

Alif Silpachai

Curriculum Vitæ

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Contact
Information

Email: alif.silpachai(at)ru(dot)nl

Research interests

- Consonant-induced pitch perturbations (also known as CF₀, F₀ at vowel onset, pitch skip, or onset f_0 perturbations, among others)
- Domain-initial strengthening (DIS)
- High stimulus variability
- Pronunciation training

Education

2016-2021

Iowa State University

Ph.D., Applied Linguistics and Technology

- Dissertation: “Consonant-induced pitch perturbations, domain-initial strengthening, and word learning success in a tone language”
- Committee: John M. Levis (co-major professor), Evgeny Chukharev-Hudilainen (co-major professor), James Ranalli, Charles Nagle, and Horabail Venkatagiri

2014

University of Southern California

M.A., Linguistics

- Thesis: “The temporal organization between initial consonants and lexical tones”
- Committee: Khalil Iskarous (chair), Louis Goldstein, and Karen Jesney

2012

University of California, Los Angeles

B.A., Linguistics

- *cum laude*

2010

Santa Monica College

Certificate of Achievement, IGETC General Education

Professional experience

November

Position: Post Doc at the Faculty of Arts

2022-

Supervisors: Rob Schoonen (from January 2024), Amalia Arvaniti (up to

present

December 2023)

Institution: Radboud University

February 2022-
November 2022
Position (temporary): Research Coordinator for Evgeny Chukharev-Hudilainen
Institution: Iowa State University

Peer-reviewed articles

Silpachai, A., Neiriz, R., Novotny, M., Gutierrez-Osuna, R., Levis, J. M., & Chukharev-Hudilainen, E. (in press). Corrective feedback accuracy and pronunciation improvement: Feedback that is ‘good enough.’ *Language Learning & Technology*.

Silpachai, A. (2024). The boundary-induced modulation of obstruents and tones in Thai. *Journal of Phonetics*, 102, 101291.

Rehman, I., **Silpachai, A.**, Levis, J., Zhao, G., & Gutierrez-Osuna, R. (2020). The English pronunciation of Arabic speakers: A data-driven approach to segmental error identification. *Language Teaching Research*.

Silpachai, A. (2020). The role of talker variability in the perceptual learning of Mandarin tones by American English listeners. *Journal of Second Language Pronunciation*, 6(2), 209–235.

Ding, S., Liberatore, C., Sonsaat, S., Rehman, I., **Silpachai, A.**, Zhao, G., Chukharev-Hudilainen, E., Levis, J., & Gutierrez-Osuna, R. (2019). Golden speaker builder—An interactive tool for pronunciation training. *Speech Communication*, 115, 51-66.

Manuscript

Silpachai, A. (in revision). Consonant-induced pitch perturbations in different linguistic contexts in Thai.

Book chapter

Levis, J. M., & **Silpachai, A. O.** (2022). Speech intelligibility. In T. M. Derwing, M. J. Munro, & R. I. Thomson (Eds.), *The Routledge handbook of second language acquisition and speaking* (pp. 160-173). Routledge.

Reviews

Silpachai, A. (2018). Review of *Investigating English pronunciation: Trends and directions*. (Jose A. Mompean and Jonás Fouz-González, eds., 2015 Palgrave Macmillan). *The CATESOL journal*, 30(1), 312-316.

Silpachai, A. (2017). Accent reduction for professionals: How to eliminate your accent to sound more American (Review). In M. O’Brien & J. Levis (Eds.). *Proceedings of the 8th Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching Conference*, ISSN 2380-9566, Calgary, AB, August 2016 (pp. 270-273). Ames, IA: Iowa State University.

Conference proceedings

Silpachai, A., Rehman, I., Barriuso, T. A., Levis, J., Chukharev-Hudilainen, E., Zhao, G., & Gutierrez-Osuna, R. (2021). Effects of voice type and task on L2 learners' awareness of pronunciation errors. *Interspeech* (Brno, Czech Republic).

Levis, J. M., & **Silpachai, A. O.** (2018). Prominence and information structure in pronunciation teaching materials. In *Proceedings of the 9th Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching conference, ISSN* (pp. 2380-9566).

Zhao, G., Sonsaat, S. **Silpachai, A.**, Lucic, I., Chukharev-Hudilainen, E., Levis, J., & Gutierrez-Osuna, R. (2018). L2 ARCTIC: A non-native English speech corpus. *Interspeech* (Hyderabad, India).

