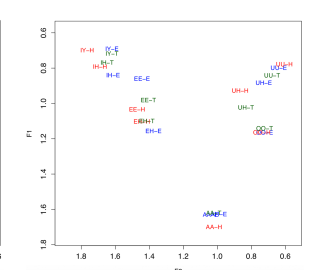


Figure 9. Younger females (21-39)

Age and gender effects

Table 2.

Vowel	Mean Pillai score	N spkrs with sig. contrast
[i]	0.3242	1 (2.94%)
[ɪ]	0.3881	4 (11.76%)
[e]	0.3653	4 (11.76%)
[ɛ]	0.5834	5 (14.7%)
[a]	0.1550	3 (8.8%)
[ɑ]	0.1931	0 (0%)
[u]	0.4279	0 (0%)
[ʊ]	0.5437	4 (11.76%)

- No sig. differences among age or gender groups for proportion of speakers with a significant distinction between vowels in words from different source languages.
- Intra-vowel contrasts are low throughout the speech community

What about differences in the size of contrasts?

[e]: Gender*age: older women do not make a distinction (F = 5.6090, p = 0.0245)

[o]: Age: younger speakers make a distinction (F = 4.6601, p = 0.03900)
Gender*age: younger women make a distinction (F = 5.9701, p = 0.0206)

Analysis 2 (Conclusion)

- Vowels: largely undifferentiated across words from different source languages.
- PHH: a unified vowel system, not three vowel systems.
- As a group, older women show most unified system, with only two older female speakers using any significant contrast, on one vowel each.

CONCLUSION

- Evidence that PHH is a conventionalized contact language with eight monophthongs appearing across words from its three different source languages. [i], [ɪ], [e], [ɛ], [a], [ɑ], [u], [ʊ]
- Older women show more consistency across source languages than older men. 1950s Chinese: not entirely accepted by Chinese and Philippine societies, 'limbo'
- Result: creating the Chinese Filipino community
- Women may have led the vowel merger process, and the formation of PHH as it evolved from trilingual code-switching (older generation)
- Currently: Not a merger-in-progress, rather a 'de-merger' or split (e.g. [o])
- Led by younger women?
- Causes: assimilation, Tagalog and English preference

Table 3. Phases and time period

Phases	Time period (age range group)
Trilingual code-switching	1900s (80s)
Philippine Hybrid Hokkien	1950s (40s-70s)
PHH divergence 'unmerging'	1990s-2000s (20s and 30s)

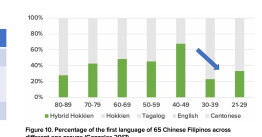


Figure 10. Percentage of the first language of 65 Chinese Filipinos across different age groups (Gonzales 2017)

