



# The Linguistic Society of Hong Kong Newsletter

香港語言學學會通訊

Issue 1, February 2009

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After some years of hibernation, it is delighted to see our LSHK newsletters back to life. One major aim of the newsletters is to draw members closer and to provide them with a platform to share with the rest of us their latest news, research reports, new publications, etc. From now on, members can freely view our newsletters at <http://lshk.org/newsletter.php> (LSHK Homepage --> Newsletters).

This issue will begin with the President Report and the Treasurer Report. In December 2008, LSHK proudly presented three Outstanding Thesis Awards and one Outstanding Student Paper Award to four winners respectively: Sherman LEE, Kevin CHAN, YU Feifei, and ZHANG Ling. The abstracts of their "award-winning" works will be reproduced here.

To keep members informed of linguistics activities held in Hong Kong and overseas, I have included the Call for Papers of various local and international conferences/workshops for your perusal. Of course, please do constantly check the LSHK website for the updates (<http://lshk.org/activities09.php>) (LSHK Homepage -> Announcements -> Activities in 2009).

In 2008, our members enjoyed a very "research-productive" year, and LSHK is extremely honoured that Virginia YIP and Stephen MATTHEWS have recently been presented the prestigious Leonard Bloomfield Book Award 2009 by the Linguistic Society of America (<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/lin/cbrc/honors.html>). Congratulations to Virginia & Steve!

The newsletters will not be a success without your support! Please do keep me posted of any news that will interest the linguistic community. Of course, don't hesitate to send me your suggestions and comments on how to improve the newsletters!

May you be blessed with productivity, good health, and abundant joy in the Year of the Ox!!

**Vicky MAN**

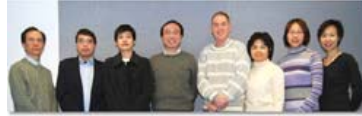
Editor

February 2009

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### 1. Development of the Society

#### 1.1. The new ExCom



A new Executive Committee (ExCom) was elected at the last AGM. The first ExCom meeting was subsequently held on December 8, 2007 at Hong Kong Baptist University. Its members are as follows: Sze-Wing TANG (President), Vicky MAN (Vice-President), Peppina LEE (Secretary), John WAKEFIELD (Treasurer), Peggy MOK (Communications Coordinator), Bit-chee KWOK (Newsletter Editor), Sam LEUNG and Virginia YIP (members-at-large).

#### 1.2. Membership

We are delighted to welcome 46 new members (3 Life Members, 11 Regular Members, 7 Affiliated Members, and 25 Student Members) who joined the Society this year and very pleased to see the rapid growth of the Society's membership.

### 2. New Features

#### 2.1. New domain server

Thanks to the contributions made by our Vice-President Vicky MAN and her helper Joyce LEUNG of HKBU, we have successfully applied for a new domain name server for our Society: **www.lshk.org**, to which everything on our website has been moved from the old CityU server. From now on, to access our website, we do not have to worry about memorizing a 'weird' URL. We hope that our website can become a reliable source to our members as well as to the international linguistics community for information exchange purposes.

### 3. Activities

#### 3.1. Workshops and study groups

##### 3.1.1. LSHK Workshop on Cantonese

The 7th LSHK Workshop on Cantonese (WOC-7) was organized on March 29, 2008 at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. The theme was 'Cantonese Meets Theoretical Linguistics'. Paper presenters were Ben AU YEUNG, Andrew CHAU, Kwan-hin CHEUNG, Peppina LEE, Thomas LEE, Haihua PAN, Sze-Wing TANG, John WAKEFIELD, Lian Hee WEE, Tak-sum WONG, and Carine YIU. The 7th WOC would not have been possible without the help of Carine YIU and the co-sponsorship of the Center of Chinese Linguistics, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

##### 3.1.2. Study groups

Two study groups on postverbal and interrogative particles in the Lianjiang Dialect were organized by the Society in November 2008 at City University of Hong Kong. The discussion was led by Huayong LIN from South China Normal University, to whom we are very grateful.

##### 3.1.3. LSHK Forum on Hong Kong Ciu4jyu5

The LSHK Forum on Hong Kong Ciu4jyu5 (「潮語」) was organized on November 22 at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Seven speakers were invited: Ben AU YEUNG (CUHK), Chi-chiu CHAN (St. Paul's College), Lorelei LAW (TVB), Joyce NIP (HKBU), Chi-ming PAN (Subculture), Real-Real SO (designer of the *ciu4jyu5* picture cards), and Sze-Wing TANG (LSHK). The Forum provided a friendly atmosphere for the participants to discuss *ciu4jyu5* from different perspectives. Details of the Forum can be found on our website: [www.lshk.org](http://www.lshk.org).



## 3.2. Cantonese romanization

### 3.2.1. *Jyutping* Promotion Group

We have formed a new promotion group to promote the use of the LSHK Cantonese Romanization Scheme or known as *Jyutping*. Members of this group include Kwan-hin CHEUNG, Uta LAM, Cedric LEE, Thomas LEE, Caesar LUN, Sze-Wing TANG, John WAKEFIELD, and Cathy WONG. I am the convener of the promotion group. Any members interested in joining the group should approach me for details.

### 3.3. *Outstanding Thesis Award*

I would like to congratulate the three winners of this year's award, Sherman LEE's PhD dissertation (CityU) on language choice and language shift among the Hakka-speaking population in Hong Kong, Kevin Ming Kei CHAN's MPhil thesis (HKU) on the perception and production of lexical stress by Cantonese speakers of English, and Feifei YU's MA thesis (PolyU) on the Chinese locative words with *shang*. On behalf of the ExCom I would like to express our appreciation to the 18 anonymous reviewers for their professional and fair judgments on the nominated theses and their time, and to Peppina LEE and Bit-chee KWOK for coordinating the job.

## 4. Publications

### 4.1. Selected Papers from LSHK-ARF 2006

*Selected Papers from the 2006 Annual Research Forum of the Linguistic Society of Hong Kong* edited by Colleen WONG was published in Spring 2008. 12 refereed papers are included.

### 4.2. Two new books

I am happy to report that two new books published in 2007, namely *A Proficiency Course in Zhuang: Fieldwork Documentation and Revitalization of a Language and Culture of Southwestern China* by Adams BODOMO and Yanqin PAN and *Studies in Cantonese Linguistics 2* edited by Joanna SIO and Sze-Wing TANG had a good sale this year.

## 5. Sponsorship

### 5.1. The Society co-sponsored the following three conferences this year:

'The 5th Postgraduate Research Forum on Linguistics' (PRFL-5) organized by Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages, Chinese University of Hong Kong on March 15-16, 2008

'Conference on Bilingual Acquisition in Early Childhood' organized by the Childhood Bilingualism Research Centre, Chinese University of Hong Kong on December 11-12, 2008

'The 13th International Conference on Cantonese and Yue Dialects' organized by Language Information Sciences Research Centre and Department of Chinese, Translation and Linguistics, City University of Hong Kong on December 18-20, 2008. We sponsor the 'LSHK Outstanding Student Paper Award', which aims to encourage postgraduate students to conduct research on Cantonese linguistics.

## 6. Financial Situation

### 6.1. This is a healthy year for the Society's financial status.



## 7. Plans for 2009

### 7.1. The 6th LSHK Postgraduate Research Forum on Linguistics

The Society has initiated and will organize the '6th LSHK Postgraduate Research Forum on Linguistics' (PRFL-6) to be held at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University on March 14-15, 2009, in conjunction with the 'Second PolyU Faculty of Humanities Postgraduate Research Symposium'. The theme of the PRFL-6 is 'East Asian Languages: Theory and Application'. The submission deadline is December 15, 2008. For the details, please visit our website: [www.cbs.polyu.edu.hk/PRFL6](http://www.cbs.polyu.edu.hk/PRFL6). It is hoped that the PRFL will be organized by the Society in the future, becoming a trademark of the Society.

