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Choosing an Optimal Method to Teach Vietnamese Phonics

Tri C. Tran, Ph.D.
Tammie Tran, Ph.D.



Outline

- A brief introduction of the tonal language
 - Alphabet
 - Tones, diacritic marks, vowels, consonants
 - Structure of a word
- Three suggested methods for phonics instruction
- Pros and Cons for each of those three teaching strategies
- Further discussions and hands-on activities/exercises



Alphabet

- Alphabet
 - Tones
 - Vowels a, e
 - Diphthongs, triphthongs ao, iêu
 - Consonants, two and three consonant letters b, ph, gh, ngh



Tones

- High level tone
- High rising tone
- Low falling tone

Low rising tone

High rising glottalized tone

Low falling glottalized tone

- Dầu ngang/không dấu,
- Dầu sắc,
- Dầu huyền,
- Hỏi
- Dầu ngã
- Dầu nặng



Tones +



ø

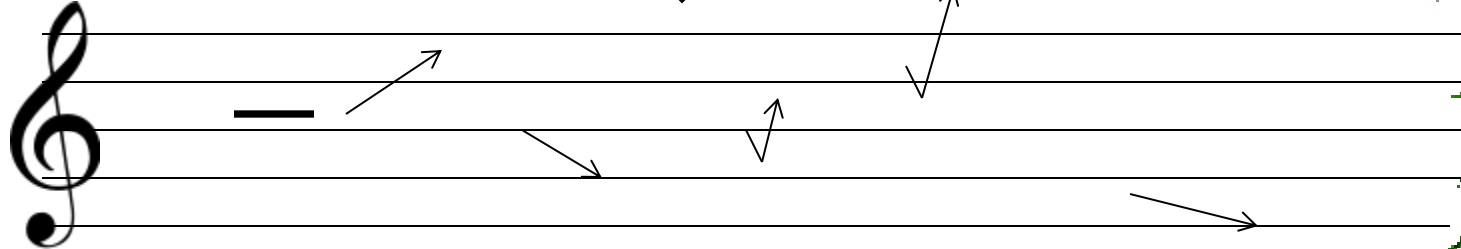
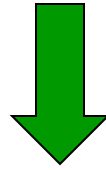
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˘

˙

˜

•



la, lá, là, lả, lã, lạ

Diacritic marks



ˇ

^

'

Ă

Â

Ơ

pho phơ phở



Vowels

a

e

i

o

u

(y)

ă

â

ê

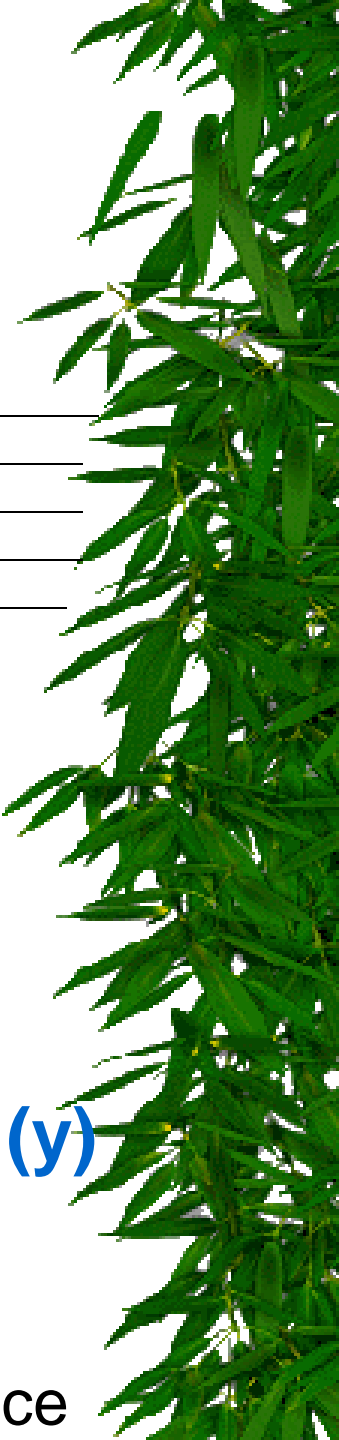
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ô

