Tones Worldwide

A typological questionnaire

### General Information on the language

**Language name**: Thai

**Genetic affiliation**: Southwestern Tai<Tai< Kra–Dai

**Area**: Southeast Asia, Thailand

Please, put geographical information with detalization in the end of the Index.

AS (Asia), EU (Europe), AM (America), AO (Australia and Oceania).

N (North), E (East), W (West), S (South), C (Central),

H (Himalaya), A (Amazonia); +

e.g.: AM.C (America.Central America); EU.E (Europe.Eastern Europe)

**Language international code**: ISO 639-3: Tha

### 1.1. TYPE: Tonal language type

**TYPE INDEX**

**IIσ(5-P)+Nn[L] AccYes IntYes { fus0; prdg0; word 1.09, 1.66} AS.SEAS**

#### Coding

If the subject language has a traditional way of coding and classifying tonal distinctions, please, indicate correspondence of traditional way of writing to uniformed transcription[[1]](#footnote-1).

Thai (3 level tonal units: L, M, H; 2 contour units: F, R):

คา khā: ‘to stick’ kha:2

ข่า khà: ‘galangal’ kha:1

ข้า khâ: ‘slave’ kha:31

ค้า khá: ‘to trade’ kha:3

ขา khǎ: ‘leg’ kha:13

Traditional terms: Mid, Low. Falling, High, Rising.

***Comment 1****:*

#### 1.1.1. Type of tonal system

In this questionnaire we will distinguish between two broad classes of tonal systems: **level tone systems** and **counter tone systems**. If the language in question does not belong to any of these types, put “other” and describe the type of the language in comments.

In this section, please, indicate the predominant type of the tonal system.

* I ☐ Mainly level tonal units
* II ☐ Mainly contour tonal units
* III ☐ Other

Please in the section **TYPE INDEX** mark the corresponding Latin numbers (I, II or III).

The option III “Other” is provided for so called “register languages” and other types which do not clearly belong to the first two classes.

[***Comment 2****:*](#_Comment_2.)

#### 1.1.2 Tone bearing unit

What is the tone bearing unit in the subject language?

* μ ☐ [Mora](#_11_Types_of)
* σ ☐ [Syllable](#_9_Types_of)
* π ☐ [Foot](#_10_Types_of) (Pes)

Please in the section **TYPE INDEX** mark the corresponding letter, e.g. Iσ.

***Comment 3****:*

## 2. Characteristic of language

Non tonal characteristics of the language are put in the Index in {braces}.

##### 2.1. Level of fusion

* ☐ 0 Absent
* ☐ 1 Low
* ☐ 2 Medium
* ☐ 3 High

Fusion of morphemes is a change in their phonemic composition. In this section, please, indicate the degree of fusion in the subject language. Describe the level of fusion as follows, **absent**, **low**, **medium** (fusion happens in some cases) or **high** (fusion is typical for morpheme boundaries).

In the section **TYPE INDEX** mark in braces the corresponding level of fusion **{fus1}**.

If the subject language completely lacks inflexional and/or derivational affixes, put **fus0.**

[***Comment 4****:*](#_Comment_4.)

##### 2.2. Existence of segmental paradigmatic classes

* ☐ 0 Absent
* ☐ 1 Low
* ☐ 2 Medium
* ☐ 3 High

##### Segmental paradigmatic classes are groups of lexemes whose paradigms differ at the segmental level, and this segmental difference is not phonetically or morpho-phonologically conditioned, i.e., it is unpredictable. If it is always determined by the context (as in many Turkic languages), please, in braces mark **prdg0**. If it is always necessary to know the paradigmatic class of the lexeme in question (as in Russian), mark **prdg3**.

In the section **TYPE INDEX** mark in braces the corresponding level **{ fus1 prdg0}**.

[***Comment 5****:*](#_Comment_5.)

##### 2.3.Average number of syllables per word

☐ in text: feet 0,95; syllables 1,09

Please, count the number of syllables in a text containing 100 words. It should be a spontaneous narrative, if possible, without recent borrowings, personal and geographic names, preferably without new names for modern realities.

* ☐ in dictionary: feet 1,31; syllables 1,66.

Please, count the number of syllables 100 words in a dictionary of the subject language in a row starting with a letter neutral concerning the distribution of parts of speech. If the beginning of a word is sensitive to word-class distribution (e.g. in Yoruba, almost all nouns have a vowel in anlaut and verbs begin with a consonant), apply a procedure that would allow making a sample in which words of different classes would be represented.

***Comment 6****:*

## 3 Specific features of languages of type I (languages with level tones)

If the language in question belongs to type II, skip this section. If the language is marked as “**other**” (type III) and the number of level tones is more than two, please, note it in this section.