### 7.2. Workshops and study groups

We plan to organize more informal but professional small-scale workshops and study groups, for example, the 8th LSHK Workshop on Cantonese (WOC-8) (tentative theme on the syntax and semantics of *ciu4jyu5*) and a workshop on Cantonese romanization. New ideas and interesting topics are definitely welcome!

### 7.3. Book sale

We will explore the possibility to sell our LSHK publications on the internet, e.g. via Amazon.

### 7.4. E-newsletters

To facilitate effective academic discussions among our members over the internet, we plan to publish e-newsletters and post them on our website. Members are welcome to make comments and suggestions.

### 7.5. Looking ahead to 2009, do you have any expectations?

## 8. Acknowledgments

### 8.1. To the host of LSHK-ARF 2008

Many thanks go to the Department of Linguistics, the University of Hong Kong, i.e. the host and the co-sponsor of the ARF this year, and Adams BODOMO, Olivia LAM, and other helpers for their help and generous support.

### 8.2. To other ExCom members

It has been a great pleasure to be the President of the Society (again). I would like to thank the other committee members for their assistance. I am very happy to continue to work with them next year to achieve the general aims of the Society listed in the Constitution and to serve the linguistics community.

### 8.3. To all members

On behalf of the ExCom, I would like to express our thanks to all our members for their trust, support, and active participation in our activities. Needless to say, suggestions and criticisms are appreciated to help us do better in the future. Thank you!

**Sze-Wing TANG**

President, LSHK  
December 6, 2008



## From the Treasurer

### Financial Report (December 5, 2007 to December 6, 2008)

	<u>HK\$</u>	<u>US\$</u>
<b>1. Account Balance at Period End (as of December 4, 2007)</b>		
1) Hang Seng Savings A	441,208.44	
2) Hang Seng Current A	24,741.97	
3) <i>Hang Seng US\$ Timed Deposit</i>	0	12,588.24
4) <i>Hang Seng US\$ Savings</i>	0	885.57
	<b>465,950.41</b>	<b>13,473.81</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>465,950.41</u></b>	<b><u>13,473.81</u></b>
<b>2. Current Period Net Income (See Income Statement for details)</b>		
	<b><u>15,401.20</u></b>	<b><u>78.09</u></b>
<b>3. Account Balance at Period End (as of December 6, 2008)</b>		
1) Hang Seng Savings A	472,667.14	
2) Hang Seng Current A	8,684.47	
3) <i>Hang Seng US\$ Timed Deposit</i>	0	12,666.33
4) <i>Hang Seng US\$ Savings</i>	0	885.57
	<b>481,351.61</b>	<b>13,551.90</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>481,351.61</u></b>	<b><u>13,551.90</u></b>

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### Income Statement (December 5, 2007 to December 6, 2008)

	<u>HK\$</u>	<u>US\$</u>	
<b>1. Revenues (from December 5, 2007 to December 6, 2008)</b>			
1	Interest	5781.40	78.09
2	ARF 2007 Onsite collections less expenses	10,133.00	
3	ARF 2008 Pre-registration & Membership	5,150.00	
4	Book Sales	4,619.30	
5	UST sponsorship for WOC	3,000.00	
6	Membership fees	17,775.00	
	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>46,458.70</b>	<b>78.09</b>
<b>2. Expenses (from December 5, 2007 to December 6, 2008)</b>			
1	Postage	2,026.00	
2	Thesis awards (including 2007/8)	3,000.00	
3	Honorarium to speakers ARF 2007	3,000.00	
4	Web maintainance	3,950.50	
5	TEAL-4 Cosponsorship	1,000.00	
6	Feat & GLOW Cosponsorship	5,000.00	
7	Co-sponsorship of conferences, workshops	1,060.00	
8	Mailbox rental fee	690.00	
9	Printing and design of ARF 2006 selected papers	2,370.00	
10	Advanced payment for ARF 2007	5,000.00	
10	Printing of ARF 2007	1,600.00	
11	Lunch at WOC	1,125.00	
12	Lunch and water for Ciu4Jyu5 Conference	1,236.00	
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>31,057.50</b>	
<b>3. Net Income</b>	<b><u>15,401.20</u></b>	<b><u>78.09</u></b>	



### The Outstanding Thesis Award of 2008 (Ph.D.)

Name: **Sherman LEE**, Department of English,  
City University of Hong Kong

Title: A Study of Language Choice and Language Shift Among  
the Hakka-speaking Population in Hong Kong, with a primary focus on  
Sha Tau Kok



#### Abstract:

This thesis explores the sociolinguistic practices of members of a minority language community in Hong Kong, the Hakka community, with a primary focus on Hakka speakers in Sha Tau Kok. The study is informed by two complementary levels of sociolinguistic inquiry. At the macro-level, the study aims to investigate the extent of language shift from Hakka to the predominant societal language, Cantonese, by examining patterns of language choice and language use among speakers, and to identify the social and sociolinguistic factors most associated with variations in those patterns of language choice. At the micro-level, the study aims to analyse language behaviour from an interactional perspective by examining the patterns and communicative purposes of conversational code-switching among bilingual Hakka speakers using a conversation analytic approach.

The findings on language choice and variation show clear evidence of language shift, with individual variables such as age and social network characteristics appearing to be strongly related to the language behaviour of speakers. The interactional data suggests that bilingual speakers systematically employ code-switching as a communicative resource and that this code-switching serves both participant and discourse-related functions.

Through its adoption of a social network approach to data collection and analysis, this study illustrates the application of an originally Western construct to an Asian setting. The research also contributes to the limited empirical data on a minority Chinese variety in Hong Kong and that on code-switching between two varieties of Chinese.

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### The Outstanding Thesis Award of 2008 (M.Phil.)

Name: **Kevin CHAN**, Department of Linguistics,  
University of Hong Kong

Title: The Perception and Production of Lexical Stress by  
Cantonese Speakers of English

#### Abstract:

Ample evidence suggests that linguistic experience influences speech processing in the second language. In the case of Cantonese speakers of English, experience with Cantonese lexical tones might affect their processing of lexical stress in English. Two experiments were conducted to examine the perception and production of English word stress by adult Cantonese speakers of English.

In the perception experiment, several acoustic parameters including fundamental frequency, duration, and spectral balance were systematically manipulated on a nonsense word "bebe". Participants were asked to judge the position of word stress of these nonsense words embedded in a carrier sentence. Results showed that Cantonese speakers exploited fundamental frequency as the primary cue to the perception of word stress, while native English speakers in the same experiment utilized spectral balance as the primary cue.

In the production experiment, Cantonese speakers were asked to produce word stress on the two syllables of the nonsense word "bebe" embedded in carrier sentences comparable to those used in the perception experiment. Results showed that Cantonese speakers could effectively use duration, intensity and fundamental frequency to signal the position of word stress. Results from the two experiments were discussed in terms of language experience with Cantonese and the possibility of a transfer of prosodic knowledge from Cantonese to English.