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Tones ---- a face



Alphabet

a	ă	â	b	c	d
đ	e	ê	g	h	i
k	l	m	n	o	ô
ơ	p	q	r	s	t
u	ư	v	x	y	
ă	â	ơ			
a	á	à	ả	ã	ạ



o ô ơ

Possible Problems

C K Q –

Similar sounds /kə/ /kwə/

Letters /se/ /ka/ /ku/

i and y –

short/long i ??? /i/

Letters /i/ [igrɛk]

khúc khuỷu; cát, các, cách; Nguyễn,
nguyệt ngoạc; tan, tang;



Structure of a Word

Structure of a word



Tone

■ Onset + secondary/vowel + vocalic nucleus/vowel + coda



Thanh

■ Ph âm đầu + ng âm (phụ) + ng âm (chính) + ph âm cuối

- Initial consonant, secondary part, final consonant: optional
- Tones and nucleus: major/required
- E.g. ng o a n ; h o ă c ; âm ; ở ; a ; ê (3 short words)

Discussion

■ Tones:

■ “tòa” / “toà”???

■ khỏe / khoẻ ???

■ Variation of sounds/spelling:

■ Tàu --→ Tào; mau --→ mao

■ Thầy --→ Thày

■ Sound change:

■ anh ấy --→ ảnh, cô ấy --→ cô



Teaching Strategies

METHOD 1

LETTER NAMING APPROACH

CONSONANTS

Letter	Name
B	[be]
C	[se]
D	[je]
Ð	[de]
G	[e]
H	[hat]
K	[ka]
L	[l]
M	[m]

CONSONANTS

Letter	Name
N	[n]
P	[pe]
Q	[ku]
R	[r]
S	[s]
T	[te]
V	[ve]
X	[iks]

METHOD 1

LETTER NAMING APPROACH

TONES		
Tone	Tone ID	Name
High-Level	A1	N/A
Low-Falling	A2	[hwjen ^{A2}]
High-Rising	B1	[□□k ^{B1}]
Low-Glottalized	B2	[n□□ ^{B2}]
Low-Rising	C1	[h□j ^{C1}]
High-Glottalized	C2	[□a ^{C1}]



METHOD 1

LETTER NAMING APPROACH

VOWELS	
Letter	Name
A	[a]
Ă	[a ^{A1}]
Â	[^{A1}]
E	[¹]
Ê	[e]
I	[i]

VOWELS	
Letter	Name
O	[¹]
Ô	[o]
Ō	[¹]
U	[u]
Ū	[¹]
Y	[i gr ¹ k]

METHOD 1

LETTER NAMING APPROACH

Procedure

Letter name + Letter name (+...) = Toneless word (+ Tone name)
= Toned word

Example

thuyền ‘boat’: [te] [hat] [u] [igr□k] [e] [□n□]
= [t^hwjen] + [hwjen/A2] = [t^hwjen/A2]



METHOD 1

PROS and CONS



- 👍 Helps students remember the spelling of the word.
- 👎 Does not indicate individual phonemes.
- 👎 Does not show that some consonants are represented by digraphs.
- 👎 Does not indicate diphthongs or triphthongs.
- 👎 Does not suggest how syllables are formed.



METHOD 2

PARTIAL PHONETIC APPROACH

CONSONANTS	
Letter	Consonant + []
B	[b]
C	[k]
CH	[t] []
D	[j]
Ð	[d]
G, GH	[g]
H	[h]
K	[k]
KH	[x]

CONSONANTS	
Letter	Consonant +[]
L	[l]
M	[m]
N	[n]
NG, NGH	[] []
NH	[] []
P	[p]
PH	[f]
QU	[kw]
R	[r]



METHOD 2

PARTIAL PHONETIC APPROACH

CONSONANTS	
Letter	Consonant + []
S	[] []
T	[t]
TH	[t ^h]
TR	[] []
V	[v]
X	[s]



