श्रिश्वा ११५ अभू उर्वे र भार



Mantana Kiettipongse



Introduction

Thailand is a beautiful country, there is no way of enjoying your stay without knowing how to communicate with the people. No matter how difficult it is, if you want your stay to be memorable, learning the language is a must.

The author of this book had a lot of experience in teaching Thai to foreign students in the university both in group as well as in individual for quite a number of years, she knows where the difficulty lies. Therefore, in order to help those who want to learn Thai language by themselves, she complied her knowledge in Thai language teaching into this little book "Thai language for the Beginner".

The publisher hopes, if the learners persist in learning and follow the steps given in this book, they will surely be fluent in speaking and reading in no time.

Words of advice, intonation is one of the most important in Thai language, so try to pronounce the words correctly from the very beginning and you will have no difficulty later on. Remember pronounce the wrong tone is like playing the wrong key.

Enjoy your stay and have fun in learning the language.

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Contents

1.	The phonetic transcription for Thai language.	1
	1.1 Vowels	1
	1.2 Consonants	2
	1.3 Tones	4
2.	The characteristics of Thai language.	5
3.	Thai writing system.	7
	3.1 Consonants	7
	3.1.1 Mid consonants	10
	3.1.2 High consonants	11
	3.1.3 Low consonants	12
	3.2 Vowels	13
	3.2.1 Order of vowels	15
	3.2.2 Position of vowels	17
	3.3 Tones: Names of tones and tone markers.	19
	3.4 The names of some writing symbols.	21
	3.5 The changed forms of some vowels.	22
4.	Word formation	25
	4.1 Syllable types: Distribution of the tones	27
	according to the syllable types.	

	4.2	Cluste	ers	65
		4.2.1	Real clusters	65
		4.2.2	Unreal clusters	69
	4.3	Specia	al final consonants	76
		4.3.1	Words with single final consonant.	76
		4.3.2	Words with a sequence of final consonants.	82
	4.4	Specia	al vowels	85
5.	Vo	cabula	rv	89





The phonetic transcription for Thai language

1.1 Vowels

There are 21 vowel sounds, divided into 2 groups: 18 single vowels and 3 diphthongs.

Chart 1: Vowel sounds

	Sounds	Thai Examples	Meanings	Similar Sounds in English
9	/i/	/bin/	to fly	bin
4	/ii/	/pii/	year	pea
1-5	/e/	/yen/	cool	yen
f-	/ ee /	/ keen /	to conscript	g ai n
11-2	/8/	/bèŋ/	to share	bank
11-	/ 33 /	/ phee /	raft	pear
2	/i/	/dɨŋ/	to pull	pedal
্ব -	/ <u>ii</u> /	/mii/	hand	Y 1 (6)[1] 2 12.
1-02	/ə/	/prè/	dirty	about, the
l-0	/əə/ əə	/dəən/	to walk	burn
-9	/a/	/ kan /	to prevent	gun
-1	/ aa /	/kaa/	crow	father
- 9	/ u /	/yuŋ/	mosquito	foot
- 9	/ uu /	/ puun /	cement	food

101	/bon/	on, up	obey
/ 00 /	/ too /	big	toe
/3/	/ hò /	to soar	horrid
/ 22 /	/ khɔɔ /	neck	corner
/ia/	/rɨa/	boat	-
/ ua /	/ khrua /	kitchen	croissant, tour

1.2 Consonants

The sounds of Thai consonants consist of 20 initial consonants and 8 final constants. The initial consonants are further divided into single consonants and clusters.

Chart 2: Single Initial Consonants

	Sounds	Thai Examples	Meanings	Similar Sounds in English
บ	/b/	/ bin /	to fly	be
ป	/ p /	/ puu /	a crab	spoon
W	/ ph /	/ phan /	thousand	pun
ค	/d/	/ duu /	to look at	do
ମ	/t/	/ taa /	eye	star
ท	/ th /	/ th >>ŋ/	gold	tongs
ข	*/ k /	/keen/	axis	gander
ค	/ kh /	/ kham /	word	come
จ	*/ c /	/ ciin /	Chinese	jean
R	/ ch /	/ chaam /	bowl	charm
W	/f/	/ fan /	tooth	fun
ทร	/s/	/ saay /	sand	sign
ห	/h/	/ hây /	to give	hi



