

Luxembourgish English pronunciation: first forays

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Mapping English in Luxembourg: an interdisciplinary conference. Luxembourg, 9-10 June 2017

Who is a speaker of
Luxembourgish English?

Luxembourgish not first language + do not speak it



Luxembourgish first language



Luxembourgish not first language but
born in Luxembourg
started speaking Luxembourgish in kindergarten
daily user of Luxembourgish



Who are we studying here?

Luxembourgish first language

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What are we studying?

Sounds in isolation (phoneme realizations)

Stress and rhythm

Intonation

Connected speech phenomena (e.g. weak forms)

Sounds in isolation (phoneme realizations)

Compared to British non-regional pronunciation (Collins & Mees 2013)

What are we finding? Consonants

Luxembourgish vs English consonants

CONSONANTS (PULMONIC)

© 2005 IPA

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Post alveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Plosive	p b			t d		ʈ ɖ	c ɟ	k ɡ	q ɢ		ʔ
Nasal	m	ɱ		n		ɳ	ɲ	ŋ	ɴ		
Trill	ʙ			r					ʀ		
Tap or Flap		ⱱ		ɾ		ɽ					
Fricative	ɸ β	f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ	ʂ ʐ	ç ʝ	x ɣ	χ ʁ	ħ ʕ	h ɦ
Lateral fricative				ɬ ɮ							
Approximant		ʋ		ɹ		ɻ	j	ɰ			
Lateral approximant				l		ɭ	ʎ	ʟ			

Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a voiced consonant. Shaded areas denote articulations judged impossible.

English
Luxembourgish

ç ʒ Alveolo-palatal fricatives

ʋ Voiced labial-velar approximant

Judith Manzoni 2017, adapted from Gilles & Trouvain 2013

/θ/ - /ð/

<th>: /θ/ (e.g. North) and /ð/ (e.g. that) → [t] and [d]

that, them, the



/r/

Inconsistent rhoticity (omission of /r/)

e.g. North /nɔ:θ/ vs hard /hɑ:rd/

Deviant /r/ pronunciation as labiodental [ʋ]

Really, strong, French, very 

Word-final 'devoicing'

/z/ /v/ → [s] [f]

/b/ /d/ /g/ → [p] [t] [k]

/dʒ/ → [tʃ]

Native, word



Around, shined





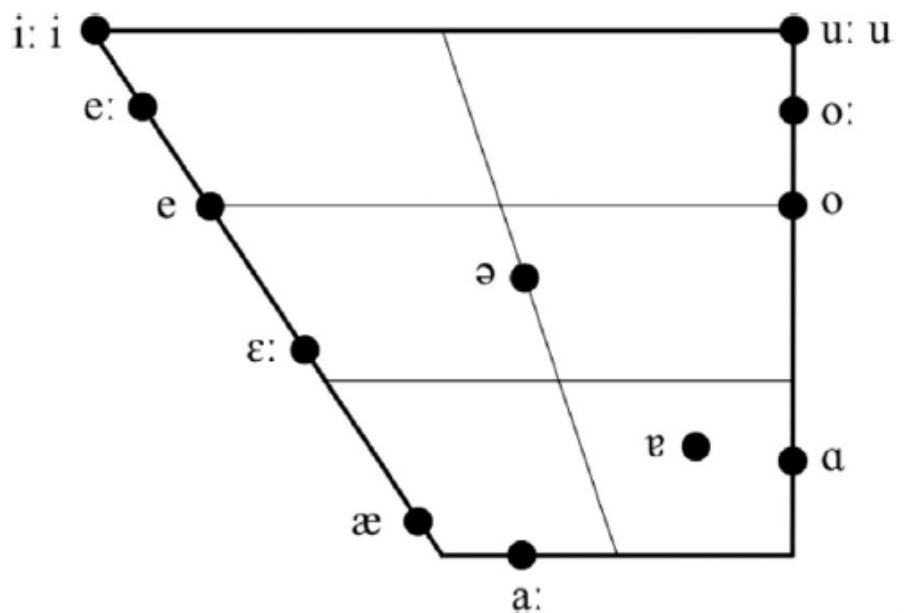
Clear [l] instead of dark [l]?

People

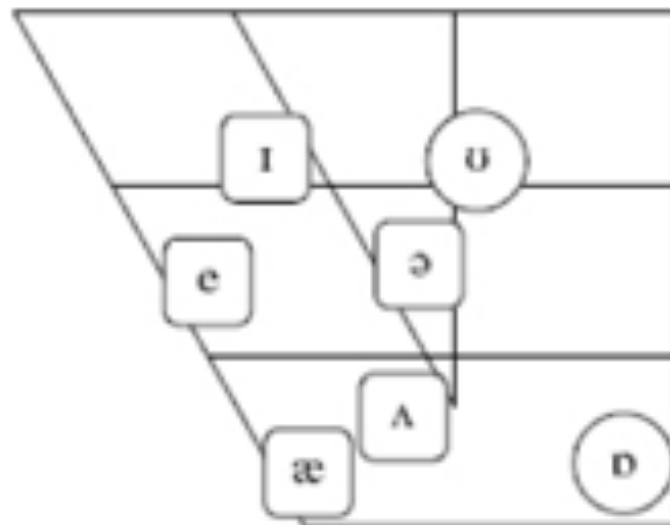


What are we finding?
Vowels

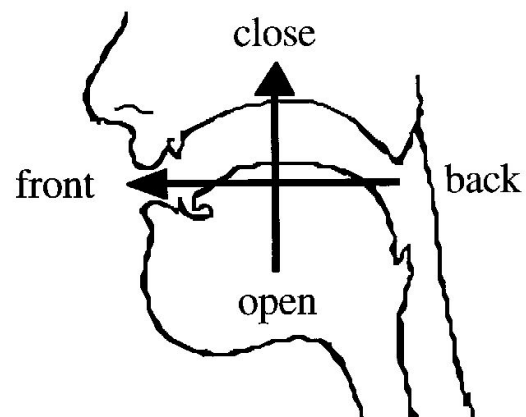
Luxembourgish vs English vowels



Gilles & Trouvain (2013)