METHOD 2

PARTIAL PHONETIC APPROACH

VOWELS	
Letter	Phonetic value
A	[a]
Ă	[a ^{A1}]
Â	[^{A1}]
E	[¹]
Ê	[e]
I	[i]

VOWELS	
Letter	Phonetic value
O	[¹]
Ô	[o]
Ơ	[¹]
U	[u]
Ư	[¹]
Y	[i]

METHOD 2

PARTIAL PHONETIC APPROACH

Procedure

Vowel sound (+ Vowel sound...) (+ Coda) = Syllable ;
(Onset) + Syllable = Toneless word (+ Tone name) = Toned word

Example

thuyền ‘boat’: [u] [i] [e] [n□] [wjen]; [t^h□] [wien] [t^hwjen] + [hwjen^{A2}]
= [t^hwjen^{A2}]



METHOD 2

PROS and CONS

- 👍 Indicates most phonemes phonetically.
- 👍 Forms syllables in the process.
- 👍 Teaches open syllables and closed syllables.
- 👎 Does not show all vowels phonetically.
- 👎 Does not show how diphthongs and triphthongs are formed.



METHOD 3

COMPLETE PHONETIC APPROACH

CONSONANTS	
Letter	Phonetic value
B	[b]
C	[k]
CH	[tʃ]
D	[j]
Ð	[d]
G, GH	[g]
GI-	[j]
H	[h]
K	[k]

CONSONANTS	
Letter	Phonetic value
KH	[x]
L	[l]
M	[m]
N	[n]
NG, NGH	[ŋ]
NH	[ɲ]
P	[p]
PH	[f]
Q	[k]



METHOD 3

COMPLETE PHONETIC APPROACH

CONSONANTS	
Letter	Phonetic value
R	[r]
S	[□]
T	[t]
TH	[t ^h]
TR	[□]
V	[v]
X	[s]



METHOD 3

COMPLETE PHONETIC APPROACH

VOWELS	
Letter	Phonetic value
A	[a]
Ă	[□]
Â	[□]
E	[□]
Ê	[e]
I	[i]

VOWELS	
Letter	Phonetic value
O	[□]
Ô	[o]
Ơ	[□]
U	[u]
Ư	[□]
Y	[i]



METHOD 3

COMPLETE PHONETIC APPROACH

DIPHTHONG	
Letter	Phonetic value
AI	[aj]
AO	[aw]
AU	[ɔw]
AY	[ɔi]
ÂU	[ow]
ÂY	[ej]
EO	[ɔw]
ÊU	[ew]
IA	[iɔ]
IA	[ja]
IU	[iw]
OA	[wa]
OE	[wɔ]

DIPHTHONG	
Letter	Phonetic value
OI	[ɔi]
ÔI	[oj]
ƠI	[ɔj]
UA	[wa]
UA	[uɔ]
UI	[uj]
UI	[wi]
UY	[wi]
UÊ	[we]
Uơ	[wɔ]
ƯA	[ɔɔ]
ƯI	[ɔj]
ƯU	[ɔw]



METHOD 3

COMPLETE PHONETIC APPROACH

DIPHTHONG

Letter	Phonetic value
ƯƠ	[□ □]
IÊ	[je]
OĂ/UĂ	[w □]
UÔ	[wo]

TRIPHTHONG

Letter	Phonetic value
IÊU/YÊU	[jew]
OAI/UAI	[waj]
OAY/UAY	[w □ j]
OEO/UEO	[w □ w]
UYU/UIU	[wiw]
UYÊ	[wje]
UÔI	[woj]
UÂY	[wej]
ƯƠU	[□ □ w]
ƯƠI	[□ □ j]



METHOD 3

COMPLETE PHONETIC APPROACH

Procedure

- Teaches pronunciation of consonants + descriptions of articulations
- Shows distributions of consonants in the syllable.
- Teaches pronunciations of vowels + Descriptions of articulations
- Helps distinguish between vowels and glides.
- Teaches pronunciation of diphthongs and triphthongs.
- Helps observe between open vowels and closed vowels.
- Teaches tones and tone distributions.
- Presents completely formed syllables/words accompanied by tones.