Silpachai, A. (2013, June). Prosodic characteristics of two focus types in emphatic context in Thai. In *Proceedings of Meetings on Acoustics ICA2013* (Vol. 19, No. 1, p. 060209).

Publicly available research products

Ding, S., Liberatore, C., Zhao, G., Sonsaat, S., **Silpachai, A.**, Lučić, I. Chukharev-Hudilainen, E., Levis, J., & Gutierrez-Osuna, R. (2020). *Golden Speaker Builder: Accent conversion for pronunciation training*. <http://goldenspeaker.engl.iastate.edu/>

Zhao, G., Sonsaat, S., **Silpachai, A.**, Lučić, I. Chukharev-Hudilainen, E., Levis, J., & Gutierrez-Osuna, R. (2018). *L2-Arctic: A nonnative English speech corpus*. <https://psi.engr.tamu.edu/l2-arctic-corpus/>

Selected conference presentations

Silpachai, A., Hu, N., & Arvaniti, A. (2023, November 18–20). *Individual variability in the production of consonant-induced pitch perturbations at vowel onset in Thai* [Oral presentation]. The Second International Conference on Tone and Intonation, Singapore.

Silpachai, A. (2023, June 1–4). *Pitch perturbations at vowel onset in different linguistic contexts in Thai* [Poster session]. The Phonetics and Phonology in Europe 2023, Radboud University, Nijmegen, Gelderland, Netherlands.

Silpachai, A., Neiriz, R., Novotny, M., Gutierrez-Osuna, R., Levis, J., & Chukharev-Hudilainen, E. (2022, October 14–15). *The effect of corrective feedback accuracy on pronunciation improvement* [Oral presentation]. The 19th Annual Technology for Second Language Learning Conference, Iowa State University, Ames, IA, United States.

Silpachai, A. (2022, May 28–29). *How Americans talk* [Invited oral presentation]. The Thai-American Physicians Foundation Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV, United States.

- Silpachai, A.**, Neiriznaghadehi, R., Novotny, M., Gutierrez-Osuna, R., Levis, J. M., & Chukharev-Hudilainen, E. (2022, June 16–18). *Computer-assisted feedback accuracy and segmental pronunciation improvement* [Oral presentation]. The 13th Annual Conference of Pronunciation in Second Language Learning & Teaching, Brock University, St. Catharines, ON, Canada.
- Silpachai, A.**, Rehman, I., & Levis, J. (2020, December 7–11). *The durational modulation of repeated words in second language discourse by language experience* [Poster session]. The 179th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Acoustics Virtually Everywhere.
- Silpachai, A. (2020, December 7–11). *Prosodic structural and tonal contextual modulation of Voice Onset Time and consonant-induced fundamental frequency in the three-way laryngeal contrast in Thai* [Poster session]. The 179th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Acoustics Virtually Everywhere.
- Received an honorable mention in a student poster competition from the Speech Communication Technical Committee.
- Silpachai, A. (2019, December 2–6). *The roles of vowel length and sentential context in onset pitch perturbations in Thai* [Poster session]. The 178th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, San Diego, CA, United States.
- Silpachai, A. (2019, September 12–14). *The effects of high talker variability on the perceptual learning of Mandarin tones in HVPT* [Oral presentation]. The 11th Annual Conference of Pronunciation in Second Language Learning & Teaching, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ, United States.
- Barriuso, T. A., **Silpachai, A.**, Lučić Rehman, I., Zhao, G., Chukharev-Hudilainen, E., & Levis, J. M. (2019, September 12–14). *The effects of voice type on self-awareness of pronunciation errors* [Oral presentation]. The 11th Annual Conference of Pronunciation in Second Language Learning & Teaching, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ, United States.
- Lucic, I., **Silpachai, A.**, Levis, J., Zhao, G., & Gutierrez-Osuna, R. (2019, June 6–7). *Pronunciation errors - A systematic approach to diagnosis* [Poster session]. L2 Pronunciation Research Workshop: Bridging the Gap between Research and Practice, Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain.
- Levis, J., Gutierrez-Osuna, R., Chukharev-Hudilainen, E., Sonsaat, S., **Silpachai, A.**, & Lučić, I. (2018, September 6–8). *Golden speaker: Learner experience with computer-assisted pronunciation practice* [Oral presentation]. The 10th Annual Conference of Pronunciation in Second Language Learning & Teaching, Iowa State University, Ames, IA, United States.

