

## **Newly Emerging Pronunciation in Central Khmer - the case of Phnom Penh dialect**

Khmer is the official language of the Kingdom of Cambodia and a member of the Mon-Khmer subgroup of the Austroasiatic Language Family. It has over 16 million speakers in Cambodia, where it is the mother tongue, and over 3 million speakers overseas, mainly in Thailand, Vietnam, Australia, Germany, France, and the United States. Within Cambodia, there are three main dialect areas: Phnom Penh (henceforth PP Khmer), Battambang-SiemReap (BS), and Takeo-Kampot (TK) dialects (not including the continuum of rural speech varieties and the changes owing to massive population movements in the 1975s) [see Kuhn 1889, Martini 1946, Gorgoniyev 1966, Noss 1968, Huffman 1970a-70b, Sakamoto 1977, Minegishi 1986, Ratee 1995].

This newly emerging pronunciation describes the Phnom Penh Khmer variety in terms of segmental and registerial inventories and notes the critical distinction between the regional dialects' colloquial and standard speech. The Phnom Penh Khmer examples will be presented in both broad and narrow transcriptions using standard IPA symbols. The speaker recorded for this study is a 30-year-old Female, a native speaker of the Phnom Penh dialect. She is a university educated news reporter with nearly ten years of experience in broadcasting. Recordings were made in a studio using a BOYA BY-M1 Clip-On Microphone with Praat. This paper presents speech representative of the pronunciation of younger Khmer speakers that has emerged in the past three decades and contrasting it with the Khmer phonetics described by Martini (1946), Henderson (1952), Gorgoniyev (1966), Huffman (1970a, b), Headley et al. (1977), and Filippi & Hiep (2009).

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