METHOD 3





PROS and CONS

- 👍 Presents sounds completely phonetically.
- 👍 Shows syllable structure.
- 👍 Shows sound segment distributions.
- 👍 Describes sound articulations.
- 👍 Describes tones characteristics.
- 👎 Does not teach phonics overtly (i.e. does not practice syllable formation).
- 👎 Is not suitable for young learners








Multifunctional Activities & Further Discussions

- 1. Complete the word by filling in the correct nucleus. Include the tone in your word.

h ____ c		tr ____ ____ ng	
ch ____ ____		v ____ ____ t	

- Option 2: Dictation – Teacher reads or spell the words and students write them down.

2. Use the letters to fill in the blanks for the “-em” word family. Identify onset, nucleus, coda.

__ em		K Ð N T X
__ em		
__ em		
__ em		
__ em		



3. Complete the word by filling in the correct nucleus and coda. Include the tones in your word. (Vowels and final letter consonants are missing.)

s _ _



ch _ _ _



b _ _



h _ _



4. Read the onset, nucleus, & coda in the letter naming approach and phonetic approaches.

WORDS	ONSET	NUCLEUS	CODA
thầy	th	ây	
giáo	gi	ao	
sinh	s	i	nh
viên	v	iê	n
ở		ơ	
ca	c	a	
an		a	n

5. Complete the table by identifying the onset, nucleus, and coda.

WORDS	ONSET	NUCLEUS	CODA
thầy			
giáo			
sinh			
viên			
ở			
ca			
an			

6. Read the words in 3 different approaches we have studied. (B1,B2: Tones)

WORDS	PHONETIC SYMBOLS	METHODS 1,2, or 3
mẹ	[m] [ɛ] = [mɛ] ([mɛ/B2])	3
bác	[b] [a] [k] = [bak] ([bak/B1])	3
lân	[ʌ nə ʌn lə an] = [lʌn]	2
xén	[iks ɛ ɛnə] = [sə ɛn sɛn sɛk/B1] = [sɛn/B1]	1



7. Read each of the words in 3 different approaches.

WORDS	Letter naming approach Method 1	Partial phonetic approach Method 2	Complete phonetic approach Method 3
Mε	[εm ε] = [mθ ε mε nεη/B2] = [mε/B2]	[ε mθ mθ ε mε nεη/B2] = [mε/B2]	[m] [ε] = [mε] ([mε/B2])
xén	[iks ε εnθ] = [sθ εn sεn sεk/B1] = [sεn/B1]	[ε nθ εn sθ εn sεn sεk/B1] = [sεn/B1]	[s] [ε] [n] = [sεn] ([sεn/B1])

8. Complete the table by filling in the appropriate words.

PHONETIC SYMBOLS	WORDS	METHOD
[ve i e te] = [vøjet vjet nɐŋ/B2] = vjet/B2]		1
[ɛn a ɛm] = [nə am nam] = [nam]		1



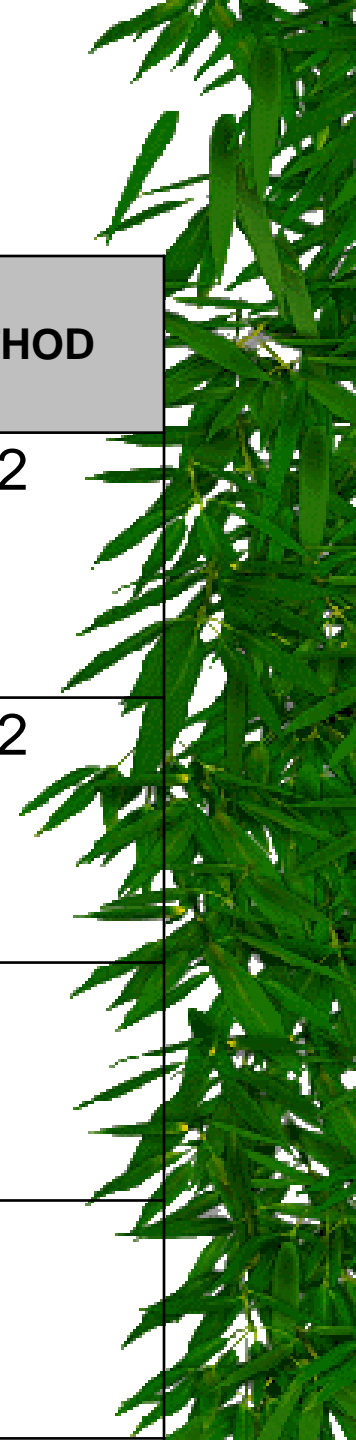
9. Complete the table by filling in the appropriate phonetic symbols.