### The Outstanding Thesis Award of 2008 (M.A.)

Name: **Feifei YU**, Department of Chinese & Bilingual Studies,  
The Polytechnic University of Hong Kong

Title: How the Chinese Locative Words with **Shang** Express  
the Concept **Shang**



Abstract:

In the Chinese language, *bian*(边), *mian*(面), *tou*(头), *fang*(方), *bu*(部) can be used to combine with *shang*(上) to form compound locatives. The locative words with *shang*(上) have similarities and differences, which may cause difficulties for the people who study Chinese as a foreign language and are of intermediate and advanced level. In the thesis, it is supposed that *bian*(边), *mian*(面), *tou*(头), *fang*(方), *bu*(部) in the compound locative words makes the spatial relations expressed more specific. Based on cognitive linguistic findings, the thesis employed theories, such as categorization, image schema, etc, to describe the spatial meanings expressed by the locative words. Based on entries in major dictionaries, how *bian*(边), *mian*(面), *tou*(头), *fang*(方), *bu*(部) and *shang* (上) develop to express specific spatial meanings is examined. According to the research, some suggestions on teaching locative words with *shang* to foreign students (intermediate and advanced level) are given.

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### LSHK Outstanding Student Paper Award in the 13th International Conference on Cantonese and Yue Dialects

Name: **ZHANG Ling**, Department of Chinese & Bilingual Studies,  
The Polytechnic University of Hong Kong

Title: 廣州話中兩組複合元音的實驗研究

Abstract:

本文綜合運用聲學實驗和聽辨實驗的方法，分別對廣州話中兩組複合元音 [a:i]、[ɛi] 和 [a:u]、[ɛu]、[ou] 進行比較分析。

本文聲學實驗使用的聲學圖像包括共振峰模式圖和聲學元音圖。共振峰模式圖展示了組內各複合元音內部頻率域和時間域的協同變化。聲學元音圖則直觀地顯示了各複合元音發音部位的韻腹、韻尾極點位置及變化動程。

本文聽辨實驗均使用零聲母音節，對音節的處理方式分為單向剪切和框式剪切。這兩種剪切方式都是為了調整音節內各成分的時長比例。其中單向剪切又分為兩種：若韻腹為長元音 [a:]，則順向剪切；若韻腹為短元音 [ɛ]，則逆向剪切。不同剪切方向根據的是廣州話韻腹韻尾音長互補的韻律特點。

聲學實驗和聽辨實驗共同驗證了：[a:i]、[ɛi] 和 [a:u]、[ɛu]、[ou] 這兩組複合元音分別在發音動程上有重疊之處。其中 [a:i] 和 [a:u] 的動程是最長的，[ɛi] 和 [ɛu] 次之，[ei] 和 [ou] 最短。動程長的複合元音後半部分就包含了動程短的複合元音的發音過程。[a:i] 和 [ɛi]，[a:u] 和 [ɛu] 的韻腹和韻尾極點位置都很相似，區別關鍵在於韻腹的相對時長不同；[ei] 和 [a:i]、[ɛi]，[ou] 和 [a:u]、[ɛu] 則在韻腹極點方面差異較大，前者與後兩者的區別主要在於韻腹的音質不同。



### The 8<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Cantonese (WOC-8)

#### "Grammar of Hong Kong *Ciu4jyu5*"

Deadline for submissions: March 7, 2009  
Workshop Date: March 28, 2009  
Venue: The Chinese University of Hong Kong

We are pleased to announce that the Eighth Workshop on Cantonese (WOC-8) organized by the Linguistic Society of Hong Kong will be held at the Chinese University of Hong Kong on March 28, 2009 (Saturday). The theme of this workshop is "**Grammar of Hong Kong *Ciu4jyu5***". Topics may include syntax, semantics, morphology, phonology, etc., with a focus that allows synchronic or diachronic inquiry or that pertains to interface or theoretical investigation of *ciu4jyu5* used in Hong Kong. Potential questions to be addressed are:

1. How does HK *ciu4jyu5* serve as a window to the current development of Cantonese grammar?
2. How can HK *ciu4jyu5* be studied in formal linguistics?
3. Why are the elements of HK *ciu4jyu5* usually realized syntactically and semantically, but not at the phonological level?
4. How do the synchronic aspects of HK *ciu4jyu5* interact with its diachronic aspects?

Abstracts are invited for 20-minute talks with 20 minutes for discussion. Language used at the Workshop can be Cantonese, English or Mandarin. Abstracts may be written in Chinese or English and should be limited to one A4 page with the name(s) of author(s), affiliation and e-mail address(es). Abstracts in DOC format should be sent to: [benjamin@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:benjamin@cuhk.edu.hk). Please note the following important dates:

Deadline for submissions: **March 7, 2009**  
Notification of acceptance: **March 14, 2008** (via e-mail)

If you have further questions, please contact Ben Auyeung at [benjamin@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:benjamin@cuhk.edu.hk) or Candice Cheung at [candicecheung@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:candicecheung@cuhk.edu.hk). For details and updated information, please visit: <http://www.cbs.polyu.edu.hk/tang/WOC/WOC.htm>.

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### The 2009 Seoul International Conference on Linguistic Interfaces (SICOLI-2009)

Deadline for Submissions: March 15, 2009  
Conference Dates: June 24, 2009 ~ June 26, 2009  
Venue: Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea

Topics include, but are not limited to:

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Phonetics                        | 6. Semantics & Pragmatics              |
| 2. Phonology & Morphology           | 7. Language Education (Korean/English) |
| 3. Bilingualism & Cognitive Science | 8. Computational Linguistics           |
| 4. Historical Linguistics           | 9. Corpus Linguistics                  |
| 5. Syntax                           | 10. Sociolinguistics                   |

Abstracts should be one page long with one-inch margins and typed in Times New Roman (Title: 14 point, Body: 10 point). An optional second page is allowed only for data and references. Submissions are limited to one individual and one joint abstract per author, or two joint abstracts per author. The abstract should be written by MS Word and be sent to both [yjang@cau.ac.kr](mailto:yjang@cau.ac.kr) and [hkkang@ocu.ac.kr](mailto:hkkang@ocu.ac.kr).

Please use 'SICOLI-2009 Abstract' as the subject of your e-mail and include in your e-mail body the following information: (1) Name(s) of author(s), (2) Title of your paper, (3) Affiliation, (4) Phone number, (5) E-mail address, (6) Mailing address, and (7) Your designated topic of General Sessions.



All papers are allotted 30 minutes including 10-minute discussion and the official language is English

**Important Dates:**

Deadline for Submission of Abstracts: **March 15, 2009**

Notification of Acceptance: **April 20, 2009**

Deadline for Submission of Revised Abstracts: **May 20, 2009**

Co-hosting organizations: The Linguistic Society of Korea, The Linguistic Society of Hong Kong, The Korean Association for the Study of English Language and Linguistics, The Phonology-Morphology Circle of Korea, Yonsei University BK 21

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Homepage: [www.linguistics.or.kr](http://www.linguistics.or.kr)

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## Upcoming Events

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### Public Forum on the Medium-of-Instruction Policy

Date: February 28, 2009 (Saturday)  
Time: 9:00 am – 12:30 pm  
Venue: Council Chamber, The Hong Kong Institute of Education

This half-day forum is organized by the Faculty of Languages (FLAN, HKIEd), the Research Center into Language Education in Multilingual Societies (RCLEMS, HKIEd), and the Education Policy Forum (HKIEd). It is also co-organized by Linguistic Society of Hong Kong (LSHK), Hong Kong Association for Applied Linguistics (HAAL), and The Committee on Home-School Cooperation (CHSC). The public forum will be conducted essentially in Cantonese.



Our goal is to identify key issues/problems, stimulate discussion, air concerns, share opinions, and explore solutions through dialogue between members of different sectors and groups of stakeholders.

Eight guest speakers have kindly agreed to address one core issue or major concern, accompanied by suggested coping strategies where appropriate. The speakers are:

- ❖ Associate Prof. Angel Lin (Department of English, CityU of HK)
- ❖ Associate Prof. Anita Poon (Department of Education, HKBU)
- ❖ Prof. Daniel So (Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies, PolyU)
- ❖ Prof. TSE Shek Kam (Faculty of Education, HKU)
- ❖ Prof. P.C. Wong (Committee on Home-School Cooperation)
- ❖ Prof. Y.C. Cheng (Vice-President, Research, HKIEd)
- ❖ Prof. David C.S. Li (Department of English, HKIEd)
- ❖ Dr. Ronald Tang (Department of Education Policy and Administration, HKIEd)

All staff and students are welcome.