- Silpachai, A.**, Chukharev-Hudilainen, E., Levis, J. M., Klepikova, T. A., & Mitchell, G. (2018, September 6–8). *The role of speaker identity in High Variability Phonetic Training* [Poster session]. The 10th Annual Conference of Pronunciation in Second Language Learning & Teaching, Iowa State University, Ames, IA, United States.
- Silpachai, A. (2018, May 7–11). *Using High Variability Phonetic Training to train non-tonal listeners with no musical background to perceive lexical tones* [Poster session]. The 175th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Minneapolis, MN, United States.
- Silpachai, A.** & Levis, J. (2017, September 1–2). *Prominence and information structure in pronunciation teaching materials* [Poster session]. The 9th Annual Conference of Pronunciation in Second Language Learning & Teaching, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, United States.
- Silpachai, A. (2017, September 1–2). *High Variability Phonetic Training and L2 lexical tones* [Poster session]. The 9th Annual Conference of Pronunciation in Second Language Learning & Teaching, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, United States.
- Chukharev-Hudilainen, E., Levis, J., Gutierrez-Osuna, R., Sonsaat, S., **Silpachai, A.**, Lucic, I., Zhou, Z., Ding, S., Liberatore, C., & Zhao, G. (2017, September 22–23). *Building hybrid pronunciation models for L2 pronunciation training* [Oral presentation]. The 17th Annual Technology for Second Language Learning Conference, Iowa State University, Ames, IA, United States.
- Silpachai, A. (2013, December 2–6). *The adaptation of tones in a language with registers: A case study of Thai loanwords in Mon* [Poster session]. The 166th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, San Francisco, CA, United States.
- Silpachai, A. (2013, June 2–7). *Prosodic characteristics of two focus types in emphatic context in Thai* [Poster session]. The 21st International Congress on Acoustics, Montreal, QC, Canada.
- Silpachai, A. (2012, October 22–26). *Prosodic characteristics of three sentence types in Thai* [Poster session]. The 164th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Kansas City, MO, United States.
- Silpachai, A. (2012, April 14). *Thai tones in English loanwords* [Oral presentation]. The Southern California Undergraduate Linguistics Conference, University of California, Los Angeles, CA, United States.

Honors and awards

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| 2020 | Acoustics Virtually Everywhere (Acoustical Society of America): An honorable mention in a student poster competition from the Speech Communication Technical Committee |
| 2019 | Acoustical Society of America, San Diego: Student transportation subsidy (\$120.00) |
| 2019 | ISU: ALT Small Grant Award (\$212.50) |

2016 ISU: Freda Huncke Endowment Graduate Teaching Fellowship
 2012-2013 USC: Frederick and Dorothy Quimby Memorial Scholarship
 2009 Santa Monica College: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society
 2009-2010 Santa Monica College: Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society

Research assistant experience

2020-2021 Research assistant to John M. Levis
 Project: Adaptive explicit and implicit feedback in second language pronunciation training
 Research funded by the National Science Foundation (2020)
 ISU, Applied Linguistics and Technology
 [Duties: Background research and preparing for data collection]

2017-2020 Research assistant to John M. Levis
 Project: Perception and production in second language: The roles of voice variability and familiarity
 Research funded by the National Science Foundation (2016)
 ISU, Applied Linguistics and Technology
 [Duties: Data collection and writing up studies]

2017-2020 Research assistant to John M. Levis
 Project: Developing golden speakers for second-language pronunciation training.
 Research funded by the National Science Foundation (2016)
 ISU, Applied Linguistics and Technology
 [Duties: Data collection and writing up studies]

2011 Research assistant to Marc Garellek
 Project: Thai glottalization
 UCLA, Department of Linguistics
 [Duties: Creating a wordlist for data collection and pilot study]

Teaching experience

Period 1 Instructor for LET-ETCENB111: British English Phonetics (seminar), RU
 2023 Note: This course corresponds to LET-ETCENB111, British English Phonetics (lecture), taught by Prof. Amalia Arvaniti

Periods 3–4 Instructor for LET-ETCENB200: Academic Communication Skills British
 2023 English, RU

Fall 2021 Instructor for ENGL 250: Written, Oral, Visual, and Electronic Composition, ISU
 [Student evaluations available upon request]

Spring 2021 Instructor for LING 371: Phonetics and Phonology, ISU
 [Student evaluations available upon request]

