

THAI INTONATION IN FOUR EMOTIONS

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ABSTRACT

This paper studies the phonetics and phonology of Thai intonation in four emotions; anger, surprise, happiness and sadness. The subjects are radio performers, one male and one female aged 30 - 40 years. The results confirm that the speaking rate, average pitch and pitch range of the intonation varies according to the type of emotion involved. Anger and surprise are in agreement with Luksaneeyanawin (1983), anger and sadness are in agreement with Cahn (1988). The pitch range for the male speaker shows two separated registers. Anger, surprise and happiness are in a higher pitch level whereas neutral speech and sadness employ a lower pitch level. The overall pitch range for all emotion types combined is broader for the male speaker than the female speaker. However, the pitch range in semitones for each emotion type is quite comparable between the two speakers. The Highs and Lows of the intonation vary greatly among utterances of the same emotion type, unlike the intonation of Thai neutral statements without emotion superimposed where the Highs and Lows can be labeled. The results of this study have an application in speech synthesis. Sentences can be manipulated in the dimensions of time and fundamental frequency range according to the emotion type for vividness and naturalness.