3	/w/	/ wan /	day	won
ઇ	/y/	/yaŋ/	still	young
ม	/ m /	/ maa /	to come	mar
น	/ n /	/ncon/	to lie down	naught
9	/ŋ /	/ ŋaw /	shadow	singing
ว	/r/	/ ram /	bran	rum
ถ	/1/	/ lem /	to nibble	lemon

(*/ k,c / are unvoiced while "g, j" are voiced)

Chart 3: Clusters

	Sounds	Thai Examples	Meanings	Similar Sounds in English
กร	*/ kr /	/ kraam /	molar	gramme
กล	*/ kl /	/ klua /	to be scared	glow
กว	*/ kw /	/ kwaaŋ /	deer	language
(*/kı	c, kh, kw / a	re unvoiced, v	vhile "gr, gl, g	w" are voiced).
คร / khr / / khray /		/ khray /	who	cry
คล	/ khl /	/ khlam /	to fumble	clam
คว	/ khw /	/ khwan /	smoke	queen
ตร	/ tr /	/troŋ/	straight	strong
ปร	/ pr /	/ preeŋ/	brush	spring
ปล	ปล /pl/ /plaa/		fish	splash
พร	/ phr /	/ phr / / phraan /		pray
พล	/ phl /	/ phleen /	song	play

Chart 4: Final Consonants

	Sounds	Thai Examples	Meanings	Note
-ີ່ງງ	/ -p /	/ síp /	ten	The sound of
เเ-ค	/ -t /	/ pèet /	eight	the final
-ก	/ -k /	/ hòk /	six	consonant is
-11	/ -m /	/ săam /	three	not released.
-น	/ -n /	/ sŭun /	zero	
-1	/-ŋ/	/ sɔ̃əŋ/	two	
-წ	/ -y /	/ rɔ́ɔy /	hundred	
1	/-w/	/ kâaw /	nine	

1.3 Tones

There are 5 tones which signify the meaning of the words.

Chart 5: Tones

Symbols	Labels	Tone	Meanings
		Distribution	
-	mid	/ khaaw / คาว	smell of flesh fish
`	low	/ khàaw / ข่าว	news
^	falling	/ khâaw / ข้าว	rice
,	high	/ kháaw / ค้าว	a kind of fish
v	rising	/ khãaw / ขาว	white



The Characteristics of Thai language

2.1 That is a tonal language, which is the meaning of a word depends upon the tone. eg.

เสื้อ / sɨa / (low tone) = a mat. เสื้อ / sɨa / (falling tone) = a blouse, shirt. เสือ / sɨa / (rising tone) = a tiger.

2.2 There are not indefinite or definite articles (a, an, the), but there are many final particles to show the politeness, question, request, persuasions and enforcement. They are / khráp khã, cã, cá, ná, lã, sî, máy / etc.

ครับ ค่ะ ค่า คะ นะ ล่ะ ซิ ใหม

2.3 Adjective follows noun e.g.

English: Black cat is in the white room.

Thai : / mɛɛw dam yùu nay hôŋ khăaw / (black = / dam /, cat = / mɛɛw /, is = / yùu / in = / nay /, white = / khǎaw / room = / hôŋ /)

2.4 There are words called "Classifiers", used

a) After the numeral e.g.

English: One house Thai: /Bâan nɨŋ lăŋ/

Two houses /Bâan sɔɔŋlaŋ/ (house, houses = /bâan/, one = /nɨŋ/, two = /sɔɔŋ/, /laŋ/ is a classifier for house)

b) Before the ordinal or demonstrative e.g.

English: The first house. Thai:/bâan lă ŋ thîi nɨŋ/บ้านหลังที่หนึ่ง The second house. /bâan lă ŋ thîi sɔɔŋ/บ้านหลังที่สอง

This house /bâan lă ๆ กับไข้านหลังนี้

That house /bâan lă ŋ nán/ข้านหลังนั้น

(First = /thîi nɨŋ/, second = /thîi sɔ̌ɔŋ/, this = /níi/, that = nán) ที่หนึ่ง ที่สอง นี้ นั้น

- 2.5 A word does not change its form, regardless of how it is used in a sentence e.g.
 - English: I go to school. Thai: /phôm pay rooŋrian/ ผมไปโรงเรียน

He goes to school. /Khaw pay roonrian/เขาไปโรงเรียน I went to school. /phom pay roonrian/ผมไปโรงเรียน

