English in Southeast Asia: Phonetic Research on a Corpus (NIESCEA)

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The NIE Spoken Corpus of English in Asia (NIESCEA) is a formal spoken corpus of English in Asia built for phonetic and phonological research on Asian Englishes. The corpus consists of speech data collected using a carefully designed set of test materials and monologues for the systematic investigation of both the segmental and suprasegmental features of major varieties of English in Asia. Participants in the corpus include speakers from both Outer and Expanding circle countries in Asia, namely India in South Asia, China and Japan in East Asia, and Brunei, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam in Southeast Asia. Eighty participants (10 from each) aged between 18-35 years and who are undergraduates or graduates were recorded. The proposed special session presents studies using speech data from the NIESCEA corpus. It consists of studies investigating three varieties of English in Southeast Asia, namely Brunei English, Singapore English and Thai English. These studies consider some the phonetic features of these three varieties. Through these studies, we hope to provide an overview of salient phonetic features of both Outer Circle (Brunei and Singapore) and Expanding Circle (Thailand) countries in Southeast Asia.