ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE IPA

Standard Chinese (Beijing)

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The style of speech illustrated is that typical of the educated younger generation in Beijing. The recording is that of a 25-year-old female graduate student who has lived all her life in Beijing.

Consonants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bilabial</th>
<th>Labiodental</th>
<th>Dental</th>
<th>Alveolar</th>
<th>Post-alveolar</th>
<th>Palatal</th>
<th>Velar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plosive</td>
<td>p pʰ</td>
<td>t tʰ</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>k kʰ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Affricate</td>
<td>ts tsʰ</td>
<td>tʃ tʃʰ</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>tɕ tɕʰ</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nasal</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>n</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fricative</td>
<td>f</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>j</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Approximant</td>
<td>w</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>ь ь</td>
<td>j</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lateral Approximant</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

p pa˥ ‘eight’ t ta˥ ‘to build’ k kə˥ ‘song’
pʰ pʰa˥ ‘to lie prone’ tʰ tʰa˥ ‘he/she’ kʰ kʰə˥ ‘subject’
m ma]+)/ ‘mother’ n na˩ ‘to include’ η an˥ ‘dirty’
f fa˥ ‘to send’ s sa˧ ‘to cast’ j ja˧ ‘sand’ x xə˧ ‘to drink’
t ts tsa˨ ‘to circle’ tʃ tʃə˨ ‘residue’
tʃʰ tʃʰa˨ ‘to wipe’ tʃʰa˨ ‘to insert’
c cia˧ ‘shrimp’
tɕ tc tɕia˨ ‘to add’
tɕʰ tcʰ tɕʰia˨ ‘to nip off’
w wa˥ ‘frog’ l la˧ ‘to pull’ j ja˥ ‘duck’

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Syllabic consonants

\[ \text{\`s} \] 'to think'
\[ \text{\`s} \] 'poem'

Vowels

\[ i \] 'clothes'
\[ y \] 'fish'
\[ a \] 'to send'
\[ e \] 'son'
\[ u \] 'house'
\[ a \] 'goose'
\[ ð \] 'sound'
\[ â \] 'dizzy'
\[ å \] 'safe'
\[ ø \] 'favour'
\[ y \] 'sound'
\[ ù \] 'dizzy'
\[ å \] 'safe'
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syllable-initial [l] is apical denti-alveolar or apical alveolar. [c, tc, tcʰ] occur only before [i] or [y]. Voiceless syllable-initial obstruents often become voiced when the following rhyme is associated with the neutral tone. [m] occurs only in syllable-initial position; [n] occurs in both syllable-initial and syllable-final positions; and [ŋ] occurs only in syllable-final position. [w] has a free variant form of [v].

[i] occurs only in isolation or when following [f], [f], [fʰ], [l], [l], [l] in isolation or when following [f], [f], [fʰ] is a syllabic apical post-alveolar approximant; when following [s, ts, tsʰ] it is a syllabic apico-laminal or laminal denti-alveolar approximant. Syllabic apico-laminal or laminal denti-alveolar and syllabic apical post-alveolar approximants, often called apical vowels, occur only in open syllables.

Vowels [i, y, a, u] occur in open syllables as well as syllables closed by a nasal; [y] occurs only in open syllables. In open syllables, [i, y, u] are about cardinal, [a] = [a], and [y] is slightly diphthongized from [y] to [a]. In syllables closed by a nasal, [i, y] are about cardinal, [a] = [a], and [u] = [u]. [a] is a plain mid-central schwa in syllables closed by a nasal; in open syllables [ä] is rhotacized, i.e. [ɔ].

Diphthongs [ai, au, ou, oe, ei] occur only in open syllables; [ie, ia, ye, ua] occur in open syllables and syllables closed by a nasal; and [oa, io] occur only in syllables closed by a nasal.

[i] = [i], [a] = [a], [u] = [u], [o] = [o], [e] = [e], [œ] = [œ], [ø] = [ø], and [u] = [u].

All triphthongs occur only in open syllables. [iau, iau, iou, iou, iou, iou] = [iau, iau, iou, iou, iou, iou], and [e] = [e].