- Fall 2020 Instructor for LING 150: Critical Thinking and Communication (online section), ISU
[Student evaluations available upon request]
- Spring 2020 Instructor for LING 219: Introduction to Linguistics (linguistics section), ISU
[Student evaluations available upon request]
- Fall 2019 Instructor for ENGL 150: Critical Thinking and Communication, ISU
[Student evaluations available upon request]
- Fall 2018 Instructor for ENGL 250: Written, Oral, Visual, and Electronic Composition, ISU
[Student evaluations available upon request]
- Spring 2018 Teaching assistant for LING 219: Introduction to Linguistics, ISU
Instructor: Prof. Evgeny Chukharev-Hudilainen, ISU Applied Linguistics and Technology
Responsibilities: Weekly discussion sections and grading.
- Fall 2017 Instructor for ENGL 99S: Strategies for Nonnative Speakers of English: Academic Speaking and Pronunciation, ISU
[Student evaluations available upon request]
- Spring 2017 Instructor for ENGL 250: Written, Oral, Visual, and Electronic Composition, ISU
[Student evaluations available upon request]
- Fall 2016 Instructor for ENGL 150: Critical Thinking and Communication, ISU
[Student evaluations available upon request]
- Fall 2014 (two sections) Teaching assistant for LING 115: Language, Culture, and Society, USC
Instructor: Prof. Andrew Simpson, USC Linguistics
Responsibilities: Weekly discussion section, grading, and weekly office hours.
[Student evaluations available upon request]
- Spring 2014 (two sections) Teaching assistant for LING 115: Language, Culture, and Society, USC
Instructor: Prof. Sandra Disner, USC Linguistics
Responsibilities: Weekly discussion section, grading, and weekly office hours.
[Student evaluations available upon request]
- Fall 2013 (two sections) Teaching assistant for LING 115: Language, Culture, and Society, USC
Instructor: Prof. Andrew Simpson, USC Linguistics
Responsibilities: Weekly discussion section, grading, and weekly office hours.
[Student evaluations available upon request]

Supervisory experience

- 2023 Supervisor of a student writing an BA thesis, RU

Article reviewing

2020-2021, *Language Learning & Technology*
2023
2020 *Heliyon*
2017-2021 *Journal of Second Language Pronunciation*

Other membership and service

Aug 2023 Reviewer of abstracts, the Second International Conference on Tone and Intonation, Singapore
Apr 2023 Member of a PhD committee for Lotte Eijk
Feb 2023 Crash reviewer of an abstract, the Phonetics and Phonology in Europe 2023, Radboud University, Nijmegen, Gelderland, Netherlands
Fall 2021 Co-coordinator (co-leader), Pronunciation Group (PROG), ISU
2021 English-Lao volunteer interpreter, Casa Cornelia Law Center, San Diego, CA
2021 Organizing committee member, the 12th Annual Conference of Pronunciation in Second Language Learning & Teaching, Brock University
Spring 2021 Coordinator (leader), Pronunciation Group (PROG), ISU
2018 Organizing committee member, the 10th Annual Conference of Pronunciation in Second Language Learning & Teaching, ISU
2017 Consultant for adding Pali Lao characters in the Unicode Standard, in Rajan, V., Mitchell, B., Jansche, M., & Brawer, S. *Revised Proposal to Encode Lao Characters for Pali*.
2017-2018 Organizer, Pronunciation Group (PROG), ISU
Fall 2014 Substitute for Student Representative for Speech Communication (Rachael Gilbert), Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Indianapolis, IN
2014 Colloquium Coordinator, Graduate Students in Linguistics, USC
2014, 2019-2020 Member, Linguistic Society of America
2014, 2017-2021 Student member, Acoustical Society of America
2013-2014 Event Coordinator, Graduate Students in Linguistics, USC
Spring 2010 Associated Students Representative, Alpha Gamma Sigma, Santa Monica College
Fall 2009 Historian, Alpha Gamma Sigma, Santa Monica College

Linguistic fieldwork

Summer Thai
2019
Summer Mon
2013

Language experience

Native or native-like English, Thai
Fluent Lao
Advanced Northern Thai, Spanish
Intermediate Shan
Beginner Catalan, Dutch, French

Programming

R, Praat scripting, XHTML/CSS, MATLAB, and JavaScript

Script reading and writing knowledge (besides Latin)

Thai, Lao, Shan, Northern Thai (Tai Tham), Tai Dam, Tai Le, New Tai Lue, and Khmer