3.1. Number of tonal levels

☐ 1

☐ 2

☐ 3

☐ 4

☐ 5

☐ 6

Please, put the corresponding number (in brackets) into the section **TYPE INDEX** after the indication of the language type, e.g. Iσ**(3).**

***Comment 7.***

3.2. Number of modulated tones: put the figure.

* ☐

If the language has no modulated tones, skip this question.

***Comment 8****.*

3.2.1. Structure of modulated tones

Please, list all possible types of modulated tonal units, and their proposed term:

e. g. HL (high – low), proposed term F (falling).

If the language has no modulated tones, skip this question.

***Comment* *9.***

## 4 Specific features of the languages of the type II (languages with contour tones)

##### 4.1. Number of tonemes (tonal units)

* ☐ 5

Please, put the corresponding number (in brackets) into the section **TYPE INDEX** after the indication of the language type, e.g. II**(6)**.

[***Comment 10****.*](#_Comment_10.)

## 5 Tone unit structure

Please, list all functional tonal units of the subject language

L (v1), M (v2), H (v3), R (v13), F (v31)

[***Comment 11****.*](#_Comment_11.)

##### Tone unit structure

List suprasegment features are relevant for tone units representation (present in one)

* P ☐ modulation of pitch
* F ☐ phonation
* L ☐ length
* I ☐ interrumption
* O ☐ other

In the section **TYPE INDEX**, please, put the corresponding Capital letters (in brackets after the number of tonal units, dividing these numbers with n-dash) e.g. II(6–**PFI**).

##### 5.1. Phonations. Types of phonations

If the language has no relevant phonation contrast, skip this section.

Name phonations characteristic for the subject language

* λ ☐ Laryngealisation (Creaky voice)
* φ ☐ Pharyngealisation (Breathy voice)
* α ☐ Other

[***Comment 12****.*](#_Comment_11.)

##### 5.1.1. Autonomity of phonations

Are phonations autonomous or an integral part of the tonal unit?

[***Comment 13****.*](#_Comment_11.)

##### 5.2. Tonal sandhi

List variants of changes depending on tonal context.

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### 6 Additional features of tonal system

Are the following phenomena characteristic for the subject language?

* Dd ☐ Downdrift
* Ds ☐ Downstep
* Up ☐ Upstep
* Ft ☐ Floating tone

Nn ☐ Nothing of the above

In the section **TYPE INDEX,** please, put the corresponding letters with the sign +Xx into the section “Type” after brackets, e.g. Iσ5(3**)+Dd**

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### 6.2. Tonal behavior specific for certain classes of words

Do words of different word classes (e.g. nouns, verbs, pronouns) have different tonal behavior in the subject language?

* ☐ Yes:
* ☐ No

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##### 6.3. Tonal paradigmatic classes

Are tonal paradigmatic classes characteristic for the subject language?

* ☐ Yes:
* ☐ No

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## **7 Functions of tone**

Please, mark the functions of tonal units in the subject language:

* L ☐ Lexical
* D ☐ Derivational
* X ☐ Morphosyntactic
* O ☐ Other

In the section **TYPE INDEX,** please, put the corresponding capital letters (it can be more than one) in square brackets e.g. Iσ5(3)+Dd **[LX]**

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### 8 Other suprasegementals

##### 8.1. Word accent

##### Does word accent exists in the subject language?

* ☐ Yes
* ☐ No

In the section **TYPE INDEX,** please, put the corresponding information after square brackets,

e.g. Iσ5(3)+Dd [LX] **AccNo**

[***Comment 19****.*](file:///D:\FOX\TONES\Ankety\Anketa_clean.docx#_Comment_11.)

##### 8.1.1. If word accent exists, is there any correlation between accent and tone?

* ☐ Yes
* ☐ No

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Accent affects tone, but there is no established correlation

##### 8.2. Phrase intonation

##### Does phrase intonation exists in the subject language?

* ☐ Yes
* ☐ No

In the section **TYPE INDEX,** please, put the corresponding information after the information about the accent, e.g. Iσ5(3)+Dd [LX] AccNo **IntNo**

[***Comment 21****.*](file:///D:\FOX\TONES\Ankety\Anketa_clean.docx#_Comment_11.)

## **9 Additional information, comments**

Please add any remaining comments below.

[***Comment 22****.*](file:///D:\FOX\TONES\Ankety\Anketa_clean.docx#_Comment_11.)

## **10. Sources**

Put here the list of sources used (books, articles, databases, field materials, etc)

1. Uniformed transcription of our Project assumes the designation of tonal units with numbers. For level systems: 1 - the lowest level, then, depending on the number of levels: 2, 3, 4, 5. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)