



*Phonological Features of  
Chinese Varieties of English*

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Part II

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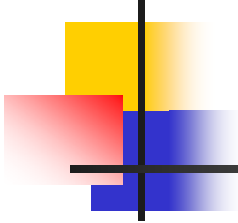
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# VOWEL CHART FOR AVERAGE SPEAKER OF CHINESE ENGLISH

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	FRONT	CENTRAL	BACK
HIGH	i		u
MID	ɛ	ɜ	ɔ
LOW		a	



















## Comparison of the vowel systems of Singapore (SE), Hong Kong (HKE), Chinese (CE) and Japanese (JE) English

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	<u>SE/CE</u>	<u>HKE</u>	<u>JE</u>
/i/	bit, beat	bit, beat	bit, beat
/ɛ/	bet, bat	bet, bat	bet
/u/	full, fool	full, fool	full, fool
/ɔ/	cot, caught	cot, caught	cot, caught
/ɜ/	bird	bird	bird, cart
/a/	cut, cart	cart (/ʌ/ cut)	cut, bat

# DIPHTHONGS

/eɪ/	<i>ray</i>	B		C	
/aɪ/	<i>wine</i>	B		C	
/aʊ/	<i>cow</i>	B		C	
/oʊ/	<i>toe</i>	B		C	
/ɔɪ/	<i>toy</i>	B		C	
/ɪə/	<i>beer</i>	B		C	
/ɛə/	<i>hair</i>	B		C	
/ʊə/	<i>sure</i>	B		C	

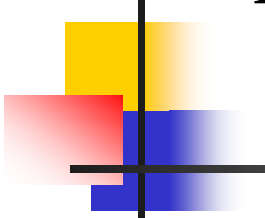
[B = Beijing speaker, C = Cantonese speaker]

# **SOME DIPHTHONG SIMPLIFICATIONS IN CHINESE VARIETIES OF ENGLISH (%)**



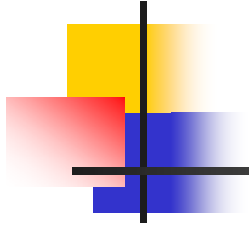
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## SOME DIPHTHONG SIMPLIFICATIONS IN CHINESE VARIETIES OF ENGLISH (%)



	BJ	TJ	NE	SW	CAN
<b>ou &gt; ʊ</b>	63	38		25	
<b>au &gt; ʊ</b>	50	50	44	25	
<b>aʊn &gt; əŋ/aŋ</b>	63	25		76	
<b>aɪn &gt; ɛn/ʌn</b>	50	25	56	50	30
	WU	MIN	KJ	GAN	XNG
<b>ou &gt; ʊ</b>				22	40
<b>au &gt; ʊ</b>	25	22	38	22	38
<b>aʊn &gt; əŋ/aŋ</b>	38	56	25	33	25
<b>aɪn &gt; ɛn/ʌn</b>		44	63		

# CONSONANTS



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## Voiced fricatives

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/v/ → [w] e.g. *vine* 

/ð/ → [d] *this*

/z/ → [dz] *zip*  *zoo* 



/ʒ/ → [dʒ] *pleasure*  [r] *usual* 

(cf. [ʃ] *pressure* )



## OTHER CONSONANTS


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/θ/ → [s] *thing*  *thousand* 

/r/ → [z] *ray*  *road*   
[l]  

/h/ → [x] *hair* 

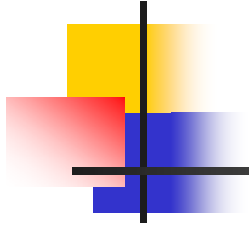
# PHONETIC REALISATION OF CONSONANTS (%)



	BJ	TJ	NE	SW	CAN
<b>θ &gt; s</b>	38	76	67	69	30/f20
<b>z &gt; dz</b>	69	82	89	38	40
<b>ʒ &gt; r (usual)</b>	88	100	78	25	30
<b>&gt; dʒ/j</b>	25			j25	30
<b>v &gt; w</b>	25	25	28		40
<b>r &gt; l</b>					50

	WU	MIN	KJ	GAN	XNG
<b>θ &gt; s</b>	63	62	51	67	76
<b>z &gt; dz</b>	20	60	38	90	69
<b>ʒ &gt; r (usual)</b>					38
<b>&gt; dʒ/j</b>	j25	60	50/j38	67	38
<b>v &gt; w</b>		22	38	22	25
<b>r &gt; l</b>		44	29	40	

# CONCLUSIONS





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1) There is clear evidence of regional variation within Mainland Chinese English.

2) However, these regional sub-varieties share many phonological features in common, including:



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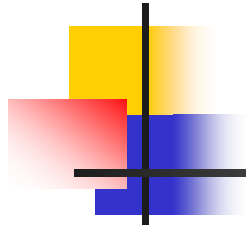
- a simplified system of 6-7 vowels, with a general lack of long/short or tense/lax contrasts
- certain types of diphthong simplification
- a simplified consonant system, esp. with respect to voicing contrasts
- general lack of voiced fricatives



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- a simplified system of 6-7 vowels, with a general lack of long/short or tense/lax contrasts
- certain types of diphthong simplification
- a simplified consonant system, esp. with respect to voicing contrasts
- general lack of voiced fricatives
- preponderance of certain possibly unique forms (e.g. [s] for /θ/ together with [d] for /ð/)



3) Therefore, it is justifiable to speak of  
‘Mainland Chinese English’ as a broad  
variety