### Pronunciation Features of Hong Kong English (Cantonese speakers)

#### Vowels and Diphthongs

1. Absence of contrasts between long and short vowels
   e.g. ‘bead’ (/bɪd/) → ‘bid’ (/bɪd/) or vice versa

2. Absence of contrast between /æ/and/e/
   e.g. ‘bad’ (/bæd/) → ‘bed’ (/bed/) or vice versa

3. Shorting the diphthongs
   e.g. ‘name’ (/næm/) → ‘nem’ (/nem/)

4. Absence of reduced vowel in unstressed syllables
   e.g. ‘absorb’ (/əbəzəb/) → /əbzəb/

#### Consonants

5. Substituting /z/ for /θ/
   e.g. ‘this’ (/θɪs/) → ‘zis’ (/zis/)

6. Substituting /d/ for /ð/
   e.g. ‘those’ (/ðəʊz/) → ‘dose’ (/dəʊz/)

7. Substituting /f/ for /v/
   e.g. ‘thanks’ (/væŋks/) → ‘fanks’ (/fæŋks/)

8. Substituting /t/ for /θ/
   e.g. ‘thin’ (/θɪn/) → ‘tin’ (/tn/)

9. Substituting /s/ for /θ/
   e.g. ‘think’ (/θɪŋk/) → ‘sink’ (/sɪŋk/)

10. Absence of contrast between /l/ and /n/
    e.g. ‘light’ (/laɪt/) → ‘night’ (/naɪt/) or vice versa

11. Absence of contrasts between voiced and voiceless sounds
    e.g. ‘seal’ (/siːl/) → ‘zeal’ (/ziːl/) or vice versa

12. Deletion of final /l/
    e.g. fool (/fuːl/) → ‘foo’ (/fuː/) (with reduction)

13. L-vocalization
    L-vocalization refers to the realization of /l/ as vowels like /u/ when it is preceded by a back vowel.
    e.g. ‘fool’ (/fuːl/) → ‘foo-o’ (/fuː/) (with rounding)

14. Substituting /l/ for /r/
    e.g. ‘right’ (/raɪt/) → ‘light’ (/laɪt/)

15. Substituting /w/ for /r/
    e.g. ‘rice’ (/raɪs/) → ‘wise’ (/waɪs/)

16. Substituting /l/ for /v/
    e.g. ‘even’ (/iːvn/) → ‘efen’ (/iːfn/)

17. Substituting /w/ for /v/
    e.g. ‘vine’ (/vaɪn/) → ‘wine’ (/waɪn/)

18. /tr/ and /tw/ clusters are pronounced as /tfw/
    e.g. ‘trim’ (/trɪm/) → ‘chwim’ (/tfwɪm/)
e.g. ‘twin’(/twin/)→ ‘chwin’(/tʃwn/)

19. Substituting/s/ for/f/
e.g. ‘she’(/ʃw/)→ ‘see’ (/sɪ/)

**Syllable structure change**

20. Insertion of consonant /t/ or /s/ at the end
e.g. ‘option’→ ‘options’ (/ɒpˈʃəns/)

21. Insertion of vowel /iː/ at the end of the words
e.g. ‘miss’→ ‘missi’ (/mɪsɪ/), ‘tips’→ ‘tipsi’ (/tɪpsɪ/)

22. Insertion of vowel /ə/ in consonant clusters
e.g. ‘place’→ ‘palace’ (/pəˈleɪs/)

23. Omission of final consonant (new)
e.g. ‘help’ /hel/ → ‘hell’/hel/

**Suprasegmental features**

24. Inappropriate word stress.
e.g. HAMburger (/hæm bɜːɡər/)→ hamBURger (/hæmˈbɜːɡər/)

25. Inappropriate sentence stress---over-stressing the pronouns and determiners
e.g. I will tell you about MY summer holiday
   e.g. WE enjoyed THIS job very much

26. Syllable-timed rhythm(each syllable has equal duration)
e.g. English speaker: We can WAIT for the BUS
      HK speaker: WE CAN WAIT FOR THE BUS

27. Absence of linking
e.g. ‘a lot of’ is pronounced as ‘a-lot-of’ instead of ‘a-lo-tof’

28. Absence of elision
e.g. ‘next day’ is pronounced as /nekst deɪ/ instead of /nekst deɪ/

29. Absence of assimilation
e.g. ‘a fat[ə]boy’ is pronounced as ‘a-fat-boy’ (/ə-fæt ˈbəʊ/) instead of
   ‘a-fap-boy’ (/ə-fæp ˈbəʊ/)

30. Inappropriate pause
e.g. May I take /fɔːr ˈkoʊts, Mr and Mrs Mason? /

31. Inappropriate speech rate
e.g. Speech rate is too slow or too fast

32. Inappropriate intonation
e.g. Shall we go now? ↘ instead of Shall we go now? ↗
References


Some features are retrieved from :http://lc.ust.hk/~sac/advice/english/pronunciation/P7.htm