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NITASAKORN SHIWARUANGROTE: A PHONOLOGICAL STUDY OF YANGON BURMESE. THESIS ADVISORS: AMON THAVISAK, M.A., SURIYA RATANAKUL, Ph.D., PATTIYA JIMREIVAT, Ph.D. 219 p. ISBN 974-664-483-1.

The objective of this thesis was to present the phonological system of Yangon Burmese in a Tagmemic theory within the organization of the intonation group, the phonological word, the syllable and the phoneme. The data of about 2,000 words, phrases and sentences were collected by interviewing the informants and analyzed to provide a Yangon phonology.

The results of the study revealed that tones of the final syllables or particles create different intonation contours: if the pitch pattern of the final syllables or particles is falling, the intonation of the utterance is falling; if the pitch pattern is rising, then the intonation of the utterance will be rising, which is predictable. There are four types of phonological words: monosyllabic, disyllabic, trisyllabic, and tetrasyllabic. Each word type carries predictably strong stress at the final syllable. There are three types of syllable: major, minor, and presyllable. The structure of the major and minor syllable is  $C_{11} (C_{12}) V_1 (V_2)^T$ , and the structure of presyllable is only /Ca/. The phoneme comprises: 34 consonants, /p, ph, b, t, d, t, th, d, k, kh, g, ʔ, s, sh, z, ʃ, h, c, ch, j, m, hm, n, hn, ɲ, hɲ, ŋ, hŋ, w, w, y, l, h, l, r/; eight oral vowels, /i, e, ε, a, u, o, ɔ, ai/; and seven nasal vowels, /ĩ, ě, ǣ, ũ, õ, õ, ǣĩ/. There are four tones: /1, 2, 3, 4/, or high falling, mid falling, mid high, and high abrupt, respectively.

Assimilation is also found in three directional possibilities in which the assimilation works, regressive, progressive and coalescent with either total or partial assimilation. All these three types of assimilation occur very frequently in Yangon Burmese.