(I = /phôm/ go, goes, went = /pay/, school = /rooŋrian/)

ผม โป โรงเรียน

2. English: One tooth. Thai: /fan กรัก รถัเ/ฟันหนึ่งซึ่
Two teeth. /fan รวัว กรถัเ/ฟันสองซึ่
(tooth, teeth = /fan/, /sîi/ is a classifier for tooth, teeth.)
ฟัน ซึ่

2.6 A word may be repeated in order to express plurality or emphasis e.g.

1. English: Friend Thai: /phian/เพื่อน

Friends /phian phian /เพื่อน เพื่อน

2. English: good Thai: /dii/.ดี

very good /díi-dii, dii mâak/ดี ดี, ดีมาก

Thai writing system

Thai writing is an alphabetical system with 44 consonants, 32 vowels and 4 tone marks. Phonologically, it appears that a certain sound is represented by more than one symbol. Phonetically, the Thai language has 20 consonants, 21 vowels and 5 tones.

The Thai languages write from left to right without punctuation between words. The punctuation will come at the end of sentence or a long phrase, for example:

ภาษาไทยไม่ยากเลย: Thai language is not difficult at all. Pronouncing: /phaa-săa thay mây yâak ləəy/.

Since Thai language has a lot of loan words from neighboring languages, many words are spelled in such a way that they represent the original words, such as Pali or Sanskrit, but they are usually pronounced in a Thai way, some consonants are silent and some symbols vary in sound representation.

3.1 Consonants (พยัญชนะ /phá-yan-chá-ná) Symbols

A Thai consonant alphabet is always named in association with an object or a living thing, and that alphabet

is usually an initial consonant of the syllable meaning that object or living thing. For example, n, is named n. ˈlni, pronouncing /kɔɔ kày/. The word "ˈlni" which means a chicken has n. as an initial consonant. All consonants are pronounced by putting / ɔɔ / after the sound which they represent.

Below are the consonants symbols, their names, the meanings of names, and their phonetic symbols. They are presented in alphabetical order.

No.	Consonant Symbols.	Names		Meanings	Phonetic symbols.
1	ก	koo	kày	chicken	/k/
2	ป	khɔ́ɔ	khày 🔪	egg	/kh/
3	d)*	khɔ̃ɔ	khùat	bottle	/kh/
4	ค	khoo	khwaay	water buffalo	/kh/
5	ค*	khoo	khon	human	/kh/
6	ମ	khoo	rá-khan	bell	/kh/
7	1	noo	Ŋuu	snake	/ŋ/
8	ข	coo	caan	plate	/c/
9	น	chšo	chiŋ	cymbal	/ch/
10	r	choo	cháaŋ	elephant	/ch/
11	cR.	SOO	sôo	chain	/s/
12	ฌ	choo	chəə	tree	/ch/
13	ល្ង	уээ	уĭŋ	woman	/y/
14	ก	doo	chá-daa	pinnacled	/d/
14	Ŋ	433	Cha-daa	coronet	
15	Į.	too	pà-tàk	goad	/t/
16	,	thšo	thãan	base	/th/
17	αN	thoo	monthoo	a character in	/th/
1/	201	шээ	monthoo	Ramayana	
18	ฅม	thoo	phŭu thâw	aged person	/th/
19	ณ	noo	neen	novice monk	/n/
20	ନ	doo	dèk	child	/d/



No.	Consonant Symbols.	Name	S	Meanings	Phonetic symbols.
21	ମ	too	tàw	tortoise	/t/
22	ព	thšo	thŭŋ	bag	/th/
23	ท	thoo	thá-hãan	soldier	/th/
24	Б	thoo	thoŋ	flag	/th/
25	น	noo	nŭu	mouse	/n/
26	บ	boo	baymáay	leaf	/b/
27	ป	рээ	plaa	fish	/p/
28	N	phšo	phɨŋ	bee	/ph/
29	R	fšə	fãa	lid, partition	/f/
30	W	phoo	phaan	a plate with high base	/ph/
31	W	foo	fan	tooth	/f/
32	ภ	cchq	sãmphaw	Chinese schooner	/ph/
33	ນ	moo	máa	horse	/m/
34	B	уээ	yák	demon	/y/
35	5	roo	r i a	boat, ship	/r/
36	ត	loo	liŋ	monkey	/1/
37	3	woo	wěɛn	ring	/w/
38	ศ	sšo	sãa-laa	pavilion	/s/
39	A	sšo	r ii -sĭi	hermit	/s/
40	ส	sšo	sĭa	tiger	/s/
41	ห	hšo	hìip	case, baggage	/h/
42	W	100	cù-laa	name of a kite	/1/
43	e	၁၁	-áaŋ	bowl	-
44	ฮ	hoo	nók hûuk	owl	/h/