PHONETIC SYMBOLS	WORDS	METHOD
	Việt	1
	Nam	1



10. Complete the table by filling in the appropriate words.

PHONETIC SYMBOLS	WORDS	METHOD
[a i əj də əj daɪ nən/B2] = [daɪ/B2]		2
[an nə an hə an han hwjen/A2] = [han/A2]		2



11. Complete the table by filling in the appropriate phonetic symbols.

PHONETIC SYMBOLS	WORDS	METHOD
	Đại	2
	Hàn	2



12. Complete the table by filling in the appropriate words.

PHONETIC SYMBOLS	WORDS	METHOD
[ŋ] [ʌ] [t] = [ŋʌt] ([ŋʌt/B2])		3
[t] [ew] = [tew] ([tew/A2])		3



13. Complete the table by filling in the appropriate phonetic symbols.

PHONETIC SYMBOLS	WORDS	METHOD
	Nhật	3
	Tàu	3



14. Complete the table by filling in the appropriate words and methods.

PHONETIC SYMBOLS	WORDS	METHODS 1,2, or 3
[d] [woj] = [dwoj]		
[ŋ] [wɛn] = [ŋwɛn] ([ŋwɛn/A2])		
[a nə an] [lə an] = [lan]		
[ɛl u o ɛn] = [lə won] = [lwɔn]		



15. Complete the table by filling in the appropriate phonetic symbols.

PHONETIC SYMBOLS	WORDS	METHODS 1,2, or 3
	Mẹ	3
	bác	2
	lân	2
	nghen	1



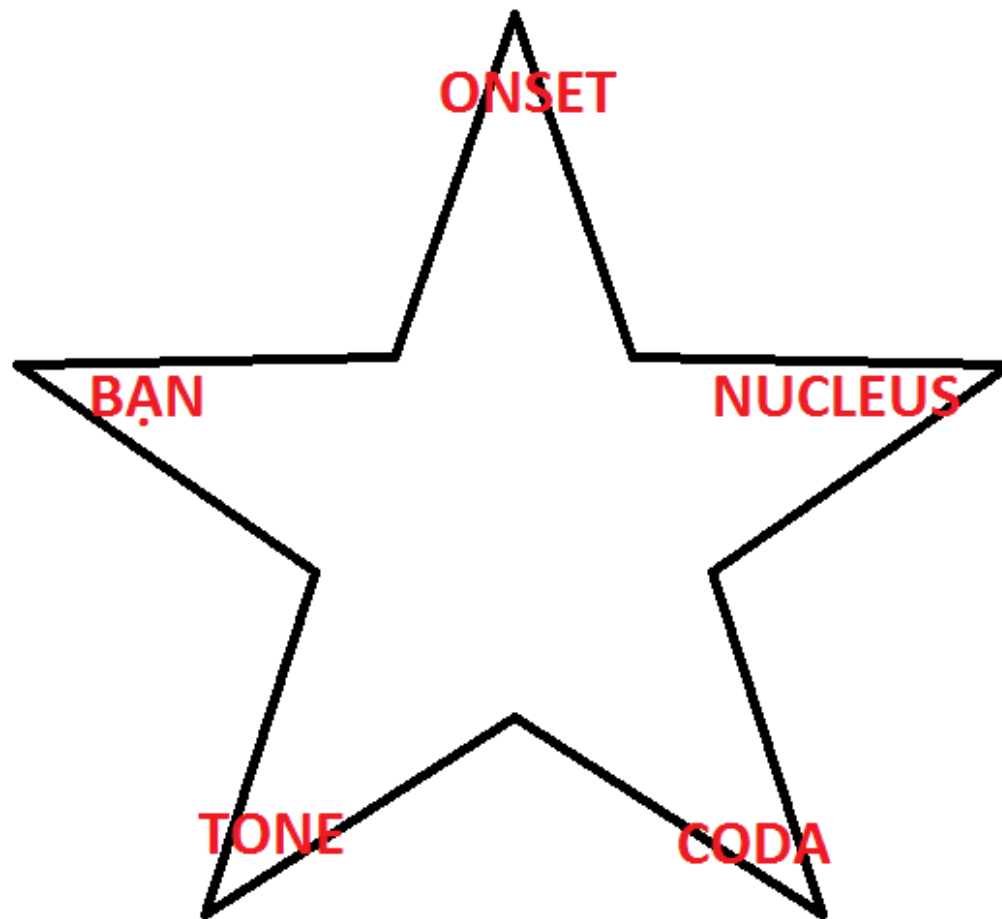
- **“Bingo”** – 1. Find the words which share the same nucleus and coda (+same tone); 2. Pronounce them.

