



<http://www.lshk.org>

## The Linguistic Society of Hong Kong Newsletter

香港語言學學會通訊

Issue 2, 2013

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### 1. Development of the Society

#### 1.1 Membership, compared with 2012 figures

59(55) Life Members, 5(5) Regular Members, 4(22) Affiliated Members, and 10(39) Student Members. As at 29 November 2013, we have a total of 78(121) members with effective membership, i.e., paid/joined after 31 Aug 2013. Because of the change of membership period, many members' status became invalid after 31 Aug.

#### 1.2 New working group established

A working group was formed in May 2013, namely, the Bilingual Linguistic Glossary Group. Peppina Lee serves as convener with Thomas Lee, Sze-Wing Tang, KH Cheung, Caesar Lun and Bit-Chee Kwok as members.

### 2. On-going work

#### 2.1 Language Policy Group

The group has Caesar Lun as convener. It works towards the LSHK having more impact on society regarding language issues. It meets monthly. It has amassed a lot of information regarding language planning and language policy uploaded to the subpage of the group under the LSHK webpage.

#### 2.2 Jyutping Group

The group has K H Cheung as convener. It meets monthly.

In early 2013, KH and Stephen Matthews of HKU met with some senior staff of HKU Press to explore the possibility of Jyutpingizing an old 133,000-item Chinese-English dictionary of theirs with Cantonese pronunciation. The Press was not interested.

The main work of the group this year is geared towards celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jyutping. Our work includes compiling a Jyutping wordlist with some 15,000 items, producing promotional t-shirts, administering a Jyutping competition for Secondary School students, and staging a special session to celebrate the anniversary (today at 5:15 p.m.) More will be said of Jyutping in that session.

#### 2.3 Bilingual Linguistic Glossary Group

The group met about bi-monthly. We have inputted the English-Chinese correspondences of 3 English-Chinese linguistic glossaries and those in a 4<sup>th</sup> one are at the moment being inputted. We aim at eliminating and/or pointing out obvious mistakes, working out principles to resolve inconsistencies and, hopefully, to endorse certain forms as preferred among multiple renderings of the same term.

#### 2.4 E-newsletters

We thank Andy Chin for overseeing the production of the E-newsletters. Issue 1 of 2013 was out on April 2013 and Issue 2 of 2013 will be out by the end of December.

### 3. Annual Activities

#### 3.1 AGM-cum-ARF

This is scheduled for 30 November, i.e. today. The venue is Hong Kong Polytechnic University. It is co-hosted by the Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies of the PolyU. There will be more about the event in the Acknowledgement section of this report.

#### 3.2 LSHK Workshop on Cantonese

The 13th LSHK Workshop on Cantonese (WOC-13), with the theme “The Interface of Sounds and Forms in Cantonese”, was held successfully on Saturday 9 March 2013 at the Hong Kong Baptist University. It was organized by the LSHK and co-organized by the Department of English Language and Literature at Hong Kong Baptist University.

#### 3.3 Awards

##### a) LSHK Outstanding Thesis Award

We received two nominations, both of the PhD category. The working group decided that no award be given for this year. On behalf of the ExCom, I wish to thank all the reviewers for their professional and fair judgments on the nominated theses, and to Peppina Lee and Carine Yiu for coordinating the task.

##### b) LSHK Award for Outstanding Student Paper on Cantonese Linguistics

The following three submissions were received:

- (i) 陳世安 National Taiwan Normal University: 〈談談現代粵語陽入對轉中的音義關係〉
- (ii) SHEN Ruiqing 沈瑞清 HKUST: 〈從短長到高低：廣府片粵語入聲的聲學性質及演化路徑〉
- (iii) LAU Wan Yee Cindy 劉蘊怡 CUHK: “A study of the semantic and pragmatic properties of Cantonese sentence-final particle *lu3*”

Andy Chin and Bit-chee Kwok serve as coordinators of the award and KH Cheung as one of the panelists. The competition will be scheduled on the first day of the 18th International Conference on Yue Dialects to be held on 7-8 December 2013 at HKUST.

##### c) LSHK Student Field Work Subsidy

Two applications were received. SHAO Jing 邵晶 (PhD, CityU) and ZHENG Zhijun 鄭至君 (PhD, CityU) and both were successful.

### 4. Sponsorship

The Society sponsored the following activities:

- 4.1 \$4,000 for the 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Yue Dialects hosted by HKUST
- 4.2 \$2,000 for the International Symposium on Evolutionary Linguistics hosted by CUHK
- 4.3 \$1,000 for the Linguistics Week organized by HKU (They also invited me as the President of LSHK to give a talk.)
- 4.4 We have committed ourselves to sponsor up to two scholarships of \$1,000 each for the Summer School of Linguistics to be organized by HKU.

## 5. Financial Situation

This is a healthy year for the Society, and we have about \$27K (\$27K last year) income this year, as will be reflected and detailed in the Financial Report. The Society has a total liquid asset of close to 0.55 million HK dollars and over US\$13,000.

## 6. Acknowledgments

### 6.1 To the co-host of LSHK-ARF 2012

Many thanks go to the Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, which jointly host and sponsor our ARF this year, for their help and generous support in manpower (from academia, the Technical Team and the Communication Team) and other resources, and particularly to Prof. Dingxu Shi, Chair Professor and Head of Department.

### 6.2 To the PolyU Local Working Group for the ARF

I wish to thank the extremely efficient work of our group, led by Dr Wai-Mun Leung and Dr Yan-Yan Lam, with Ms Qiuchen Zheng and Roy Yu as members, with the help of student helpers.

### 6.3 To other ExCom members

I wish to thank my impeccable team of ExCom members, namely Peppina LEE (Vice-President), Carine YIU (Secretary), Peggy MOK (Treasurer), Bit-chee KWOK (Communications Coordinator), Andy CHIN (Newsletter Editor), Haihua PAN and Caesar LUN (members-at-large). They together move the ExCom forward. I said it last year and I repeat now: they all have been serving the ExCom and the Society diligently and conscientiously with very high spirit.

### 6.4 To all LSHK members

On behalf of the ExCom, I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all our members for your trust, support, and active participation in our activities, not just in the current year, but in the entire two-year term of our office. Your participation in the AGM in person is particularly appreciated.

We apologize for any shortcomings on our part. I sincerely hope you will give as much support as you have given us to the upcoming, new Executive Committee.

Thank you!