^{*}v and n are obsolete. Consonant no. 43, 0, only fills in the initial consonant position in the syllable which has no initial consonant. It takes the tone distribution of the mid consonants.

Thai consonants are classified into three groups, according to their characteristics: mid consonants, low consonants and high consonants. These three groups of consonants will effect different tone distributions, which will be discussed later.

3.1.1 Mid consonants. There are nine letters but six sounds in the mid group, as shown in the following chart.

Consonants	Pronouncing	Phonetic Symbols
ก	koo	/k/
จ	coo	/c/
ฎ	doo	/d/
ค	doo	/d/
ฎ	too	/t/
ต	too	/t/
บ	boo	/b/
ป	рээ	/p/
0*	၁၁	-

^{*}The sound of " \mathfrak{d} " is the sound of a vowel as shown in chart 1 (1.1)



2 High consonants. There are eleven letters but nd of high group. The following chart shows all cors of the class

Consonants	Pronouncing	Phonetic Symbols
ข	khŏo	/kh/
्ष (obsolete)	khŏo	/kh/
น	chšo	/ch/
ą̃	thšo	/th/
ព	thšo	/th/
N	phốo	/ph/
R	fšo	/f/
ମ	SŠO	/s/
P	sšo	/s/
র	sšo	/s/
n	hšo	/h/

^{*}A high consonant is usually pronounced with a rising tone.

3.1.3 Low Consonants. There are twenty-four letters but fourteen sounds of low group. The chart below shows all of them.

No.	Consonants	Pronouncing	Phonetic symbols
1	ค	khoo	/kh/
2	ค (obsolete)	khoo	/kh/
3	al	khoo	/kh/
4	1	ŋɔɔ	/ŋ/
5	¥	choo	/ch/
6	cJ2	SOO	/s/
7	ฌ	ehoo	/ch/
8	Ŋ	уээ	/y/
9	વી	thoo	/th/
10	ฒ	thoo	/th/
11	ณ	noo	/n/
12	ท	thoo	/th/
13	Б	thoo	/th/
14	ч	noo	/n/
15	W	phoo	/ph/

16	M	fɔɔ	/f/
17	ภ	phoo	/ph/
18	ນ	ccm	/m/
19	ย	уээ	/y/
20	5	ccr	/r/
21	ล	100	/1/
22	3	woo	/w/
23	W	loo	/1/
24	ð	hoo	/h/

Either a mid consonant or a low consonant is usually pronounced with a mid tone. The difference will occur in the word formation.

3.2 Vowels (สระ - sà-rà)

There are thirty-two forms of vowel in Thai. Among them, eighteen are single vowels: short and long, six are diphthongs, the four contain the sounds of two initial consonants /r/, /l/.

The following 3 charts are the forms of single, diphthong and special vowels: the ones which contain the sounds of consonants.

Chat 1: Single Vowels

Short forms	Phonetic Symbols	Long forms	Phonetic symbols
-99	/a/	-1	/aa/
9 -	/i/	d -	/ii/
ସ -	/ i /	ය -	/ ii /
- 9	/u/	- -	/uu/
1-5	/e/	f-	/ee/
11-2	/٤/	11-	/88/
ີ້ - ະ	/o/	Ĩ-	/00/
เ-าะ	/5/	-0	/၁၁/
1-02	/ə/	(j-Đ	/əə/

Note: A blank as marked by a dash is a position where a consonant is inserted to form a syllable or a word.

Chart 2: Diphthongs

Short forms	Phonetic Symbols	Long forms	Phonetic symbols
ເຼີ-ຄະ	/ia/	ເ–ີຍ	/ia/
เ-ือะ	/ia/	[- 0	/ia/
–ັງະ	/ua/	– "3	/ua/

The phonetic symbols /ia,ia, ua/ are used for both short and long vowels forms because the short forms are scarcely used.