Đường	Đài	Mèo	Tuồng	Tương
Vườn	Nước	Hương	Trường	Hoa
Hướng	Lươn	Mưu	Phước	Tổ
Xương	Xa	Cát	Chương	Gió
Nướng	Huyền	Gia	Dượng	Giường



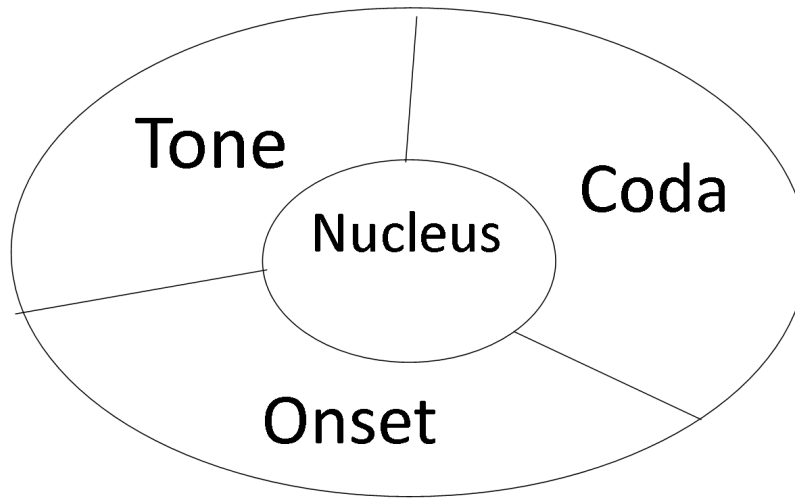
■ **STAR** For each of the words, write the onset, nucleus, coda on the angles of the star:

■ *Bạn, Hương, học, tiếng, Việt*



■ **OVAL** Write the onset, nucleus, and coda for each of the words:

■ Chúng, ta, đi, học, mỗi, ngày



■ TPR (Total physical response)

Work in groups of three (student 1 – s1)

■ *Student 1 and student 2: coordinate with each other first. s1 tells s2 about the word.*