CHEUNG, Kwan Hin  
President, LSHK  
30 November 2013

## Financial Report (delivered at 2013 ARF)

**Linguistic Society of Hong Kong**  
**Financial Report**  
For the Period December 1, 2012 to November 29, 2013

(Prepared by Peggy Mok, Treasurer)

	<u>HK\$</u>	<u>US\$</u>
<b>1. Account Balance at Period End (as of November 30, 2012)</b>		
1) Hang Seng Savings A	515,073.99	
2) Hang Seng Current A	20,867.75	
3) <i>Hang Seng US\$ Timed Deposit</i>	0	12,676.89
4) <i>Hang Seng US\$ Savings</i>	0	1,021.04
	<b>535,941.74</b>	<b>13,697.93</b>
-----		
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>535,941.74</u></b>	<b><u>13,697.93</u></b>
<b>2. Current Period Balance (See Income Statement for details)</b>		
	<b><u>12,784.70</u></b>	<b><u>13.42</u></b>
<b>3. Account Balance at Period End (as of November 29, 2013)</b>		
1) Hang Seng Savings A	507,706.79	
2) Hang Seng Current A	40,983.65	
3) <i>Hang Seng US\$ Timed Deposit</i>	0	12,678.09*
4) <i>Hang Seng US\$ Savings</i>	0	1,033.26
	<b>548,690.44</b>	<b>13,711.35</b>
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<b>Total</b>	<b><u>548,690.44</u></b>	<b><u>13,711.35</u></b>

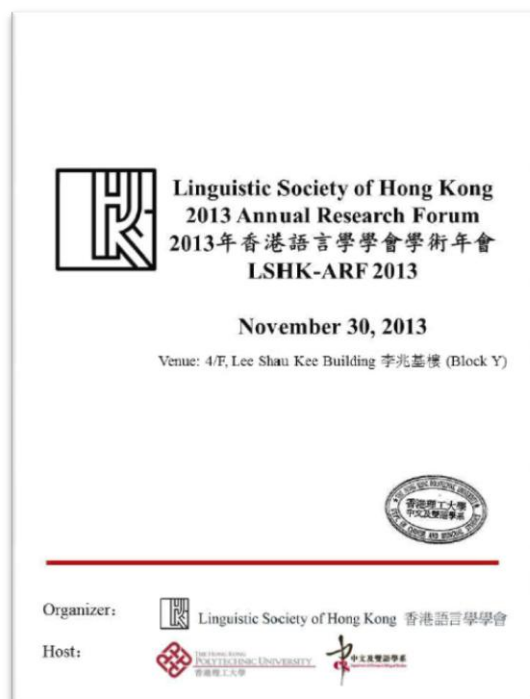
\*Timed Deposit Account balance as of 4 November 2013

## LSHK Annual Research Forum 2013

The LSHK ARF 2013 was held at the **Hong Kong Polytechnic University** on November 30 2013 (Saturday). It was sponsored by Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies and Modern Language Studies. A total of 41 papers were presented at the Forum.

During the AGM, a new Executive Committee (2014-2015) was elected:

Tom Lai	President
John Wakefield	Vice-President
Roxana Fung	Secretary
Zhang Wei	Treasurer
Lawrence Cheung	Communication Officer
Li Bin	Newsletter editor
Sam Leung	Member-at-large
Cheung Kwan Hin	Member-at-large



2013 also marks the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the promulgation of **Jyutping (粵拼)**. To celebrate this memorable occasion, LSHK presents each ARF participants a T-shirt on Jyutping.

A special session on Jyutping was organized. During this session, the Work Group on Jyutping reports on the progress of the compilation of **Jyutping wordlist (粵語拼音詞表)** with about 150,000 entries. The wordlist is expected to be released in early 2014.

A souvenir presentation ceremony was held at this special session with an aim to thank six scholars/associations who have been supporting and promoting Jyutping in different areas. The six recipients are (in alphabetical order of Jyutping):

1. 關子尹教授
2. 粵語協會
3. 梁仲森先生
4. 陸勤教授
5. 蘇揚真先生
6. Canto Dict.



Below is the list of papers presented at ARF-2013.

Speakers	Paper titles
ADACHI Mayumi	Sentence-final uses of Vietnamese demonstratives
CAMPORESE Nadia	Movement and parameters in adverb placement
CHEN Xi	The Rhythmic Correspondence between Music and Speech in English Vocal Music
CHENG Qi & TANG Gladys	On the ultimate attainment of additive ‘ye3’ by Cantonese learners of Mandarin
CHENG Siu-Pong	Syntactic Status of Cantonese <i>faat3</i>
CHOW Ka-Fat	Scalar Model and Maximizers/Minimizers
DAVIS Christopher & HARA Yurie	Causation and the Nature of Indirect Evidence in Japanese
DIMITROVA Vessela	Transcribing an Emergent Variety: A Proposal for Hong Kong English ToBI
DONOHUE Cathryn	On understanding non-canonical case marking
FENG Yuli	Against the cover-based approach to Mandarin <i>dou</i>
FUNG Sze-Ho, Holly	Realization of Narrow Focus in Declaratives in Hong Kong English – A Pilot Study
GUO Jun & LEE Po-Lun, Peppina	The semantic properties of <i>zong</i> and <i>zongshi</i> in Mandarin Chinese
HU Yunyi & TANG Gladys	The Acquisition of Mandarin Nominal Structures by Hong Kong Deaf Children
HUANG Yang	Language Contact in Guangxi Region: On the Evolution of the Postverbal ‘FINISH’ 哂 /ʰai33/ in Nanning Yue
KONG Stano	Typological primacy and the acquisition of early L3 French DPs
LAI Yik-Po & CHEUNG Hin-Tat	Development of A-not-A questions and tag questions in Mandarin
LAM Scholastica	Acquisition of Chinese Relative Clauses by Deaf Children
LAU Wan-Yee, Cindy	The properties of Cantonese <i>Sin 1</i> in post-topic position
LI Jia & LAM Scholastica	Relative Constructions in Hong Kong Sign Language (HKSL)
LI Qun & TANG Gladys	Acquisition of Chinese passives by Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing (DHH) learners
OH Eunjeong & PARK Hyuna	An Experimental Study of Korean Perfective Interpretation
PAN Ziyi	Deaf Children’s Acquisition in Handshape and Phonetic Features of Hong Kong Sign Language (HKSL): A Preliminary Study
SZE Felix, IKEDA Masumi, ISOBE Daigo, MAK Joe & LO Connie	Numeral Expressions in Asian Sign Languages: preliminary observations
SZE Felix, WONG Aaron & WEI Xiao	Taboos and Euphemisms in Signs of Sexual Behaviour in Asian Sign Languages: Preliminary observations
WAI Lap-Ming, Brian & YAP Foong-Ha	Use of the first person pronoun <i>ngos dei6</i> and evasion in political discourse in Hong Kong
WEE Lian-Hee	Comparison of F0 profiles in Hong Kong Cantonese and Hong Kong English
WEI Xiao	Signs of Sexual Behavior in Hong Kong Sign Language
WONG Hok-Yuen, Oscar, TSE Ming-San, Crono & CHEUNG Yam-Leung, Lawrence	“Two ‘ <i>Ho2</i> ’ in Cantonese, ho2?”
WONG Ming-Chiu, Steven & YAP Foong-Ha	Use of rhetorical questions in political discourse in Hong Kong
WUYUN Saina	The inter-sentential function of Mandarin <i>bei</i> passive

