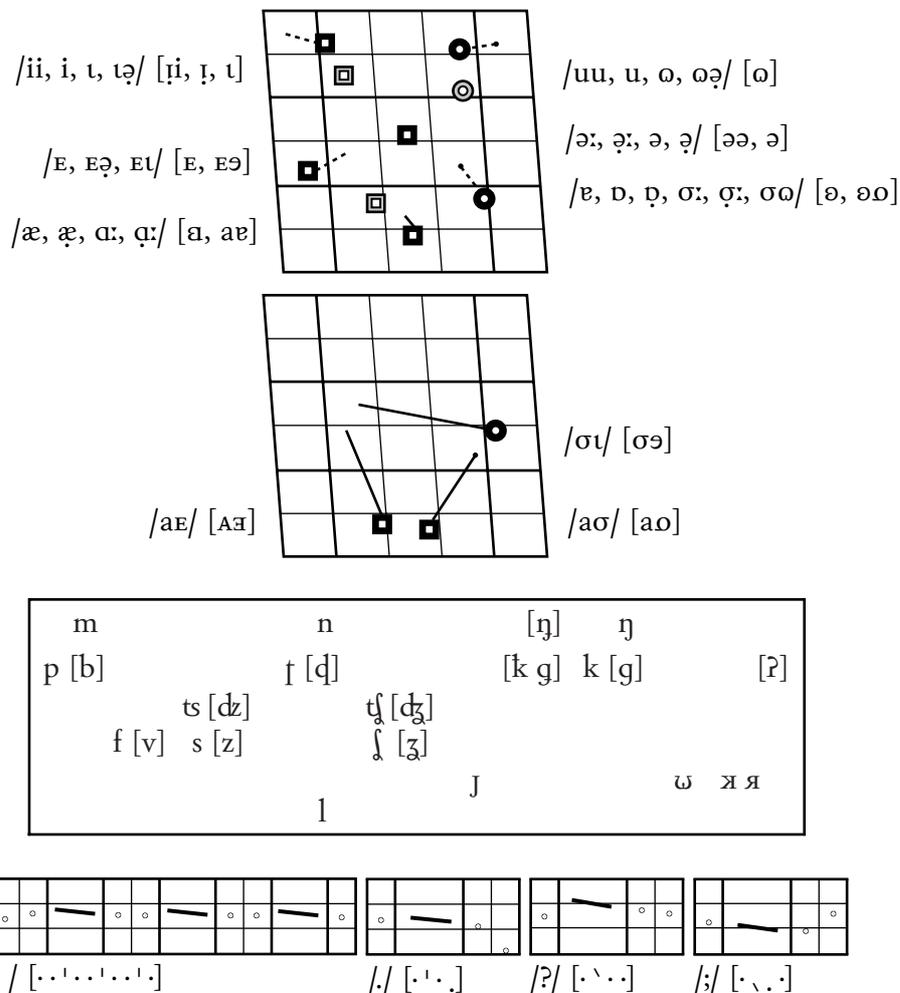


The Alaskan accent of English

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1. Many Native Alaskan Americans, fluent in English, happen to pronounce this language as shown in the phonopsis of fig 1, which represents a kind of average (or, perhaps, 'neutral') Alaskan (native) accent.

fig 1. Alaskan English.



2. The *vocograms* show the vowels and diphthongs, including a number of mergers of phonemes and diaphonemes, as can be seen. The segmental length of diphthongs and long or short vowels is rather unstable, and oscillating, even when fol-

lowed by voiceless consonants or unstressed syllables in a word.

All triphthongs may be either compressed into diphthongs, or changed into two syllables, separated by [j, w] as in: *player* [ˈpɹɹɪɛ(ɹ)ə], *towel* [ˈtʃɹɹə(ɹ)əl].

3. The *consonant* table includes the taxophones shown between square brackets. The voiced variants generally occur between vowels, so that a clear distinction between English voiced and voiceless consonants is not guaranteed.

The prevelar [ŋ, k, g] occur in contact with front vowels. Before stressed vowels, beginning a syllable, [ʔ] is usually inserted. Let us notice, in particular: /θ, ð/ [ts, dz], and /h/ [x] (milder [h]), or /ɹ/ [ɹ] (milder [ɹ]), /ɹ/ [θ], 'zero').

4. The fundamental *intonation* patterns are shown in the tonograms.

5. Non-native Alaskans, who simply moved there or their sons, of course have different accents, reflecting their origins.