Registration: ext. 7255 or [hfchau@ied.edu.hk](mailto:hfchau@ied.edu.hk)

## 2009 Annual PolyU Faculty of Humanities Postgraduate Research Symposium

Date: March 13, 2009 (Friday)  
Venue: The Hong Kong Polytechnic University



2009 Annual PolyU Faculty of Humanities Postgraduate Research Symposium will be held on March 13, 2009 at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. All current postgraduate students in any of the Humanities departments of any university in Hong Kong are cordially invited to attend and present papers at this event, which is organized and sponsored by the Faculty of Humanities, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and will be held in conjunction with the Sixth LSHK Postgraduate Research Forum on Linguistics on March 14-15, 2009.

Inquiries:

Email: [polyu.symposium2009@gmail.com](mailto:polyu.symposium2009@gmail.com)

Website: [www.polyu.edu.hk/FH/LCSC](http://www.polyu.edu.hk/FH/LCSC)

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## The 6th LSHK Postgraduate Research Forum on Linguistics (PRFL-6)

Date: March 14-15, 2009  
Venue: Room AG710, The Polytechnic University of Hong Kong



The LSHK Postgraduate Research Forum on Linguistics is a conference organized by postgraduate students of linguistics and linguistics-related disciplines in Hong Kong. The purpose of this event is to provide a platform for research students to introduce their interests and on-going projects, and to exchange their understandings and innovative ideas about linguistic issues. It was conventionally held every two years up to the 4th forum, which was held in 2003. After a five-year suspension, it was held again in March of 2008 at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. It was decided at that time that the forum should become an annual event organized by the Linguistic Society of Hong Kong. We are honored to be hosting the forum for the first time at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University in March of 2009.

Keynote Speaker: Prof. Chu-Ren Huang

### The 7<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Cantonese (WOC-7)

Date: March 29, 2008

Venue: Hong Kong University of Science & Technology

The 7th workshop on Cantonese was held on 29 March 2008 at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology with the generous support from the Center for Chinese Linguistics, Division of Humanities, HKUST. In the past years, the Workshop was a half-day event. With the strong support from the linguistics community, we had a one-day workshop this year with eleven presentations.

The theme of the Workshop was "Cantonese Meets Theoretical Linguistics" and all the papers either tried to apply existing theories to account for the observed linguistic phenomena in Cantonese or posed challenges to the existing theories. Five papers were scheduled in the morning. The first three presentations were on tones whereas the other two dealt with mechanisms involved in sound change and the formation of compound conjunctives which consist of "coordinating conjunctive + *maai*". Cheung Kwan Hin's paper illustrated that the use of a 4-level system and some of the distinctive features formulated in Wang (1967) could capture better the paradigm of allotones in Cantonese. Carine Yuk-man Yiu's tried to estimate the time when the high-level and high-rising changed tones arose and when their spread would be complete based on their rate of spread in a fixed set of words in a number of early Cantonese materials. Lian-Hee Wee and Winnie H. Y. Cheung's paper showed that there are correspondences between Cantonese tones and English stresses in Hong Kong English.

Moreover, the multiple high-tone-association exhibited in Hong Kong English is found in many African languages. While Wong Tak Sum's paper proposed that reanalysis be a possible factor for sound change observed in the special pronunciation of a character used with a different meaning, Chan Kin Wing's suggested that reinforcement cause the formation of the compound conjunctive.

In the afternoon session, six papers on syntax were given. Au Yeung Wai Hoo's compared the two types of light verbs in Cantonese and Mandarin raising construction; John Wakefield's found that 'only' and stress intonation were used by an informant when translating Cantonese utterances with the sentence-final particle *zaa3*. He further argued that the focus feature is triggered by *zaa3* and 'only', putting one of the constituents under their c-command into focus; Peppina Lee Po-lun and Pan Haihua suggested that syntax comes into play first to decide whether a modal reading or an 'only' reading is conveyed in a *dak1*-sentence whereas pragmatics helps us to choose between the two readings when ambiguity arises.

The last three papers were related to the syntax of nominals and noun phrases. Chau Chi Wai Andrew's addressed the possibility in analyzing a number of constructions as internally-headed relative clauses; Sze-Wing Tang 's explored if it is possible for true empty categories to have a complex structure and argued that Chinese dialectal differences with respect to the true empty categories are attributed to the noun movement parameter; Thomas Hun-tak Lee's findings from the longitudinal data from one Mandarin-speaking child and one Cantonese-speaking child showed that the parametric differences in nominal structure between Cantonese and Mandarin are not set at the earliest stage of DP acquisition and thus cast doubt on the existing parametric analyses of Cantonese and Mandarin DPs.

The program and the abstracts can be found at:  
<http://www.cbs.polyu.edu.hk/tang/WOC/WOC.htm>

Contributed by  
**Carine Yuk-man Yiu** (HKUST)

## 香港「潮語」講壇

Date: November 22, 2008

Venue: The Polytechnic University of Hong Kong



香港語言學學會於2008年11月22日假香港理工大學舉辦了首個「香港『潮語』講壇」。「潮語」的定義為香港本地的潮流用語，學會舉辦這個講壇旨在以跨學科的互動形式對「潮語」進行學術專題研討會，把「潮語」的討論和研究提升到一個嚴肅的學術層面。

獲邀出席是次論壇的七位講者，包括（按發言次序）：鄧思穎博士（香港語言學學會）、陳志超先生（聖保羅書院）、歐陽偉豪博士（香港中文大學中國語言及文學系）、蘇真真先生（「潮語」字卡作者）、聶依文博士（香港浸會大學傳理學院新聞系）、羅艾艾小姐（電視廣播有限公司配音組）和彭志銘先生（次文化堂）。



論壇於下午二時三十分開始，每位代表的演講時間為二十分鐘。首先由鄧思穎博士代表語言學學會介紹了這次論壇的緣起及目的，並從語言學的角度，評價「潮語」的定位，認為「潮語」的「語」是潮流用語、俚語的「語」，而非語言的「語」。而從研究的角度來看，我們要尊重客觀的語言事實，不能否定『潮語』的存在。

陳志超老師的演講題目為「潮語潮用」，他認為，對於「潮語『入侵』」學界一事，學者和教師各持己見，抑者視之為「腐朽」，然而我們應當化這「腐朽」化神奇，利用「腐朽」的可取之處，一方面引起學生的生活共鳴，增加學習興趣；另一方面鞏固和提升他們的語文知識。他認為老師應鼓勵學生不要以「潮語」入文，提醒他們應視「潮語」為學習工具，而非寫作的佳詞佳句。

歐陽偉豪博士的演講題目為「家長學習潮語教程」，他指出家長希望跟子女溝通良好，最好的方法就是在日常生活裏使用潮語跟子女交談，以拉近雙方距離，讓子女有被認同、受尊重的感覺。



自從「潮語」字卡在社會上推出後，引起了不同界別的討論，加上會考試題涉及「潮語」內容，令「潮語」一時間變成全城熱話。創作「潮語」字卡的蘇真真先生以「潮語」字卡創作前後為題，發表了演講，細說「潮語」字卡的創作過程和製作時所面對的難處，並且剖析了年青人說「潮語」的心態，介紹了潮語不同類別的來源。