YANG Yike & LAM Scholastica	The L2 Acquisition of the Mandarin <i>ba</i> -construction by Cantonese Learners
YIU S.Y., Suki	A Phonetic Description of Tones in Hong Kong English
YUAN Mengxi & HARA Yurie	The final low tone in A-not-A questions: paratactic association of ignorance
ZHANG Ling	Zero morpheme in typological perspective
ZHANG Xue	A Case Study on “Da+NP+de” Structure – An experimental approach with Fuzzy Set Theory
陳紅	普通話句末語氣詞右邊界成因
張群顯、尤盛	《多音常用字粵音指引》的編纂
范莉、宋剛	邏輯意義 vs. 語用意義——從數詞的早期習得來看
孔品淑	精系一、三等字在宋代語料中的措置——以《切韻指掌圖》、《古今韻會舉要》、朱熹《詩集傳》諧音為觀察對象
余鵬、萬波	漢語方言古入聲韻尾的響音化
鄭明中	河北方言「X-兒」類型研究：優選理論觀點



## Forthcoming events

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### March 2014

7 The 2nd Workshop on Innovations in Cantonese Linguistics (WICL 2)  
7-9 Second Asia Pacific Corpus Linguistics Conference

### April 2014

12-13 China and the West: cross-linguistic perspectives (Beijing Foreign Studies University)

### May 2014

2-4 IACL-22 & NACCL-26  
3-4 The 7th Conference on Language, Discourse, and Cognition  
27-31 The 24th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Asian Linguistics Society

### June 2014

4-6 第十四屆中國境內語言暨語言學國際研討會  
11-13 The Third International Symposium on Chinese Language and Discourse

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**\*Acknowledgment is given to Wong Tak-sum for providing information on forthcoming conferences**

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## Call for Papers

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop on Innovations in Cantonese Linguistics (WICL 2)

WICL 2) will take place on March 7, 2014, at the University of Chicago, U.S.A. The workshop focuses on new advances in Cantonese Linguistics, including innovations in methodologies, tools, and/or computing software. New approaches and research on language variation within the Cantonese (or “Yue”) subgroup of the Chinese language family, language contact phenomena, and new subfields and their interfaces are especially welcome.

Invited speakers:

- Marjorie Chan (The Ohio State University)
- Elaine Francis (Purdue University)
- Benjamin Munson (University of Minnesota)
- Patrick Wong (Chinese University of Hong Kong)

WICL2 will meet in conjunction with the 2<sup>nd</sup> East Asian Psycholinguistics Colloquium (EAPC 2), to be held on March 8 at the University of Chicago.

Submission deadline: **December 15, 2013**

Notification of acceptance: **January 15, 2013**

For more details, please visit the website of WICL-2 [[LINK](#)]

### 第七屆漢語語法化問題國際學術討論會

日期： 2013年10月12日至14日  
地點： 武漢·華中師範大學

由中國社會科學院語言研究所及華中師範大學語言與語言教育研究中心聯合主辦的「第七屆漢語語法化問題國際學術討論會」，已於10月12日至14日在武漢順利召開。來自中國內地、香港、澳門、台灣、新加坡、日本、美國等地超過六十位學者出席會議，吳福祥、邢志群、邢福義、洪波、張麗麗、彭睿、鄧思穎（筆劃序）等擔任主題演講嘉賓。會議論文研究的對象包括古代漢語、現代標準漢語、漢語方言及少數民族語言，討論的氣氛非常熱烈。下屆會議將於2015年夏天由中國人民大學承辦。



郭必之 (香港城市大學)

### 海外珍藏漢語文獻與南方明清漢語研究討論會

日期： 2013年6月8日至9日  
地點： 廣州·中山大學

中山大學中文系於6月8日至9日舉辦2012年國家社科基金重大招標項目“海外珍藏漢語文獻與南方明清漢語研究”（主持人：李煒教授）討論會。與會者交流漢語南方方言的歷時研究，當中包括如何收集和運用早期方言文獻。研究報告涉獵不少範疇和方言，如粵語，閩語，客語和南方官話。與會者包括兩岸三地學者及中山大學研究生。

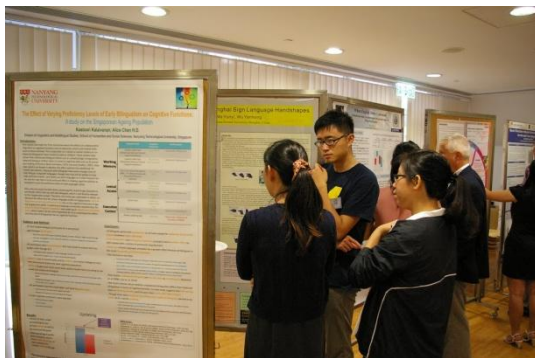


錢志安 (香港教育學院)

## The 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference in Evolutionary Linguistics

The 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference in Evolutionary Linguistics (CIEL-5) took place in The Chinese University of Hong Kong, August 17-19, 2013. The conference was jointly organized by the Department of Linguistics and Modern languages, the Department of Chinese Language and Literature, the Childhood Bilingualism Research Centre, the Faculty of Arts of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), the State Key Laboratory of Brain and Cognitive Sciences at The University of Hong Kong, the Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and The Linguistic Society of Hong Kong. A total of 77 scholars from China, France, Korea, Japan, Singapore and the U.S. attended the conference. There were four major themes of the conference: language and population evolution, language as a complex adaptive system, language and the brain, and diachronic and synchronic study of language. The working languages were English and Chinese. Six keynote speeches were given in the conference. The speakers and their titles were as follows (sorted in the order of presentation): **William S-Y. Wang** (王士元) (CUHK) “Some Issues in Language Evolution”, **Michael A. Arbib** (University of Southern California) “Language Evolution: Current Controversies and the Challenges of Multi-Disciplinary Research”, **Kenneth R. Pugh** (Haskins Laboratories) “The Neurobiology of Speech and Reading”, **Tan Lihai** (譚力海) (The University of Hong Kong) “Brain Mechanisms of Reading: Universal or Culture-specific”, **Alain Peyraube** (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, France) “Syntactico-semantic Change in Chinese: Process of Analogy, Reanalysis, External Borrowing”, and **Shen Jiaxuan** (沈家煊) (The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences) “Nouns and Verbs: Evolution of Grammatical Forms”. Besides keynote speeches, there were also 40 oral presentations and 13 poster presentations in the conference. (Most materials of CIEL-5 are available on the following website: [http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/lin/ciel5/en\\_index.html](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/lin/ciel5/en_index.html).) The 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference in Evolutionary Linguistics (CIEL-6) will be held in Xiamen University in 2014.

