

## Re: How close is Vietnamese to Mandarin or Cantonese?

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2005-05/msg00852.html>

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- *From:* "Peter T. Daniels" <[grammatim@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:grammatim@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 19 May 2005 17:37:45 GMT
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Lee Sau Dan wrote:

> ekkilu> The problem is that people tried to ascribe Greek origin  
> ekkilu> to this word, and many Chinese people even believed that  
> ekkilu> typhoon was imported from English into Chinese. That's the  
> ekkilu> silly part. Your -ng -> -n is answered as well in the  
> ekkilu> following:  
>  
> ekkilu> "The modern form of typhoon was influenced by a borrowing  
> ekkilu> from the Cantonese variety of Chinese, namely the word  
> ekkilu> taaifung, and respelled to make it look more like  
> ekkilu> Greek.  
>  
> Really? Why do they spell the Cantonese syllable [t'Oi] as "tai" or  
> "ty", rather than "toy"?

Are you not aware of dialects of English in which /tay/ is pronounced [tOj]?

> FYI, "typhoon" is [t'Oi22 fUN55] in Cantonese. So, if you think  
> "typhoon" came from Cantonese, you not only have to explain the  
> discrepancy in the final "n", but also the wrongly spelt diphthong in  
> the first syllable.

Can you point to any English word that ends with, or even contains, the sequence "oong" /uwN/?

—  
Peter T. Daniels [grammatim@xxxxxxx](mailto:grammatim@xxxxxxx)

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- *Follow-Ups:*
    - ◆ ***Re: How close is Vietnamese to Mandarin or Cantonese?***  
◇ *From:* Lee Sau Dan
    - ◆ ***Re: How close is Vietnamese to Mandarin or Cantonese?***  
◇ *From:* benlizross

Re: How close is Vietnamese to Mandarin or Cantonese?

- *References:*

- ◆ *Re: How close is Vietnamese to Mandarin or Cantonese?*

- ◇ *From:* ekkilu

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