Collins & Mees (2013)

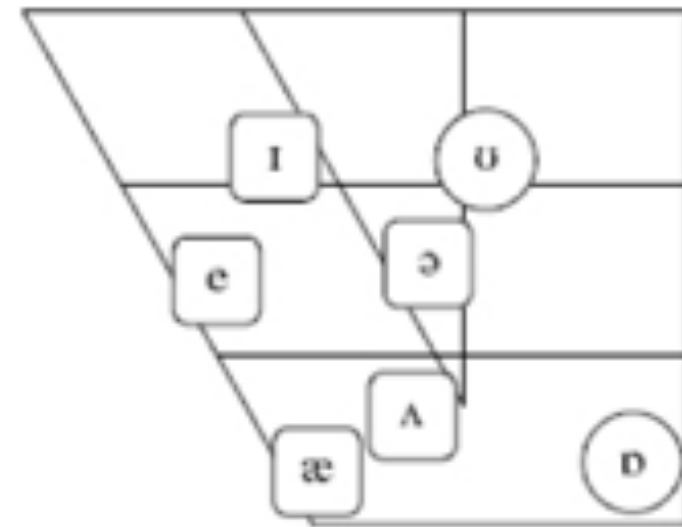


/e/ (dress) - /æ/ (trap)

Similar sounding

Mainly due to more open quality of /e/, resembling /æ/

Many, twelve  



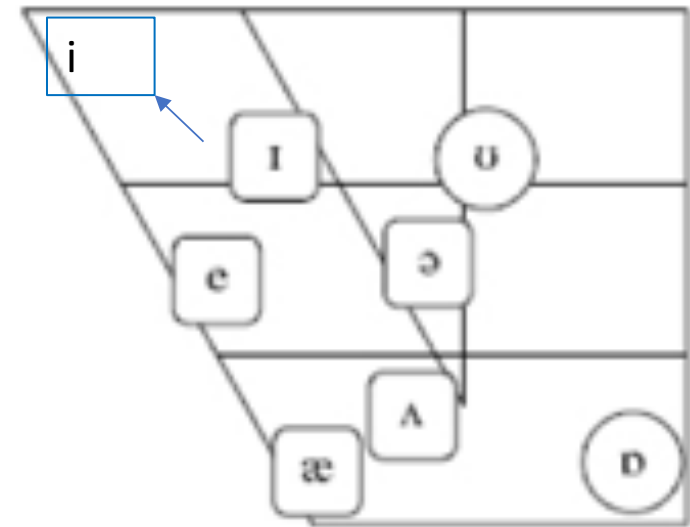
‘Confusion of crucial phonemic contrasts’

(Collins & Mees, 2013, p. 215)

/ɪ/ (kit) → [i]

/ɪ/ fronted and raised to [i] (Luxembourgish 'midd')


wind



/ɔ:/ (thought)

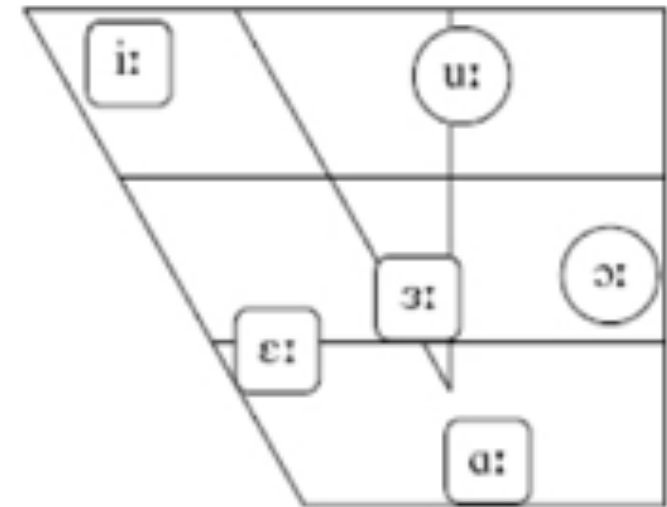
Centralized or no lip rounding (?), resembling /ɜ:/ (nurse) or /ʌ/ (strut)

Recording 

North 

BUT

Warm 



/aʊ/ (mouth)

More back, resembling Luxembourgish /ɑʊ/ ('raumen')

Around



Shortened vowels

Final devoicing of consonants preceded by shortened vowels

Native 

Words 

Gave 

Limitations and complications

Sample

Auditory analysis

Yardstick for comparison

Common non-native speaker issues vs Luxembourgish English

Luxembourgish English

References

- Collins, B., & Mees, I. M. (2013). *Practical phonetics and phonology: a resource book for students*. Abingdon: Routledge.
- Ford, M., & Legon, P. (2003). *The how to be British collection*: Lee Gone Publications.
- Gilles, P., & Trouvain, J. (2013). Illustrations of the IPA: Luxembourgish. *Journal of the International Phonetic Association*, 43(1), 67-74.
- Manzoni, J. (2017). *Luxembourgish sound system*. Phonetics lecture, Université du Luxembourg, 25 May.