Xia Quansheng (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)





## Conference on Sentence Final Particles

The Conference on Sentence Final Particles was held at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University on 13-14 September 2013. The conference was organized by the Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies and the HK PolyU-PKU Research center on Chinese Linguistics. The theme of the conference was ‘Research on Sentence Final Particles from the Perspective of Historical Linguistics, Dialectology and Grammaticalization’, and covered syntactic, semantic, phonetic, acquisition and discourse aspects of sentence final particles. 22 scholars from the US, Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan, Mainland China attended the conference. The papers presented on the conference covered a wide range of perspectives and approaches, as well as quite a number of dialects, such as Cantonese, Min dialect, and Shanxi dialect, and the Yi languages. The papers of the conference will be published in a book by the Peking University Press.



He Yifan (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University)

## The 7<sup>th</sup> Free Linguistics Conference

The 7th Free Linguistics Conference (FLC2013) was held in the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong during 27–28 September 2013.

Free Linguistics Conference, an initiation of Linguistics at the University of Sydney (Australia), is an annual conference series of international scope. The purpose is to provide ‘a widely accessible forum for linguists in all areas of research to come together and share their diverse perspectives’. As the name and further emphasis in its caption line – “freedom from linguistic subfield divisions, freedom from an established and rigid theme for presentations, and freedom from fees – suggests, the main thrust of the conference is providing research all kinds of “freedom”: Free Linguistics Conference is “free” in all respects; i.e. participants are free from the obligation of paying registration fee, they are free to choose and present on any theme within the broad area of linguistics. The “freedom” is greatly significant for the research students (e.g. PhD candidates) and early-career researchers, who have financial constraints and are perplexed by the rigidity of conference themes beyond their areas of research and interest.



FLC2013 was sponsored by the Department of English of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and convened by Elaine Espindola and Abhishek Kumar Kashyap. It was for the first time that this FLC was held outside Australia. FLC2013 was very successful. About 140 delegates from 29 countries attended the conference and 106 papers were presented, including 5 keynotes, six colloquia on diverse themes, one special talk by Dr. Stephen Evans (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University). The keynotes were delivered by eminent experts within their areas of research. The keynote speakers included **Prof. Douglas Biber** (Northern Arizona University, USA), **Prof. John Bateman** (University of Bremen, Germany), **Prof. Martin Haspelmath** (Max Plank Institute of Evolutionary Anthropology, Germany), **Emeritus Prof. Ruqaiya Hasan** (Macquarie University, Australia), and **Dr. Ahmar Mahboob** (University of Sydney, Australia).

The papers selected from FLC2013 are going to be published shortly in the following two formats: (1) an edited conference proceedings and (2) a special journal issue of *Linguistics and the Human Sciences* (published by Equinox).

Abhishek Kumar Kashyap (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University)

## LFK SOCIETY YOUNG SCHOLARS SYMPOSIUM

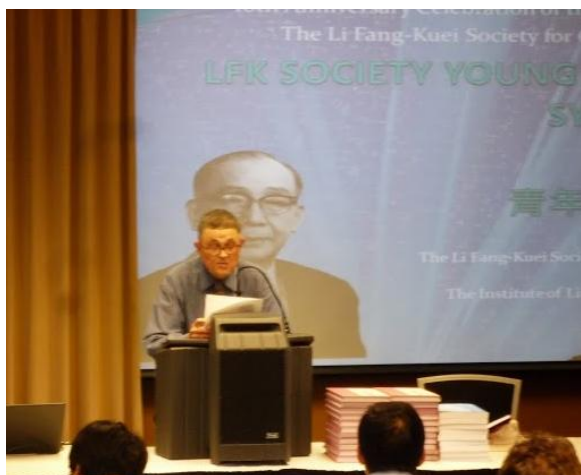
### 李方桂學會青年學者研討會

2013 marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the [Li Fang-Kuei Society for Chinese Linguistics](#). In celebration of this event, the Society sponsored a special academic workshop, the **LFK Society Young Scholars Symposium** at the University of Washington in Seattle, August 11-13, 2013.

The purpose of this special Symposium was to bring together a group of young scholars for discussions that explore new horizons in the disciplines of Sino-Tibetan and Chinese historical-comparative linguistics and related fields. A total of 19 scholars were invited to present their latest research at the Symposium. Participants from Hong Kong include Carine Yiu, Andy Chin, Kwok Bit-chee.

There were two keynote speeches by Professor Wolfgang Behr and Professor Zhang Min.

Andy Chin (The Hong Kong Institute of Education)



Opening remarks by Prof. South Coblin,  
President of the LFK Society



“Scholarship of the late Professor Li Fang-Kuei”  
by Dr. Peter Li, son of the late Professor Li



Group Photo

## The 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Yue Dialects 第十八屆國際粵方言研討會

The 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Yue Dialects was held on 7 & 8 December 2013 at The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST). LSHK was a co-sponsor of the event, while the Division of Humanities and Centre for Chinese Linguistics of HKUST were the co-organizers. The Conference was kicked off by Professor Zhan Bohui's opening remark.

There were four keynote speeches:

1. Professor Samuel Cheung – 早期粵語語料中殘留的語法現象
2. Professor Cheung Kwan Hin – Ripples riding on waves: Cantonese tone-melody match mechanism illustrated
3. Professor Mai Yun – 對古全濁音今讀的方言劃分效度的反思
4. Professor Benjamin Tsou – Cantonese reflections on Chinese QIE's (Quadra-syllabic idiomatic expressions).

A total of 43 papers were presented during the 2-day conference including the 3 shortlisted papers for **The LSHK Award for Outstanding Student Paper on Cantonese Linguistics** (香港語言學學會粵語語言學傑出學生論文獎). This year, the award went to SHEN Ruiqing (沈瑞清) whose paper title was 從短長到高低: 廣府片粵語入聲的聲學性質及演化路徑.

Andy Chin (The Hong Kong Institute of Education)





## Prof. Lu Jianming's visit to Department of Chinese Language Studies, HKIEd

The Department of Chinese Language Studies (CHL), The Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIEd), invited Prof. Lu Jianming from the Department of Chinese Language and Literature, Peking University to visit CHL as a Visiting Professor in November 2013.

Prof. Lu is a world-famous Chinese linguist and widely recognized as one of the most distinguished grammarians in the field of Modern Chinese. During his one-month stay at CHL, Prof. Lu gave three public academic talks, with topics ranging over Modern Chinese grammar, teaching Chinese as second language, and Chinese teaching in secondary school. Besides, to create an opportunity for local colleagues to exchange their ideas and research with Prof. Lu, CHL organized a workshop entitled **現代漢語研究之回顧與展望** ("Research on Modern Chinese: Retrospection and Prospect") on 23 November at HKIEd. Prof. Zhu Qingzhi, the Head of CHL, delivered a welcome speech at the opening ceremony. He emphasized that Modern Chinese has always been one of the core teaching/research areas of CHL and that he sincerely looked forward to a closer connection and cooperation between local institutes in this field.



