

## VIETNAMESE TONE IN CUA LO (NGHE AN).

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1. Statistics and information for this writing was collected in March 2000 in Nghi Thu, Nghi Thuy commune of Cua lo town. Before 1994, this area belonged to Nghi Loc district of Nghe an province. For all Vietnamese speakers, the dialect here is rather special among the dialects of the North central part of the country. Tone is one of some factors that makes their dialect so special.

In Nghi Thu commune, we listened to the voice of Mr. Le Van Cu - 74 years old of Dai Thong hamlet, Mr. Vo Duc Long - 49 years old and Mrs Vo Thi Yen - 30 years old of Hoa Dinh hamlet. These three people, in spite of living in different hamlets, are members of an old village of Nghi Thu commune - Thu Lung village. In Nghi Thuy commune, we listened to the voice of Mr Nguyen Thanh Trung - 41 years old and Mr Hoang Bao Thon - 72 years old of Yen Luong village. Mr Thon is the custodian of ancient Yen Luong temple. All these people are native ones who was born and grown up in this area.

Cua lo dialect mentioned here is a pure one in a larger Vietnamese dialect: the dialect of the North central part of the country. This larger dialect, consisting of a big area, from Quang Binh to Thanh Hoa, has been studied by many linguistics: many of Quang Binh dialects were studied by Cadiere (1902), Ferlus (1995, 1996), Vo Xuan Trang (1997), some of Nghe An's and Ha Tinh's were also researched from many points of view by Hoang Thi Chau (1989), Hoang Cao Cuong (1989), Felus (1991), Vo Xuan Que (1993) and recently by Nguyen Nha Ban (1999). Only few linguistics studied Thanh Hoa dialects. Among these studies, the tone of Yen Luong village was researched by Mrs Hoang Thi Chau whereas the tone of Thu Lung village has never touched yet.

2. There's no problem with the use of Latin character - called national language - in Cua Lo dialect. Therefore, to make it more convenient, in this writing, we use this character. In this dialect, most of the initial letter of the words can still be distinguished from each other, except for *th*, *ph* and *kh*

which have become fricative. Final sounds and vowels are similar to those in Vietnamese. As pointed by M.Furles,1991, the long sound of «« and oo seems not to be maintained here. Currently, the Vietnamese standard has a 6-tone system at the final voiced sound (consonant, semi-vowel and nasal tone) and two tones at the syllables of which the final sounds are voiceless. According to Doan Thien Thuat's discription (1977) this system can be performed as in the following presentation of W.Gedney(1964):

	A	B	C	DL/DS
1	a [33]	á [35]	ã [212]	át/ất [35]
2	à [21]	ạ [21']	ả [325]	ạt/ật [21']

However, Dao Thien Thuat also pointed out that in earlier time, it used to be a high rising tone, so this system must be as follows:

	A	B	C	DL/DS
1	ngang [33]	sắc[35]	hỏi[325]	sắc[35]
2	huyền[21]	nặng[21']	ngã[212]	nặng[21']

Here tones in the first line are high-rising tones and those in the second line are low-rising tones.

3.From the three Vietnamese speakers in Thu lung village of Nghi Thu commune, we can make a tone system like this:

	A	B	C	DL/DS
1	a [33]	á [55']	ả [45']	á [35]
2	à [45]	ạ [31]	ã [31]	ạ [31]

A1, B1, B2, C2, DL/DS1 and DL/DS2 have no difference when pronouncing whereas A2 and C1 have some certain variations. Mrs Vo Thi Yen's pronunciation shows that A2 according to A2 value is clearer, whereas Mr Le Van Cu's and Mr Vo Duc Long's pronunciation are A2 [45]. For example:

	<u>C1</u>			<u>VN</u>
trời	A2[44]	trời	A2[45]	trời
nha	A2[44]	nha	A2[45]	nhà
rông	A2[44]	rông	A2[45]	rông
mười	A2[44]	mười	A2[45]	mười
chieu	A2[44]	chieu	A2[45]	chiều
chay	A2[44]	chay	A2[45]	chày

In the case of word *cà*, all three pronouncer presents tone *ca* A2 [ 45] clearly.

There is no different in the case of tone C1. In this case, while both Le Van Cu and Vo Duc Long is prone to pronounce C1, Vo Thi Yen pronounce lower and nearly don't have glottalisation going after C1. Therefore, this tone is to be considered similar to acute accent in origin Vietnamese.

moi	C1[435]	moi	C1[45']	mỏi
co	C1[435]	co	C1[45']	cỏ
bay	C1[435]	bay	C1[45']	bảy
mưa	C1[435]	mưa	C1[45']	mửa
tan	C1[435]	tan	C1[45']	tản (ra)

4. In Yen Luong village, through 2 pronouncer, we identify a tone system following:

	A	B	C	DL/DS
1	a[33]	á[25]	ả[345]	át/ăt[25]
2	à[43]	ạ[32]	ã[32]	at/ăt[32]

In general, there is no different in pronounce two tone B2 and C2, but sometimes tone C2 is found different in some specific word such as: *gãi- gai* C2 [ 33] *rễ- rê* C2 [33].

Previously, Hoang Thi Chau ( 1989; 206) thought that Yen Luong dialect has only 4 accent. In that A2,B2 and C2 is pronounced the same as B2. As we can find in the diagram, the tune line of A2 is similar to the B2 but the different is that: the departure of B2 is lower than that of A2 and so that the

destination. It's very difficult to find this delicate difference even native speaker. For example:

<u>CL</u>		VN
(cai B1[25] )	chay A2 [43]	(cái) chày
chay B2 [32]		chạy
mười A2 [43]		mười
muôi B2 [32]	(đen A2 [43] )	muội (đen)
rông A2[43]		rông
rộng B2 [32]		rộng

5. Clearly, the tone diagram of vietnamese in Cua lo is not only different to vietnamese origin but also various in this region. The fact that why local people can not distinguish acute accent from grave accent, acute accent from falling accent has it's own reason. But despite this difference, both two surveied dialects are 5 tone Vietnamese dialect, in which drop tone is a combination of drop tone and rising accent. And all the others are various eventhough this discrimination is differ from that in Vietnamses language.

In the tone case, two CL Vietnamese dialects show us a very interesting instance of contract phenomenon. Thu lung village is not far from Yen luong village and both two villages are located in right bank of Cua lo river ( Lach lo in dialect). But the tone in two villages is various, especially the departure and destination. This difference is not caused by consecutive historical changes but it is due to the concentration of various original residents. It helps us to have a prediction about a community of various original vietnamese villages in this small area.

We can find that Cl tone system is very similar to Muong 5 tone dialect such as Muong Khoi, Thanh Hoa, Muong Tan Phong, Son la even with Nguon Boc Tho, Quang Binh ( M. Ferlus, 1996: 4-5) when it is compared with another tone mode of Viet Muong group. This correlation in Thu Lung tone system and Muong khoi Thanh Hoa system is quite clear. It is possible that Vietnamses language in this region is used to be similar to native Muong language after the Viet- Muong block is divided into Vietnamses language and Muong language. Then these native dialects are coordinated with Northen Vietnamese language to become current Vietnamese language. And if it is proved, the foundation of Vietnamese dialects is a symbolic instance of language contact.

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