A rhyme which may be a monophthong, diphthong, triphthong, ‘vowel+nasal’, or ‘diphthong+nasal’ may undergo er-hua, er-hua refers to suffixation of a rhotacized subsyllabic [ɔ] to a rhyme, or to rhotacization of a vowel or a sequence of two vowels in a rhyme. In the cases where the rhyme ends with [o], [y] or [u], the vowel is rhotacized, i.e. [o], [y] or [u], instead of the diphthong or triphthong ends with [i] or [e], [i] or [e] is deleted. Thus, [i, y, a, u, y] → [i, y, a, u, y] respectively; [ie, ye, ai, ea, ia, ea, ia, ea, iœ, uœ, ou, ou, au] → [ie, ye, ai, ea, ia, ea, iœ, uœ, ou, ou, au], respectively; and [uai, uai, iou, iaœ, iœ, ioœ, ioœ, iœ, uœ, uœ, ou, ou, au] → [uai, uai, iou, iaœ, iœ, ioœ, ioœ, iœ, uœ, uœ, ou, ou, au], respectively. In the cases where the rhyme ends with [n], the nasal ending is deleted. Thus, [in, in, an, an] → [in, in, an, an], respectively; and [ien, yen, uan, uan] → [ien, yen, uan, uan], respectively.

And, in the cases where the rhyme ends with [ŋ], the nasal ending is deleted and the rhyme is nasalized. Thus, [ien, an, an] → [iœ, iœ, iœ, iœ], respectively; and [ian, an, iœ] → [iœ, iœ, iœ, iœ], respectively.

Tones
[-] on monosyllables may realize as [i] or [i]+silence+[-]. On compounds, [-] → [i] before another [-], and [-] → [i] before [i, a, u] or the neutral tone; and optionally, [i] → [i] after [i] or [i] and before any tone, and [y] → [i] or [i] before another [y]. On a component syllable of a compound, [-], [-], [-] or [y] may lose its citation form and become the neutral tone. The pitch value for the neutral tone varies, depending mainly on the preceding citation tone. The general rules are: (i) when following [i], (y) when following [y], (i) when following [-i], or (i) when following [y].

Transcription of recorded passage
ioun i1 xuei1 pei1 fan1 kan1 thai1 iaon(1) tsai1 nae1 tao1 luan1 fei1 da(1) pona1 li1 tain || fou1 dza(1) fou1 tao1 liao1 la(1) i1 kua(1) yuou luo1 tao(1) | fei1 fan1 iaon(1) thuan1 la(1) i1 cian1 xon1 phau1 ts1(v) || thau1 man(1) liao1 tciou(1) fan1 lian(1) xuan1 la(1) | fou1 fei1 fan1 cian1 tciou1 fei1 go(1) yuou luo1 tao(1) pao1 dha1 tao(1) phau1 ts1(v) thau1 xian1 lai1 | tciou1 suan1 zi(1) thau1 da(1) pona1 li1 tain ||
Notes

1. The palatographic and linguographic data collected by the authors of this study from the native speakers of Beijing, male and female, in their early twenties show that there are no retroflex sounds in their speech.

2. [®], an apical post-alveolar approximant, in this study was transcribed as [Ω], representing a voiced apical pre-palatal fricative in Karlgren (1915–1926) and as [®], representing a retroflex approximant in Chao (1968).

3. [β], a syllabic apico-laminal or laminal denti-alveolar approximant when following [s, ts, tsh], in this study was transcribed as [ę], representing an apical alveolar vowel in Karlgren (1915–1926) and as [ż], representing a syllabic voiced dental fricative in Chao (1968).

4. [γ], a syllabic apical post-alveolar approximant when following [s, ts, tsh] in isolation, in this study was transcribed as [γ], representing an apical post-alveolar approximant in Karlgren (1915–1926) and as [γ], representing a syllabic retroflex approximant in Chao (1968).

5. The non-IPA symbols, [ę] and [γ], representing the ‘apical vowels’ in the Peking (Beijing) dialect first appeared in Karlgren (1915–1926) and are widely used by the linguists in China.

References