聶依文博士以「『潮語』與香港新聞」為題發表了演講。她在2008年11月向近五十個新聞系本科生進行了對香港「潮語」的調查，以找出他們認為「潮語」應否出現在以下新聞項目的寫作：娛樂新聞和專欄的寫作，體育新聞寫作，政治新聞寫作，社會新聞寫作及社論，雜誌及互聯網的新聞寫作，報章的新聞寫作，及電視、電台的新聞寫作。

任職無線電視配音組的羅艾艾小姐就「潮語」與配音發表了演講。她表示，「潮語」在現今社會佔一重要席位，但是作為一個影響力強而迅速的媒體，如何在日常的節目製作中使用潮語，當中該作怎樣的考量，增強互動性，是他們的一大課題。

論壇的最後一位講者為次文化堂社長彭志銘先生，題目為「潮語」與香港文化。他最後根據各個講者的內容，總結了「潮語」在香港社會各個階層的使用問題，並且分析了「潮語」的文化特點，以及「潮語」未來的發展，我們日後應該怎樣評價和應對「潮語」。

有關論壇以公開討論作結，並在下午五時四十分正式結束。綜觀是次討論，參與的除了七位講者外，亦包括本地語言學學者及學生，中學生，以及其他媒體工作者，人數約五十人，為「潮語」研究在本地的學術界、教育界以及傳媒中，提供了一個新角度及新思維。

Contributed by  
**Peppina LEE** (CityU)

## The 2008 Annual Research Forum of the Linguistic Society of Hong Kong (LSHK-ARF 2008)

Date: December 6-7, 2008  
Venue: The University of Hong Kong



The 2008 Annual Research Forum of the Linguistic Society of Hong Kong (LSHK-ARF 2008) was held in the University of Hong Kong on December 6-7, 2008. The theme of LSHK-ARF 2008 was "From Theory to Practice".

After the opening remarks given by Dr. Stephen Matthews on behalf of the Department of Linguistics, University of Hong Kong, the forum began by the presentation ceremony of the Outstanding Thesis Awards, followed by reports done by the three awardees. For the MA category, the awardee was Yu Feifei from the Polytechnic University of Hong Kong, with the title of her thesis "How the Chinese Locative Words with *Shang* Express the Concept *Shang*"; for the MPhil category, the awardee was Kevin Ming Kei Chan from the University of Hong Kong, with the title of his thesis "The Perception and Production of Lexical Stress by Cantonese Speakers of English"; and for the PhD category, the awardee was Sherman Lee from the City University of Hong Kong, with the title of her thesis "A Study of Language Choice and Language Shift Among the Hakka-speaking Population in Hong Kong, with a primary focus on Sha Tau Kok".



As is customary ARF practice, accepted papers related to various areas of linguistics were divided into parallel sessions. 43 papers were presented in 15 sessions, with presenters from universities in Hong Kong, Macao, the mainland China, Singapore, Korea and the US. Papers presented on

the 1<sup>st</sup> day included syntax and semantics of sentence-final particles and negative polarity items, L1 and L2 acquisition, tonal studies, phonetic investigation from both synchronic and diachronic perspectives, dialectal studies from both synchronic and diachronic perspectives, language learning from a syntactic and a phonetic perspective, studies on discourse topics, and studies related to functional grammar.

Papers presented on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day included comparative studies of Chinese adverbs, comparative studies between Mandarin and Cantonese, phonetic studies such as Cantonese vowel alternation, semantic studies on verbal modifiers, noun phrases and distributive operators in Chinese, cross-cultural linguistic analysis, studies on Chinese Pidgin English and language attitudes in the Pearl River Delta, syntactic studies on Cantonese relative clauses and Cantonese adverbs and particles, diachronic studies on Chinese nominalizers, lexicography, and sign language.

After each presentation, 10 minutes were allocated for discussion, with vigorous and stimulating exchanges between participants and presenters. The participants found the relevant discussion intense and fruitful. The LSHK-ARF 2008 was officially closed at 5:50 pm.

Pictures from ARF 2008 can be viewed at <http://picasaweb.google.com/lshk.linguists>.

Contributed by  
**Peppina LEE** (CityU)

## The International Conference on Bilingual Acquisition in Early Childhood

Date: December 11-12, 2008

Venue: The Chinese University of Hong Kong



The conference was organized by the newly established Childhood Bilingualism Research Centre (CBRC) at the Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages, CUHK, co-sponsored by the Linguistic Society of Hong Kong. The opening ceremony was officiated by Professor Kenneth Young, Pro-Vice Chancellor of CUHK; Professor Gladys Tang, Chair of the Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages, CUHK; and Professor Virginia Yip, Chair of the conference organizing committee and Director of CBRC.



The conference aimed to draw together researchers interested in the development of bilingualism and multilingualism in children exposed to two or more languages in early childhood. In many parts of the world including Asia, there has been a growing awareness of the significance of raising bilingual and multilingual children and investigating their language development. The conference also hoped to promote the study of childhood bilingualism in diverse environments and communities and raise the visibility of research in this fast-growing interdisciplinary field.

An important announcement was made at the opening ceremony:

*The Bilingual Child: Early Development and Language Contact* published by Cambridge University Press in 2007, co-authored by Virginia Yip and Stephen Matthews won a Research Excellence Award (CUHK, 2006-2007) and the Leonard Bloomfield Book Award (Linguistic Society of America, 2009) which was one of the most prestigious awards in the field of Linguistics.



Four internationally renowned scholars were invited to deliver keynote speeches: Prof. Brian MacWhinney (Carnegie Mellon University), Prof. William O'Grady (University of Hawai'i), Prof. Johanne Paradis (University of Alberta) and Prof. Yasuhiro Shirai (University of Pittsburgh). The conference also featured three special events: (1) a pre-conference workshop on Sign Bilingualism in the Asia-Pacific Region organized by the Centre for Sign Linguistics and Deaf Studies, CUHK on 10 Dec 2008; (2) a workshop on methods for automatic computational analysis of data on bilingual acquisition conducted by Prof. Brian MacWhinney, Director of Child Language Data Exchange System (CHILDES); and (3) a panel on Childhood Multilingualism: International Perspectives featuring five talks by Prof. Johanne Paradis (Canada), Prof. Annick De Houwer (Europe), Prof. Shyamala K. Chengappa (India), Dr. Madalena Cruz-Ferreira and Prof. Ng Bee Chin (Singapore), and Prof. Virginia Yip (Hong Kong).



In addition, a total of 30 papers were selected for presentation at the conference, covering the following themes:

- Bilingual acquisition of East Asian languages
- Bilingual acquisition in special populations
- Bilingual first language acquisition
- Child second language acquisition
- Cross-linguistic influence in bilingual development
- Input studies in bilingual acquisition



As Hong Kong hosted this event, the organizing committee was especially delighted to have papers on childhood bilingualism involving a variety of East Asian languages: Cantonese, Filipino, Hong Kong Sign Language, Mandarin, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, not to mention Singapore English and Singapore Mandarin. A total of 183 attendants from 19 countries/regions and 70 institutions and organizations were represented in this conference.

Funding support from CUHK's Focused Investment Scheme, a research grant funded by the Hong Kong Research Grants Council and from the department is gratefully acknowledged. The Childhood Bilingualism Research Center is supported by the University's Focused Investment Scheme which identifies academic areas with attained distinction and world-class impact, bringing benefits to humanity through landmark achievements in scholarship. This conference has given childhood bilingualism research further impetus and strength to develop the potential to achieve excellence in the regional and international academic community.