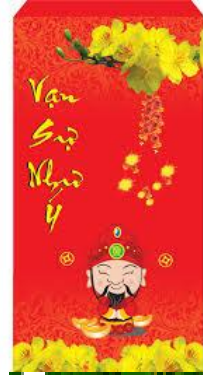
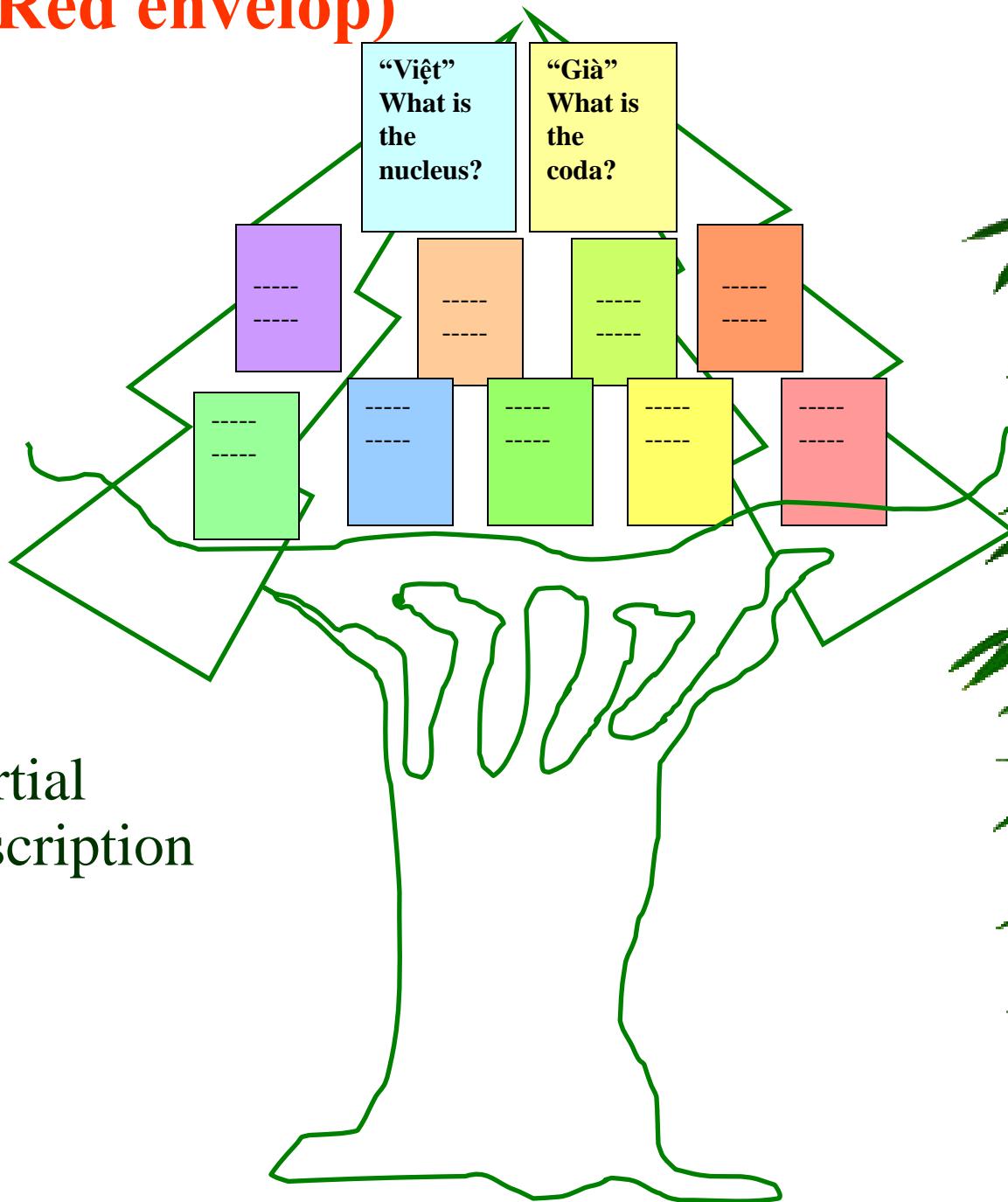
■ *Student 1: Produces the sound*
[u o i woj də woj]

■ *Student 2: Gives suggestion by responding with the whole-body actions*

■ *Student 3: Says the word*
đuôi



“Bao lì xì” (Red envelop)



Questions:

1. Give the partial phonetic transcription of “Việt”.

2.---

Discussions/Comments

Thank you very much