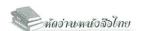


Chart 3: Special Vowels

Forms	Phonetic Symbols
- [°] 1	/am/
Ŋ-	/ay/
1-	/ay/
l-J	/aw/
ព្	/rɨ/
ព្យ	/ni/
ฦ	/li/
ฦๅ	/lii/

3.2.1 Order of vowels.

There are two ordering systems in the Thai vowels, the traditional order, the dictionary order. The traditional order will go by sounds and it does not cover all variant of vowel forms. The traditional order system is as follows.

No.	Forms	Sounds	Exampl- es	Pronun ciation	Meaning
1	-9	a	กะ	kà	to estimate
2	-1	aa	กา	kaa	crow
3	9 -	i	<u>ଜି</u>	tì	to blame
4	۵-	ii	ดี	dii	good
5	8	i	ดึง	diŋ	to pull
	ব	ij	*มือ	m ii	hand
6			ยืน	y ii n	to stand

7	- 9	u	สุก	sùk	ripe
8	- -	uu	ମ୍ବ	duu	to look
9	1-3	е	เดะ	tè	to kick
10	ſ-	ee	เม	thee	to pour ,
11	เเ-ะ	3	ແລະ	le	and
12	ſſ-	33	แม	phee	raft
13	1-92	Э	เลอะ	lá	messy
14	1-0	99	เรอ	rəə 🗸	to belch
15	∫-÷	О	โปะ	pò	to coat over
16	ῗ-	00	โต	too	big
17	เ-ไร	Э	เคาะ	khó	to knock,
18	-0	၁၁	ମିପ	khoo	neck
19	- วะ	ua (short)	ผัวะ	phùa	-
20	- 3	ua (long)	ผัว	phŭa	husband
21	î - ถึง	ia (short)	เฟกร	phìa	-
22	ເ – ີຢ	ia (long)	เมีย	mia	wife
23	l — 0°	ia (short)	เพื่อะ	phɨa	-
24	î <u>—</u> 0	ia (long)	เรื่อ	r i a	a boat



25	-°1	am	คำ	dam	black
26	1-	ay	ใน	nay	in
27	7-	ay	ใน	nay	spinning wheel
28	f - J	aw	เดา	daw	to guess
29	ព្	ri	ฤคู	ri-duu	season
30	ព្យ	r ii	ฤๅษี	r ii -sĭi	hermit
31	ฦ	lŧ	ระฦก	rá-lɨk	to recall
32	ฦๅ	1 ii	ฦๅชา	lii- chaa	widely known

o is filled in after the initial consonant when the syllable with $\stackrel{\triangleleft}{-}$ has no final consonant.

No. 19, 21, 23 are used in onomatopoeia.

No. 31, 32 are obsolete.

3.2.2 Positions of vowels

The vowels occur in five positions: before, after, above, below and surround a consonant. The following charts show vowels in all positions in words.

Chart 1. Vowels before consonants.

Forms	Words	Pronunciation	Meanings
f-	เกเร	kee-ree	wayward
11-	แบน	been	flat
Ĩ-	โยน	yoon	to throw
1-	ไป	pay	to go
1-	ใจ	cay	heart

Chart 2. Vowels after consonants

Forms	Words	Pronunciation	Meanings
-9	າະ	cà	shall, will
-1	นา	naa	rice field
-1	คำ	kham	word
-0	พอ	phoo	enough
- ີລະ	จัวะ	cúa	* very
-້າ	บัว	bua	water lily

^{*}ขึ้วะ is used after the word "ขาว" /khă aw/ =white, used as intensifier, means "really white."

Chart 3. Vowels above consonants

Forms	Words	Pronunciation	Meanings
9	คิน	din	soil
ط <u>-</u>	ปืน	piin	to climb
2	ซึม	sɨm	drowsy
ব -	ลิ้ม	l ii m	to forget

Chart 4. Vowels below consonants.