(City University of Hong Kong/ Beijing Language and Culture University), Prof. Shi Dingxu (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University), Dr. Tang Sze-Wing (The Chinese University of Hong Kong), and Dr. Zhang Min (The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology).

The Hong Kong Institute of Education  
香港教育學院

Powering Education

香港教育學院中國語言學系  
主辦

### 現代漢語研究之回顧與展望 工作坊

2013年11月23日 (星期六)  
時間：上午10:00-下午5:15  
地點：C-LP-02

黃正德 哈佛大學 / 北京語言大學 從“被XX”的語法語義談句法理論和語法演變	柳娜 天津師範大學	潘海華 香港城市大學 / 中山大學	陸燦 中山大學
金晶 香港教育學院 從漢語的部分指別詞看漢語名詞短語指稱屬性	石定栩 香港理工大學 名詞性成分的指稱	梁源 香港教育學院 拼音知識與漢字識別的關係	鄧思穎 香港中文大學 粵語語氣詞的虛與實
陸儉明 北京大學 句子的合格與不合格	張敏 香港科技大學 語義地圖模型與現代漢語語法研究	(講者按姓氏拼音首字母排序)	

此活動納入「中文教育課程學術活動獎勵計劃」  
如有查詢/報名，請電郵至chl@ied.edu.hk

The following 8 scholars were invited to present their latest research at the one-day workshop (alphabetically ordered): Prof. C.-T. James Huang (Harvard University/Beijing Language and Culture University), Dr. Jin Jing (HKIEd), Dr. Liang Yuan (HKIEd), Prof. Lu Jianming (Peking University), Prof. Pan Haihua

Jin Jing (The Hong Kong Institute of Education)



### 最新出版

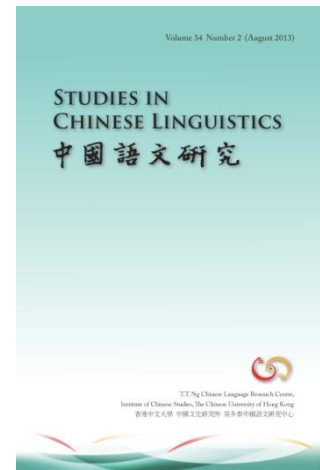
吳多泰中國語文研究中心《中國語文研究》第34卷第2期

《中國語文研究》第34卷第2期已於今年8月出版。本期刊載三篇文章：

1. Kyle Johnson: 對省略的允許 (英文)
2. 李豔惠: 語音嵌入及省略 (英文)
3. 梁子祥: 時間就是金錢: 香港粵語的一些語法論證 (英文)

文章可以從吳多泰中國語文研究中心的網頁下載：

<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/ics/clrc/>。



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### New Publication

***Studies in Chinese Linguistics* (Volume 34 Number 2), T.T. Ng Chinese Language Research Centre**

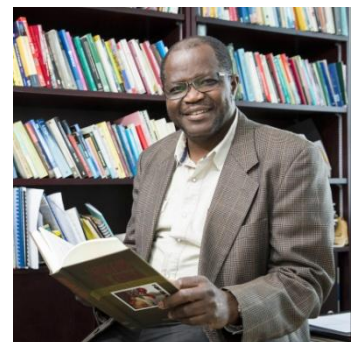
*Studies in Chinese Linguistics* (Volume 34 Number 2) was released in August 2013. There are three articles in this issue:

1. Kyle Johnson: Licensing Ellipsis
2. Yen-hui Audrey Li: P-Insertion and Ellipsis
3. Tommi Leung: Time is Money: Some Syntactic Arguments from Hong Kong Cantonese

PDF copies of these articles can be downloaded freely via <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/ics/clrc/>.

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Professor **Adams Bodomo** has moved from HKU as Associate Professor of Linguistics and African Studies to the University of Vienna as Professor of African Studies (Chair professorship in African Languages and Literatures) with effect from August 2013. Professor Bodomo is still a Life Member of LSHK, and continues comparative studies involving African languages and Chinese languages (Cantonese, Mandarin, Zhuang, etc).



Correspondence address of Professor Bodomo:

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Adams Bodomo  
Professor of African Studies (Chair of Languages and Literatures),  
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# Linguistics @ HKU

## Welcome to new faculty

This has been a great semester for us. Diana Archangeli joined us from U.Arizona and Cathryn Donohue from the ANU.

**Diana** is setting up a lab and to help move this along successfully applied for funding through the **RGC (UDF)** for Phonetic Data collection. The lab will be equipped and ready to go for acoustic as well as articulatory data collection. This is timely as Diana was also awarded a **GRF** for *An ultrasound investigation of the acquisition of speech articulation in Cantonese, Putonghua and English* as well as an RGC **PDF** to work on this project. We thus welcomed yet another person to our department: Jon Yip, who has accepted a three-year appointment as post-doctoral fellow. Jon grew up in the Bay Area in California, completing studies at Berkeley and Michigan. He is interested in the production and perception of phonetic information during speech and is skilled in a variety of software as well as phonetic analysis.

## Summer School

The dates are now set for the Summer School we'll be hosting next summer: 7-18 July 2014. These will consist of one week of classes and a one-week workshop on documentation. We will have local rates and different enrollment options, so stay tuned! More details will be posted soon to the website: <http://www.linguistics.hku.hk/summer>

## Seminar series

We were fortunate to have an excellent line-up of scholars who came and gave a seminar at HKU: Mark Donohue (ANU), Peter Austin (SOAS), One-Soon Her (National Chengchi U), Martin Haspelmath (MPI), Yi Xu (UCL), Hiram Ring (NTU) and Alexis Michaud (CNRS). A special thanks to those of you from other campuses who made the trek to join us in learning about their exciting new work!