Conference Website: <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/lin/conference/baec/>

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### **About The Childhood Bilingualism Research Centre (CBRC)**

CBRC was officially established in March 2008 at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Its mission is:

- to achieve excellence in research in childhood bilingualism and multilingualism
- to serve children and parents in Hong Kong and the region by studying childhood bilingualism and propagating its positive outcomes
- to document the development of bilingualism in bilingual children from its inception to maturity and demonstrate their achievements in attaining bilingual competence in childhood
- to raise the public's awareness of Hong Kong children's development of biliteracy and trilingualism
- to study and support revitalization of minority languages in the context of bilingual and multilingual education

Childhood Bilingualism Research Centre

Website: <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/lin/cbrc/>

Telephone : (852) 2609 7019

Email : [cbrc@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:cbrc@cuhk.edu.hk)

### **兒童雙語研究中心簡介**

香港中文大學兒童雙語研究中心於二零零八年三月正式成立。

我們的使命包括：

- 致力發展兒童雙語及多語研究並達致卓越成果
- 通過研究兒童雙語發展及傳播其正面效果，服務香港及鄰近區域的兒童及家長
- 記錄雙語兒童從獲得語言初期到語言能力逐漸成熟的雙語發展過程，展示他們在童年階段的雙語能力
- 提高社會各界人士對香港兒童發展兩文三語的意識
- 研究並支持少數民族語言在雙語及多語教育環境下的振興

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Contributed by  
**Virginia YIP** (CUHK)





## 中國東南方言國際研討會

Date: December 15-17, 2008  
Venue: The Chinese University of Hong Kong



The International Symposium on Dialects in South-East China (中國東南方言國際研討會) was held at the Chinese University of Hong Kong during December 15-17, 2008, organized by the Department of Chinese Language and Literature of the Chinese University of Hong Kong with sponsorship from The C. C. K. Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange (蔣經國國際學術交流基金會) of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. The theme of the Symposium was 'Diachronic Change and Language Contact' (歷時演變與語言接觸).



There were 69 presenters representing 30 universities/ research institutes from the U.S., Japan, Singapore, Taiwan, China and Hong Kong. Among them were 12 distinguished keynote speakers, namely: 余靄芹教授 (University of Washington), 平山久雄教授 (東京大學), 李如龍教授 (廈門大學), 潘悟雲教授 (上海師範大學), 施其生教授 (中山大學), 許寶華教授 (復旦大學), 游汝傑教授 (復旦大學), 詹伯慧教授 (暨南大學), 鄭張尚芳教授 (中國社會科學院), 鄭錦全教授 (中央研究院), 王士元教授 (香港中文大學), 鄒嘉彥教授 (香港城市大學)

With such a number of world-wide specialists on dialects of South-East China, the 64 presented papers covered a diversified range of topics, including phonology, morphology, lexicon, syntax, etc., with a focus that allowed synchronic or diachronic inquiry or that pertained to theoretical or interface investigation where over 10 Chinese dialects were studied. These scholars were generous to give their comments to a group of CUHK graduate students who presented the research findings of their theses in a special session. The participation of the scholars and the graduate students was of great importance to the success of the Symposium.

In order to make a fuller accomplishment, the chairpersons of the Symposium, Prof. Chang Song-Hing and Prof. Samuel Chueng Hung-Nin have arranged with Prof. William Wang, the founder of *Journal of Chinese Linguistics*, that participants will be invited to submit their papers to the Journal for a special publication to mark the Symposium.

Contributed by  
**Ben Au-Yeung** (CUHK)

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## 第十三屆國際粵方言研討會

Date: December 18-20, 2008  
Venue: The City University of Hong Kong



第十三屆國際粵方言研討會 (The 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Cantonese & Yue Dialects) 於 2008 年 12 月 18 日至 20 日在香港城市大學舉行。這次研討會由香港城市大學語言資訊科學研究中心、中文、翻譯及語言學系聯合主辦，香港語言學學會贊助，鄒嘉彥教授擔任大會籌委

主席及召集人，李行德教授 (香港中文大學)、麥耘教授 (中國社會科學院) 和榮鴻曾教授 (美國匹茲堡大學) 擔任大會的主題演講嘉賓。開幕式在十八日上午舉行。大會非常榮幸，邀請了香港特別行政區民政事務局長曾德成先生，親臨會場主禮。



今屆研討會的主題是「粵語跨學科研究」。出席會議的學者超過 100 人，宣讀了論文 80 多篇。他們來自十多個國家或地區，包括香港、澳門、中國內地、台灣、日本、新加坡、澳大利亞、加拿大、美國、德國及英國。其中香港的學者來自本地六所大專院校。小組討論分為三個平行的主題。論文宣讀的時間，每人有三分鐘。



今屆大會首次增設由香港語言學學會贊助的「香港語言學學會傑出學生論文獎」。遴選委員會收到多篇參與競賽的論文，涉及句法、音韻、語音、翻譯等領域，最後選出三位入圍的參賽者，在大會首天作半小時的口頭報告，評審員從中作出篩選。結果是張凌憑（香港理工大學）《廣州話中兩組複合元音的實驗研究》一文獲獎。

為了配合「跨學科研究」的主題，主辦單位特別在城市大學藝廊舉辦「香港與鄰近地區史前石刻展覽」，希望能夠加深參觀者對古越人在嶺南地區活動的認識。

閉幕式於二十日下午舉行，由會務指導委員會成員衛真道教授 (Professor Jonathan Webster) 宣讀致謝辭、鄒嘉彥教授進行總結。會上宣佈：下屆研討會將在桂林舉行，劉村漢教授代表發言，熱烈歡迎大家參加明年的會議。

Contributed by  
**Bit-Chee Kwok** (CityU)

## Welcome to our New Members

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Our warmest welcome to the following new members (since September 2008)!

Membership category	Names	
Regular	Angel CHAN	Man Fung KAM
	Yuk Wan Grace LIM	Mei Yin Anita WONG
	Lei ZHANG	
Affiliate	Ming-chung CHENG	Mineharu NAKAYAMA
	Enid LEE	Ning YANG
	Su'e LIN	Noriko YOSHIMURA
Student	Vincent Tao-Hsun CHANG	Yingshing LI
	Sing Chi CHEUNG	Maggie LI
	Ka Wuei CHONG	Qun LI
	Siu Fung CHOW	Jian LIU
	Yingzi DU	Weiwei LIU
	Chen GAO	Zhe MA
	Chuangsheng HE	Tian Hui NGIEW
	Ying HUANG	Zhen QIN
	Kit Yeng IONG	Shuai SHAO
	Jing JIN	Dong WANG
	Alfred JONES	Jiao WANG
	WingMan KWONG	Wenbin WANG
	Olivia Shi Ching LAM	Hong WANG
	Hang-Fong LAU	Hin Yee WONG
	Paul LAW	Robert XU
	Xin Rui LEE	Kun ZHANG
Wai Kin LENG	Ling ZHANG	
Kin Ling Michelle LI	Xin ZHAO	
Wenxin LI	Yueyue ZHOU	

## Membership Profile

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It's exciting to see how LSHK has grown in recent years, with members coming from not only Hong Kong, but also Australia, France, Japan, Korea, Macau, Mainland China, Singapore, Taiwan, and the USA.

Currently, there are:

- 42 Life members
- 36 Regular members
- 19 Affiliate members
- 100 Student members



Author: **AU-YEUNG, Ben 歐陽偉豪**  
Book Title: **粵講粵法**  
Publication Year: 2008  
Publisher: 香港明窗出版社

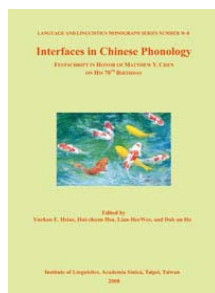


Recently cited in:

鄧思穎 2008 〈粵語句末助詞“罷啦”及其框式結構〉  
第十三屆國際粵方言研討會, 12月18-20日,  
香港城市大學。

Recently commented at <http://www.greenreadings.com/forum/viewtopic.php?t=33537>  
"歐陽偉豪《粵講粵法》(香港:明窗,2008)是一部專門討論粵語語法的小品結集,作者看見一些粵語的語法現象,然後加以歸納整理,很見功夫,例如:....."