Forms	Words	Pronunciation	Meanings
- q	ମ୍ବ	dù	to scold
- a	ମ୍ବ	duu	to look



Chart 5. Vowels surround consonants

Forms	Words	Pronunciation	Meanings	
1 - %	ເຄະ	lé	crushed, mushy	
11 - \$	แบะ	kè	sheep	
เ - าะ	เกาะ	kò	island	
1 - 02	រេ១៩	thè	a particle expressing decision	
1 - 0	l To	thəə	you, she	
∫ - ≎	โละ	ló	to throw down	
្រុំ ម	เลีย	lia	to lick	
1 - 0	เคือน	dian	month	
i - 1	เสา	săw	post	

No words for the forms 1 - Uz, 1 - 0z

3.3 Tones (วรรณยุกต์ – wan-ná-yúk)

There are five tones in Thai language: mid, low, falling, high and rising. There are four tone markers for low, falling, high and rising tones. There is no tone marker for mid tone. The following charts show the tones and tone markers.

Chart 1. Names of Tones

Types	Phonetic Symbols	Name	Words	Pronun ciation	Meaning
mid	-	sĭaŋ s ă a- man	มา	maa	to come
low	`	sĭaŋ èek	ปิด	pìt	to close
falling	^	sĭaŋ thoo	มาก	mâak	many
high	,	sĭaŋ trii	คิด	khít	to think
rising	~	sĭaŋ càttà-waa	สี	sĬi	colour

Chart 2. Names of tone markers

Types	Name	Words	Pronun ciation	tone	Meaning
1	máay èek	ป่า พ่อ ปร่า	páa phô práa	low falling low	forest father untasty
ЭJ	máay thoo	ป้า รู้ กว้าง	pâa rúu kwâaŋ	falling high falling	aunt to know wide
യ	máay trii	เบิ	kée	high	false
+	máay cáttá- waa	แจ๋ว	cěew	rising	fantastic, bright

Note 1. The tone marker is put above the initial consonant or the second letter of the cluster initial.

- 2. The tone of the marker varies as the class of the consonants: mid, high and low.
- 3. From the chart 1, it indicates that the words without tone markers make tones too.

3.4 The names of some writing symbols

1. ให้ใต่กู้ /máay tày kkúu/ "³" This sign is used to signalize a short vowel. e.g.

เล็ก /1ék/ เป็น /pen/

2. ให้ยมก /máay yá-mók/ "ๆ" This sign is used to show word repetition. e.g.

เล็กๆ /1ék 1ék/ ต่างๆ /tàaŋ tàaŋ/

3. *ใม้ทัณฑมาต /máay than-thá-khâat/ "" This sign is used to put above the consonant that is not pronounced. e.g.

การ์ตูน /kaa-tuun/ เล่ห์/lêe/

4. ใม้หันอากาศ /máay hãn-aa-kàat/ "" This sign is used to replace the vowel "a", when the word has a final consonant. e.g.

วัน / wan /, ยัง / yaŋ /.

- 5. ไปยาลใหญ่ /pay yaan yày/ "ๆลๆ" This is used in the same way as "etc" in the English language.
 - 6. ตัวเลขไทย / tua-lêek thay / මෙ කෙ ය ස ව හ ස f o 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

^{*} The silent mark "" usually is called "kaa-ran", so the word เล่ห์ distributed as ล + เ + ห + ", pronounced "loo sàrà ee hòo kaa-ran".

3.5 The changed forms of some vowels

Some vowels which are followed by the final consonants will change their forms. The following chart will show the change of those vowels

Vowels	Changed	Examples	Note
-ะ /a/	~ -	จะ+บ = จับ /cà/ /càp/	"" is deleted and /máay h ă n aa kàat/"" is added.
ı–= /e/	ਿ –	เตะ+ม = เต็ม /tè/ /tem/	"s" is deleted and /máay tày kkúu/ "s" is added.
โ–ะ /o/		โละ+ม = ลม /Ió/ /lom/	" $\tilde{1} - z$ " is deleted.
11-2 / /E/	[[=	แกระ+น =แกร็น /krè/ /krɛn/	"z" is deleted and /máay tày kkúu/ "z" is added.
/ƏƏ/	1. 1 = -	ເຈອ+ນ = ເຈີນ /cəə/ /cəəm/	"-o" which is the part of the vowel is deleted, and
	2. เ — ย	ເຄຍ+ຍ = ເຄຍ /ləə/ /ləəy/	" ່ " is added except the final consonant is "ຍ"
- ɔ/ua/	-3-	หัว+ค = หวค /hŭa/ /hùat/	The part of vowel "is deleted.

Note. The symbol "s" can not be used for the words with tone markers. e.g.



ภาษาอังกฤษ





OR THE BEGINNER





a

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