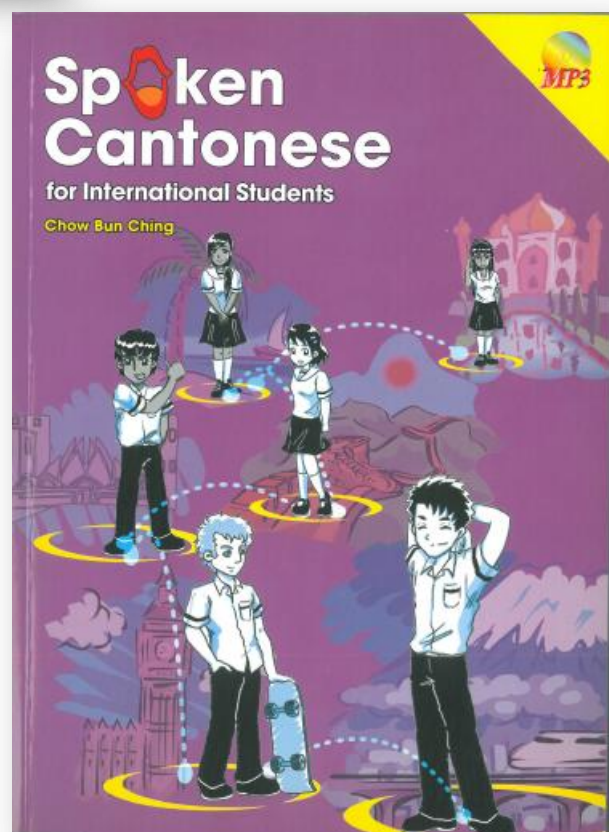
## Other in-house events

Li-Hai Tan's State Key Lab hosted the *International Symposium on Language, Brain and Genes* in October.

## Conferences & Travel

Linguistics@HKU has been well represented at a number of conferences this semester.

Suki Yu and Stephen Matthews attended the Association for Linguistic Typology in Leipzig, Germany. They presented a poster on "Correlations between tonality and word order type". Following the conference was a workshop to mark the launch of the *Atlas of Pidgin and Creole Language Structures (APiCS)* to which six HKU linguists have contributed data sets (Umberto Ansaldo and Lisa Lim: Singlish, Michelle Li and Stephen Matthews: Chinese Pidgin English, Geoff Smith: Tok Pisin, and Kofi Yakpo: Pichi). A contact-language counterpart to the World Atlas of Language Structures, the Atlas can be found online at [www.apics-online.info](http://www.apics-online.info)



## Recent PhD graduates

Congratulations to Wang Shan, Jin Jing, Zhang Ling who have completed their PhD studies at the Polytechnic University of Hong Kong. Below are their dissertation abstracts.

### **Semantics of Event Nouns**

Wang Shan

Chief supervisor: Huang Chu-Ren

Committee members: Cheung Kwan-Hin, James Pustejovsky, Fang Chengyu, Huang Chu-Ren

University: The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

#### **Abstract:**

In the philosophy of language and formal semantics, it is often assumed that nouns denote entities and sentences denote propositions and events. This semantic dichotomy is maintained in the study of deverbal nouns, where the verb-like properties of process nominals are attributed to the verbs they derive from. However, non-derived nouns like simple event nominals are considered to behave similarly to result nominals. What kinds of nouns carry eventive information and what information it is are the concerns of this thesis.

This thesis reveals the criteria that can identify event nouns in Mandarin Chinese, including event classifiers, event structure and light verbs. Then it divided event nouns into three categories: process nominals, instant nominals and pure event nouns. Based on the constraint-based linguistic model, it establishes an event-based noun classification system. The findings indicate that process nominals and pure event nouns have the same behavior; instant nominal behave similarly to process nominals and pure event nouns, except that they cannot be selected by aspectualizers and durative time expressions.

Event nouns are typically compound nouns. The thesis explores their morpho-syntactic properties, semantic properties, event representation properties, and information inheritance properties.

This thesis enriches the type system of the Generative Lexicon theory through studying event nouns, including natural types, artifactual types, natural complex types and artifactual complex types. It then examines the qualia role contribution to these types and proposes a scale-based qualia role contribution system.

To elaborate eventive information representation of event nouns, the above theoretical work is followed by a detailed analysis of 會議 *huiyi* ‘meeting; conference’, as a typical non-derived event noun based on the Generative Lexicon theory. The results demonstrate that non-derived event nouns can represent eventive information. They behave like a deverbal nominal very much and unlike an entity-referring noun.

## Functions of Chinese Classifiers: A Syntax-semantics Interface Account

Jin Jing

Chief supervisor: Shi Dingxu

Committee members: Jiang Yan, Shi Dingxu, Pan Haihua, Tang Sze-wing

University: The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

### Abstract:

This dissertation aims to investigate grammatical functions of Chinese classifiers and to explore the semantics-to-syntax mapping of numeral classifier constructions. Three main sub-issues are studied: (i) the semantic and syntactic properties of classifiers, (ii) the underlying structure of different types of numeral classifier constructions, and (iii) the referential properties of [Num-CI-N]. A unified treatment of grammatical functions of classifiers is proposed that classifiers, irrespective of their subcategory, uniformly serve as partition units which specify criteria for defining individuated, non-overlapped divisions on a quantity/quality scale. A generalization is put forth that as for the Chinese classifier system, the semantic factor which truly syntactically matters is whether the classifier is used as a standardized interval unit that encodes a well-determined measure value, while the dichotomies claimed to be syntactically relevant in previous studies, including classifiers proper vs. measure words (e.g. Tai 1994), count-classifiers vs. massifiers (Cheng & Sybesma 1998), and [+Counting] classifiers vs. [+Measure] classifiers (X.-P. Li 2011), are untenable. To syntactically capture this, the present study distinguishes two types of Classifier Phrases, where the semantic and syntactic discrepancies of Chinese classifiers are attributed to a transitive vs. intransitive configuration distinction (i.e. whether or not taking an NP complement) between the two types of CIs.

The present study takes advantage of insights from the existing syntactic investigation of the internal structure of noun phrases (e.g. Abney 1987; Longobardi 1994; Szabolcsi 1994; Zamparelli 2000) and pursues the idea that a particular interpretive effect should be associated with the projection of a particular functional layer. Furthermore, integrating Rizzi's (1997, 2004) analysis for the clausal domain into the syntactic study of the nominal phrase, the dissertation assumes that within the nominal phrase "specifiers are licensed by the substantive featural content of their heads" (2004: 243). Along this line, different functional projections are assigned to different numeral classifier constructions, including the Monotonicity Phrase (MonP in the sense of Schwarzschild (2006)), the Modifier Phrase (cf. Tsai 2011), the DP-internal Focus Phrase (cf. Giusti 1996; Aboh 2004; Ntelitheos 2004; Corver & van Koppen 2009), and the Evaluative Phrase (EvalP in the sense of Doetjes & Rooryck (2002)).

With respect to the referential properties of [Num-CI-N], the present study argues that Chinese [Num-CI-N] is born property-denoting rather than inherently carrying an existential force. In accordance with the Montague Grammar (Heim & Kratzer 1998) in assuming that arguments should be individual-denoting elements (of the semantic type  $\langle e \rangle$  or  $\langle \langle e, t \rangle, t \rangle$ ) whereas predicates must be property-denoting (of the semantic type  $\langle e, t \rangle$ ), this dissertation makes a distinction in terms of the syntactic category between argumental and predicative [Num-CI-N] (cf. Abney 1987; Stowell 1990; Longobardi 1994; Szabolcsi 1994; Chierchia 1998a, 1998b; Zamparelli 2000). It is hypothesized that the argumental [Num-CI-N] correlates with a DP layer whereas the predicative [Num-CI-N] does not project into a DP. Such a DP, headed by a null D, starts out as merely a variable, whose interpretation (definite, existential, or non-referential) needs to be determined by the operator contextually binding it.