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Editors: Yuchau E. HSIAO, Hui-chuan HSU,  
**Lian-Hee WEE**, Dah-an HO  
Book Title: **Interfaces in Chinese Phonology:  
Festschrift in Honor of Matthew Y. Chen  
on His 70th Birthday Language and  
Linguistics Monograph Series W8**  
Publication Year: 2008  
ISBN: 978-986-01-5021-6 (hardback)

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Feng-fan Hsieh

#### Grammar and Language Evolution

- On Language Change: A Case Study of Morphosyntactic Diffusion  
Hongming Zhang
- The "Spotty-Data Problem" and Boundaries of Grammar  
San Duanmu
- Recent Advances in Evolutionary Linguistics  
William S-Y. Wang

#### Bibliography of Matthew Y. Chen

For more information:

[http://www.ling.sinica.edu.tw/english/v7-2-review.asp-v\\_id=38.htm](http://www.ling.sinica.edu.tw/english/v7-2-review.asp-v_id=38.htm)



## Honour & Award

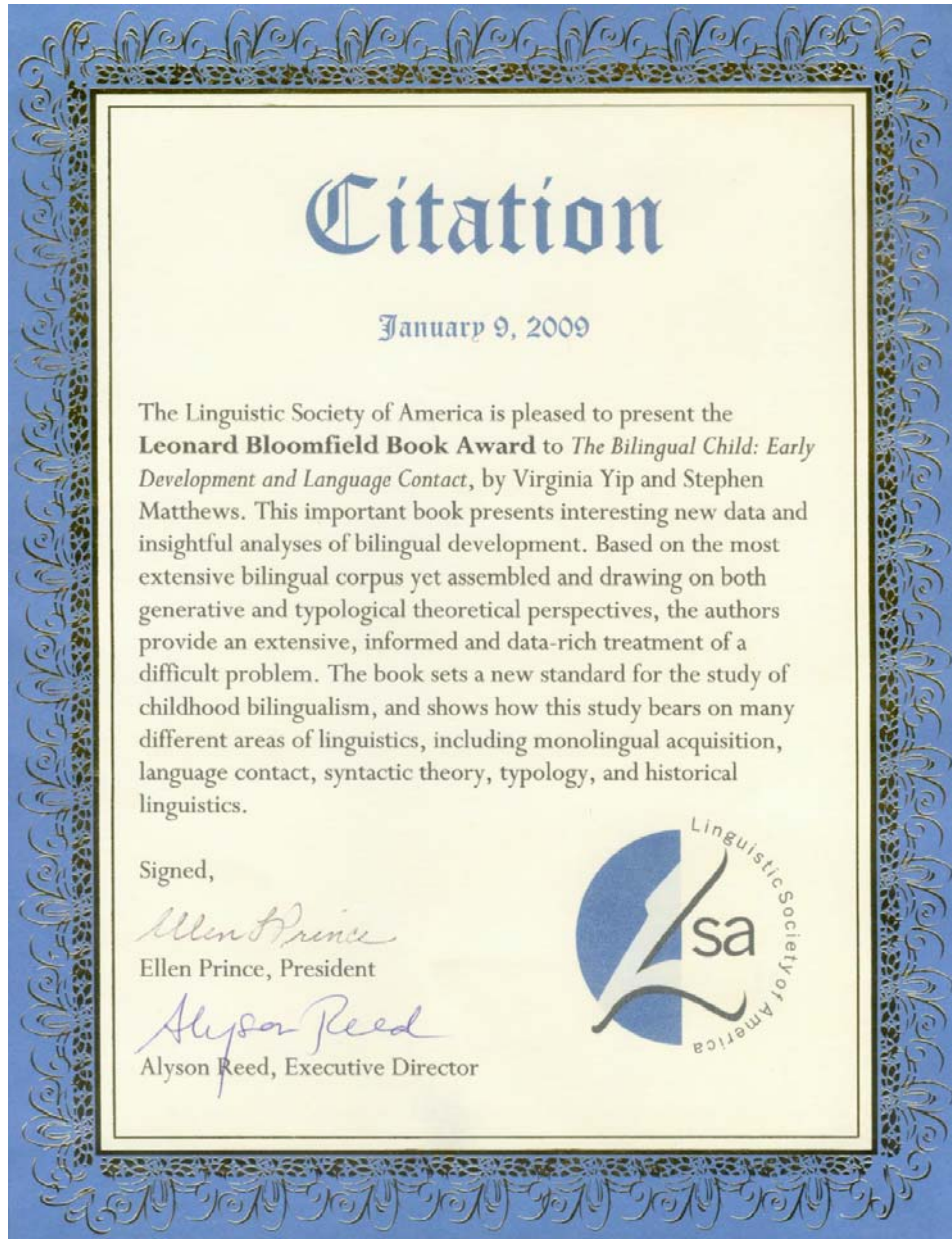
Congratulations to Virginia YIP and Stephen MATTHEWS, whose research on child bilingualism and multilingualism has gained international recognition!!



Their book, *The Bilingual Child: Early Development and Language Contact* (Cambridge University Press, 2007), has won the Chinese University of Hong Kong's **Research Excellence Award** (2006-2007) and the prestigious **Leonard Bloomfield Book Award** of the Linguistic Society of America (2009).



Their award acceptance speech can be viewed at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/lin/cbrc/honors.html>.



## Members' Research Activities

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Principal Investigator: **Adams BODOMO** (The University of Hong Kong)  
Co-Investigator: HUANG Pingwen (The University of Hong Kong)  
Project Title: **The Grammatical Structure of Zhuang: An Investigation into the Language and Culture of a Minority Group of South-Western China**

### **Abstract:**

Studying the structure of a language is essential to the understanding of that language and how it functions in various communication settings. To date, there has been hardly any descriptive account of the structure of Zhuang, the language that is spoken by the second largest ethnic group in China, after the Han ethnic group. There are, however, concerns that the language is gradually assimilating to the Han Chinese languages, as the social functions of the language are rather limited even though it is officially taught at schools in Guangxi alongside Mandarin Chinese. To preserve the language of the second largest ethnic group in China, it is imperative that the language be studied and described more extensively and systematically. The project aims to develop a descriptive grammar of the Zhuang language. This descriptive grammar, which has the potential to contribute to theoretical advancement in Linguistics, can also spin off pedagogical grammars and bilingual dictionaries that can serve as important educational materials for mother-tongue Zhuang speakers and foreigners alike. Given the aims and objectives that are pursued here, this project fits into a current worldwide concern with the need to document, preserve, and revitalize minority or endangered languages. This focus of the study on language documentation and revitalization thus provides an international dimension to the research that is envisaged in the project.

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Principal Investigator: **HUANG Yue Yuan** (Hong Kong Baptist University)  
Co-Investigator: **YANG Suying** (Hong Kong Baptist University)  
Project Title: **A Study of L2 Chinese Essay Writing – A Corpus-Based Text Analysis of Linguistic and Rhetorical Features, and a Writing Process Analysis**

### **Abstract:**

Chinese is becoming the next must-learn language aside from English and there is an urgent need for systematic research on L2 Chinese acquisition. This three-year study will investigate characteristics of L2 Chinese essay writing. We will study two groups of L2 Chinese learners: native English speakers, and native Japanese speakers. Typologically, Chinese, English and Japanese are very different from one another in both linguistic and rhetorical aspects, so the study will allow us to compare and contrast writing characteristics within and across the different groups of learners of Chinese. The outcome of this research will be valuable information to contribute to general theories of L2 writing, and will have direct implication for the development of effective L2 Chinese writing programs.

