

	[m]	weak [mʲ]	/mʲ/	[n]	weak [nʲ]	[nʲ]	[l]	weak /lʲ/	[r]	weak [rʲ]	[R]	[h]	[j]
/m/	91	9											
/mʲ/	16	73	11										
/n/	13			82	4								
/nʲ/	11			9	51	18							11
/h/							63		31		6		
/lʲ/							49	6	29	10	6		
/r/							1		81	7	10		
/rʲ/							3		27	59	11		
/j/												11	89

* In bold is the correct implementation of Russian sonants.

Soft /lʲ/ was most often pronounced as the corresponding slit lateral sonant of Thai [l] (49%) and with weak palatalization (6%). The second in frequency was the realization of /lʲ/ as vibrant [r] (29%). The pronunciation of a slightly palatalized sonant [r] (10%) was also found. The implementation of retroflex slit English [R] (6%) is noted.

81% of the subjects realized on the site of the phoneme /r/ the corresponding Thai trembling consonant and the slightly palatalized sonant (7%). Here, retroflex slit English [R] (11%) was also identified. Only in one case the phoneme was reproduced as a Thai lateral slot [l] (1%).

The phoneme /rʲ/ was reproduced as a weakly palatalized sonant (59%) and as the corresponding Thai non-palatalized sonant [r] (27%). Retroflex gap was realized by 11% of the subjects. An insignificant number of non-normative realization of a soft vibrant (3%) is the reproduction of a slotted lateral [l].

The middle-language slit sonant /j/ was reproduced as the corresponding Thai in 89% of cases. Erroneous implementation is the pronunciation of the pharyngeal /h/ (11%). The realization of pharyngeal sound most often appeared when the syllable was spoken [ji]. In this position, sonant /j/ can provoke non-distinction of the middle-language [j] and pharyngeal [h].

7 Conclusion

An analysis of the results of phonetic sensitivity in the Thais makes it possible to reveal the similarity and difference in the articulatory characteristics of the sounds of interacting languages (see Fig. 1.*).

The obtained results indicate that in the zone of negative Russian-Thai interference there are the following Russian consonants: front-line /tʲ/, /dʲ/; affricates /c/, /čʲ/; sizzling front-line /š/, /šʲ/; back-lingual /kʲ/, /gʲ/, /gʲ/, /x/, /xʲ/; hard velarized /ɫ/ and soft, quivering sonant /rʲ/.

Since in the imitation of Russian syllables, the Thais are not aware of the consonants' contrast on the grounds of "hardness-softness" and "voiceless-voiced", special work is required to set soft sounds and develop skills for distinguishing sounds from voiceless-voiced, especially for such pairs of sounds as /b - p/, /d - t/, /f - v/ and /r - ɫ/.

It should be borne in mind that the presence in the Thai language of aspirated front-language and back-lingual consonants, bilabial [w] and pharyngeal [h] may interfere with the formation of phonetic skills in Russian.

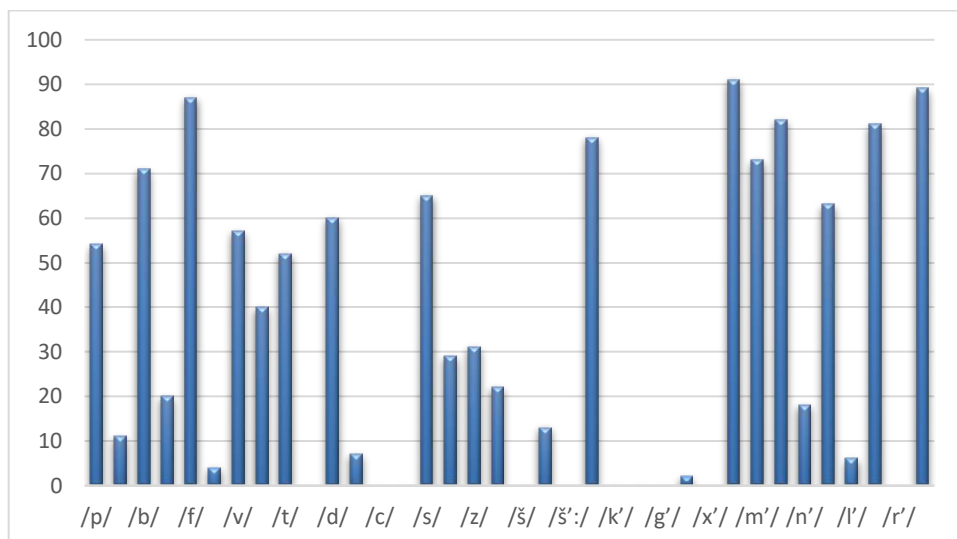


Fig. 1. Correct implementation of Russian consonants by Thai subjects (test of phonetic sensitivity, %).

Our experiment confirmed the idea that the source of phonetic errors in a foreign language can be a previously learned non-native language (in our case, English).

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