## **Intonation Effects on Cantonese Lexical Tones in Speaking and Singing**

Zhang Ling

Chief supervisor: Cheung Kwan Hin

Committee members: Fung Suk Yee, Marjorie Chan, Luke Kang Kwong, Cheung Kwan Hin

University: The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

### **Abstract:**

Cantonese lexical tones are preserved in both speaking and singing (which can be regarded as a special kind of speech style). Through three main acoustic experiments, the present thesis is a systematic study of the intonation effects on Cantonese lexical tones in speaking and singing.

In Experiment I, three pairs of speech styles were compared: opera speaking versus opera singing, opera speaking versus normal speaking, and normal speaking versus normal singing. A perception test further examined the conclusions of the acoustic experiments from the perspective of listeners. The results of Experiment I showed that speaking and singing speech styles are different mainly in pitch slope. Speaking speech styles are associated with a declining intonation, while singing speech styles tend to be level or even show a slightly ascending tendency. The experimental data also indicate that a higher pitch register is usually employed when a speech type is considered more conspicuous, such as opera speaking (compared with normal speaking) and normal singing (compared with normal speaking).

Experiment II focused on the comparison between speaking and singing by layman speakers. Twelve native speakers of Cantonese were asked to read aloud and sing a set of lyrics taken from Cantonese songs. The data analysis was conducted in the framework of a matrix of the two dimensions of pitch configuration and pitch domain. At the syllable level and the utterance-body portion, speaking has a more pitch slope declination, a lower pitch register, and a wider pitch span, while singing has a more ascending pitch slope, a higher pitch register, and a narrower pitch span. Pitch slope at both the syllable and the utterance levels exhibits a downdrift pattern for speaking and an updrift pattern for singing. At the utterance-final portion, speaking shows a strong utterance-final declination effect while singing does not exhibit an obvious utterance-final effect.

Experiment III was conducted in the same framework as Experiment II, but with focus on the internal differences of normal speaking. Four sentence types were compared: declarative without a sentence-final particle (SFP, henceforth), declarative-derived question without an SFP, declarative with an SFP, and declarative-derived question with an SFP. The results showed that there is a declination effect in the domains of the syllable level and the utterance-body portion. For utterances without an SFP, the utterance-final intonation is very different: in a declarative, the final syllable has a significantly lower pitch register and a slightly more declining pitch slope; in a question, the final syllable keeps the pitch register unchanged but has a sharply rising contour. For utterances with an SFP, the SFP carries the burden of utterance-final intonation. The utterance-final intonation can be regarded as a kind of segmentless SFP with floating pitch contour to be superimposed to the final syllable.

The present study enriches the knowledge of intonation typology and provides further insight into the relationship between lexical tones and intonation. In particular, the updrift intonation of singing fills the vacuum of non-declination in intonation types. The matrix of pitch configuration and pitch domain proposed here is a new model for experimental studies on intonation in tonal languages.

## A Semantic Study of the Adverbs *Cai* and *Jiu* in Mandarin Chinese

Zhang Lei

Chief supervisor: Peppina Lee

Committee members: Jiang Yan, Paul Law, Pan Haihua, Peppina Lee

University: City University of Hong Kong

### Abstract:

The aim of this research is to conduct a comprehensive analysis on the semantics of the adverbs *cai* and *jiu* in Mandarin Chinese, and to deal with some syntactic issues of these two adverbs.

Along the line of Paris (1987), I claim that the adverbs *cai* and *jiu* are linking adverbs whose core meaning is to establish a relation between two units. Various semantic functions of both *cai* and *jiu* can be linked to this core meaning.

It is argued that the semantics of *cai* is complex, as it can either have a single function, i.e. it serves as an exclusive adverb, a temporal adverb or a degree adverb, or hold a dual-function, i.e. it acts as both an exclusive adverb and a temporal adverb, or as both an exclusive adverb and a degree adverb. The adverb *jiu* can function as either a focus adverb, or a sufficiency operator, or the adverb *jiu* with the 'close to' meaning which including two cases: (a) *jiu* serves as a temporal adverb and (b) *jiu* indicates two events happened/will happen in quick succession. The adverbs *cai* and *jiu* share the common functions, i.e. both of them can serve as a focus adverb or a temporal adverb.

As a focus adverb, *cai/jiu* builds up both a relation between the asserted value and its alternatives and a relation between the asserted value and the relevant open sentence. In the spirit of Krifra (1996, 2006) among others, I claim that the focus adverb *cai/jiu* associates with expressions containing focus rather than focus directly and then the position of focus will influence the alternative set. I put forward that neither 'rejected expectation' nor 'related to a scale' is the basic meaning of *cai/jiu*. The focus adverb *cai* can be subsumed under the heading of exclusive adverbs, and it can associate with either an element to its left/right or the whole sentence. The focus adverb *jiu* can be further divided into three: the exclusive adverb *jiu*, the scalar adverb *jiu* and the adverb *jiu* indicating emphatic assertion.

As a temporal adverb, *cai/jiu* establishes a relation between the actual time value denoted by *cai/jiu* and the reference time value, which can be illustrated on a temporal scale.

The degree adverb *cai* builds up a relation between the conventional degree and the actual degree.

In dual-functional cases, *cai* establishes a relation not only between the actual value and the reference value, but also between the asserted value and the open sentence in question.

Being a sufficiency operator *jiu* establishes a sufficient relation between the antecedent and the consequent.

In the case of *jiu* indicating that one event will happen/happened immediately after another event, *jiu* establishes a successive relation between the two events under consideration.

In this dissertation, I also explore the co-occurrence cases involved *cai/jiu*, and provide an explanation on the cases where the relevant sentence needs to be licensed by particles like *cai/jiu*.