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Principal Investigator: **Virginia YIP** (Chinese University of Hong Kong)  
Co-Investigators: **Stephen MATTHEWS** (The University of Hong Kong)  
LI Ping (Pennsylvania State University)  
Project Title: **From Lexicon to Syntax in Childhood Bilingualism**

### **Abstract:**

The project investigates the development of vocabulary and its relationship with the emergence of grammar in childhood bilingualism. Early vocabulary development provides the building blocks of early sentences. We chart the lexical development of our bilingual children, combining existing and new longitudinal corpus data to investigate the categories of their first words and how they are combined to form sentences. A number of research questions in lexical development will be addressed including: (1) How do bilingual children acquire the lexicons of two languages simultaneously? What are the principles governing their lexical development? (2) How does the rate of lexical development in bilingual children compare to monolingual children? (3) At what point is there evidence for differentiation of two distinct lexicons?



These questions will be addressed through corpus-based longitudinal studies and cross-sectional experiments. The findings will have theoretical implications for the application of influential principles in child language acquisition research including the Principle of Contrast and Principle of Mutual Exclusivity, contributing to the debate on language differentiation in bilingual children. The practical significance of the findings lies in the establishment of baseline data for typically developing bilingual children which is required for comparison with atypically developing bilingual children. The relationship between the lexicon and syntax in bilingual development is important in our understanding of how the acquisition of individual words are correlated with the ability to put words together to form meaningful sentences in the bilingual child's two linguistic systems. The details of early lexical differentiation will be revealed which serves as the basis for syntactic differentiation, the precursor for the construction of two grammars. The role of the lexicon represents a new frontier in our team's research in childhood bilingualism. The research will significantly extend our current line of work in syntactic development to cover the first words in the single word stage before the emergence of syntax, yielding a more comprehensive picture of early bilingual development. The findings will be useful for assessment of bilingual children and the learning and teaching of early words in Cantonese and English.

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Principal Investigator: **YIU, Carine** (Hong Kong University of Science & Technology)

Co-Investigator: **CHEUNG, Hung Nin Samuel**

(Hong Kong University of Science & Technology)

Project Title:

**Directional Verbs in Early Cantonese Colloquial Texts: A Study of Metaphorical Extension and Word Order Change**

#### **Abstract:**

Cantonese is particularly rich in "directional particles". Structurally, a directional verb is followed by a place word that denotes the location from which or toward which an entity moves, e.g. 佢上咗三樓 "He went up-to the third floor". It can also link a motion verb to a place word, e.g. 行上三樓 "walk up-to the third floor". Moreover, two or three directional verbs can be combined to function as a compound directional complement of another verb, e.g. 行翻上嚟, literally "walk + return + go up + toward-us", meaning "walk back up here". Even though many of them are identical in form to verbs of motion, the meanings of these particles are not necessarily restricted to direction. For instance, faan 翻 means "to return" as a verb but "back or again" as a particle. Evidently, the non-directional readings (mostly about temporality) can be viewed as metaphorical extensions of the directional usage.

The present project proposes to investigate the historical development of directional verbs in Cantonese, focusing on those that have been grammaticalized (or metaphoricalized) in usage. Based on a set of colloquial pedagogical manuals and Bible translations compiled since the 19th century, four things will be done. (1) Reconstruct the developmental paths of directional verbs, showing how they gave rise to metaphorical usages, thereby accounting for the formation of the aspectual (or temporal) system in Cantonese. (2) Study the word order change in relation to directional verbs. For example, historical materials show that while it was once possible to say 擰出本書嚟 "take + out + a book + toward-us" and 擰本書出嚟 "take + a book + out + toward-us", only the latter is possible in the contemporary language. (3) Compare Cantonese with other dialects and languages in relation to Tasks (1) and (2) above, as well as the ordering of directional verbs designating source, path and goal, such as 翻上嚟, literally "return + go up + toward-us". (4) Examine the theoretical implications of frequency counts and contextual interpretation in the use of materials for a diachronic investigation.

The present project will be the first comprehensive study of Cantonese directional particles using digitized pedagogical texts and Bible translations. As this study will shed light on the word order change phenomenon, the metaphorical extension from spatial to temporal and the uniform ordering of directional verbs widely observed in languages, the findings of this intensive study of Cantonese directional particles will be of great relevance to various areas in linguistics. There will also be implications for the theory of grammaticalization with special reference to reanalysis (of a verb as a particle) and unidirectionality (from a verb to a particle).



Principal Investigator: **ZEE, Eric** (City University of Hong Kong)  
Co-Investigator: **LEE, Wai Sum** (City University of Hong Kong)  
Project Title: **Typology of the Vowels, Consonants, and Tones of the Chinese Dialects**

**Abstract:**

Linguistic typology refers to classification of structural types that occur across human languages, and the patterns found in typological generalizations are language universals. The two best known publications in this area of research are Greenberg (1978) and Maddieson (1984). However, the substantive typology and universals presented in both publications are inferred from comparisons of the sounds of languages other than the Chinese dialects. This leads to the question of the applicability of their generalizations to the Chinese dialects. The aims of this research are (i) to establish phonetic and phonological typology of the Chinese dialects through classification of the sounds and sound systems of a large areally and genetically balanced representative sample of the Chinese dialects; (ii) to formulate universals based on the patterns of typological generalizations; (iii) to provide explanations for the phonological typology and universals for the Chinese dialects; and (iv) to compare the findings in this study with those in Greenberg (1978), Maddieson (1984) and other studies. The typology and universals of the sound systems of the Chinese dialects in this study are not only subjects of importance in themselves, but also the prelude to formulating theories concerning the evolution of the sound system of Chinese.

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Principal Investigator: **ZHANG Wei** (City University of Hong Kong)  
Co-Investigator: **LUKE Kang Kwong** (The University of Hong Kong)  
Project Title: **Grammar in Interaction: The Syntax and Prosody of Turn Continuation in Chinese Conversation**

**Abstract:**

Everyday mundane conversation is regarded as the primordial site for language use. Previous studies have identified recurrent regularities which underlie the smooth coordination of turn transitions between conversational participants, and some of the ways that a current turn may continue from a point where it could be heard as possibly complete. For instance, the speaker may add another sentence, e.g. "She eats them all the time. I understand they're fattening, huh?" Or, the speaker may add further talk which fits to the end of the just completed utterance, effecting a continuation of that utterance, e.g. "How are you feeling? these days?" where "how are you feeling" is called the host and "these days" the increment. It is this latter way of turn continuation that has attracted much attention. The questions asked include (1) Is increment a new utterance or an extension from the previous one? (2) Is syntactic continuity the only criterion or are there other types of "increment" which show different syntactic relationship with the host? (3) What is the role of various prosodic features, e.g. intonation, stress, tempo, etc. and how do they interact with syntax in signaling various ways of continuing from a previous utterance? Preliminary cross-linguistic comparisons show that language-specific syntax is deeply intertwined with the practice of turn continuation in conversation. While rightward expansion comes more natural for languages with left-headedness syntax, e.g. English, languages with strong sentence brace or rich utterance-final elements (e.g. German, Japanese, Chinese) may develop other means for the same interactional end. Previous studies on Chinese has identified 'right dislocation' as a major device to extend an utterance beyond its apparently completion point, e.g. 但是影響不好啊在社會上。(But it has a bad influence in society). The aim of this project is to provide a comprehensive account of turn continuation in Chinese, including the types and distribution of those types, and to conduct a detailed syntactic and prosodic analysis on the types identified. It is hoped that by a comprehensive account of turn continuation in Chinese contributions can be made to cross-linguistic comparisons and to a better understanding of the interrelation of grammar and social interaction.