## **Cross-linguistic perception of intonation by Cantonese and Mandarin listeners**

Robert Xu

Chief supervisor: Peggy Mok

Committee members: Thomas Lee, Peggy Mok, Jiang-King Ping, Shih Chilin

University: Chinese University of Hong Kong

### **Abstract:**

This study investigates the interaction between psychoacoustic perception mechanism (the Frequency Code) and phonological knowledge, and the role of language background in the perception of intonation. Cantonese and Mandarin have distinctive lexical tone and intonation systems. Previous studies showed that Mandarin questions were signaled by raising F0 contour of the whole utterance. In comparison to Mandarin, there are fewer studies on Cantonese intonation and each has their limitations. Two production experiments focusing on the final rising and the global F0 contour were thus conducted to confirm the intonation patterns of Cantonese. The results show that the final rising is the principal perceptual cue for Cantonese questions. It is resulted from a final high boundary tone that is strictly localized at the end of an utterance. The modification in global F0 contour is neither significant nor consistent. In questions ending with a sentence final particle (SFP), the final high boundary tone is located in the particle and does not influence pre-SFP part of the utterance. To answer the central research question on cross-linguistic perception of intonation, 20 Mandarin listeners and 20 Cantonese listeners participated in perception experiments with different contexts (normal speech and low-pass filtered speech) and conditions (complete utterances and utterances without the final tone). They completed forced choice tasks to identify whether the utterance they heard was a statement or a question. Identification accuracy, discriminability scores, bias scores and confidence ratings were included in the data analysis. The results show that when they listened to an unfiltered unfamiliar/less familiar language, they used both their phonological knowledge and the psychoacoustic code to process intonation. When they listened to low-pass filtered speech, they mainly relied on the psychoacoustic mechanism, even though perceptual patterns still show minor differences stemming from language background. The results also show complicated interactions between tone and intonation in perception.

Based on these findings, it is concluded that the interaction between psychoacoustic mechanism and phonological knowledge of tone and intonation are essential for intonation perception. Language background also plays an important part. When there is rich linguistic information in the speech signal, phonological knowledge may override psychoacoustic mechanism.



## New Research Initiatives

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<b>Project title:</b>	Trilingual education in Hong Kong primary schools: English, Cantonese and Putonghua as Medium of Instruction in different subjects and implications for language learning 香港小學的三語教育研究：英文，廣東話和普通話作為不同科目的教學語言將對語言學習產生怎樣的深遠影響
<b>Principal Investigator:</b>	Wang Lixun (HKIEd)
<b>Supported by:</b>	General Research Fund, Research Grants Council

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Since the handover in 1997, the Hong Kong government has adopted a “biliterate and trilingual” policy with the aim of enabling Hong Kong residents to become biliterate in written Chinese and English, and trilingual in Cantonese, Putonghua and spoken English. Currently, Hong Kong primary schools do not have an agreed approach or method for the implementation of trilingual education, and there is an urgent need to explore current successful or unsuccessful models. Following a successful preliminary case study into the implementation of trilingual education in a single HK primary school (Wang & Kirkpatrick, 2012), this project aims to carry out a more complete inquiry into trilingual education in Hong Kong primary schools. The research questions are: 1) What are the models of trilingual education in HK primary schools? 2) Which models are more effective in fostering trilingualism? To evaluate how successful the schools are in producing trilingual children, we need to look at students’ language benchmark results before graduation, and also invite them to self-evaluate their language proficiency level. Teachers’ reflections on their own teaching can also inform us about the effectiveness of the trilingual education models adopted in the schools. Research methods will include document analysis, ethnographic case studies, questionnaire surveys, interviews, and classroom discourse analysis adopting a corpus linguistics approach. The outcomes of this project would be a better understanding of how to implement trilingual education in Hong Kong primary schools. Upon successful completion of the project, it is expected that a trilingual education model that is likely to be effective across schools in general would be proposed and recommended to Hong Kong primary schools.

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<b>Project title:</b>	Entering-tone (ir)regularities in Beijing Mandarin and surrounding dialects: Comprehensive fieldwork data for systematic hypothesis-testing 入聲在北京話及週邊方言中的規則與不規則演變——一項基於大量方言材料以系統檢測多種假設的研究
<b>Principal Investigator:</b>	Sun Jingtao (HKUST)
<b>Supported by:</b>	General Research Fund, Research Grants Council

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In Early Mandarin, represented by *Zhōngyuán Yīnyùn* (1324), all *rùshēng* syllables already lost their consonantal endings, being redistributed into other tones, determined primarily by the initials: (a) to *yángpíng* after voiced obstruent, (b) to *shǎngshēng* after voiceless obstruent, and (c) to *qùshēng* after sonorant. In standard Mandarin this regular redistribution holds true for (a) and (c), but not for (b). In other words, most syllables of type (b) (called *qīngrù* in Chinese) have merged into other tonal categories following no phonological conditioning. It is basically the same for many other Mandarin dialects surrounding Beijing. The present research aims to (a) account for this irregularity by scrutinizing dialect influence, and (b) to reveal how dialect/language influence takes effect in general.

This research starts with collecting tonal data through a prepared questionnaire consisting of 510 common *rùshēng* syllables by themselves and as a member of about 8000 words and expressions. The subsequent analysis will focus on a systematic hypothesis-testing on the redistribution of *qīngrù* syllables: (1) into *yīnpíng* through the continual immigration from the surrounding provinces; (2) into *yángpíng* owing to a short-rising pitch in the literati’s speech, probably originating from Xīnán Mandarin; (3) into *qùshēng* because of Beijing’s replacement of Nanjing as the new capital in 1421 and arbitrary pronunciation by local teachers and students.

<b>Project title:</b>	Talker Normalization in Lexical Tone Perception and Perceptual Constancy 聲調感知中的說話人歸一化與知覺恆常性
<b>Principal Investigator:</b>	Peng Gang (CUHK)
<b>Supported by:</b>	General Research Fund, Research Grants Council

In speech communication, talker variation poses a challenge for rapid and accurate speech perception. Nevertheless, listeners show extraordinary success in recovering the intended linguistic message. How listeners manage to map variable acoustical signals onto invariant linguistic categories is a fundamental question in speech perception.

The process of recognizing intended words despite the acoustic variation induced by talker variability is called talker normalization. Context plays an important role in such a process. In this project, behavioral and electroencephalographic (EEG) experiments will be conducted to systematically examine the psychological and neural bases of context-dependent talker normalization in lexical tone perception. The effect of speech intelligibility and congruency in talker identity on talker normalization will be investigated. Meanwhile, EEG experiments will be conducted to investigate the neural mechanisms of context-dependent talker normalization. In particular we will examine whether context-dependent talker normalization is an actively controlled process that requires attention and voluntary control, or an automatic process.

Findings of this project will shed important light on the mechanisms and bases of phonetic constancy in speech perception. Moreover, this project will lead to a richer understanding of perceptual constancy in general.

<b>Project title:</b>	Reference Grammar of Hong Kong Sign Language
<b>Principal Investigator:</b>	Gladys Tang (CUHK)
<b>Co-Principal Investigator:</b>	Scholastica Lam (CUHK)
<b>Supported by:</b>	General Research Fund, Research Grants Council

Linguistic research on Hong Kong Sign Language (HKSL) in recent decades has resulted in some preliminary understanding of the linguistic organization of the language at the phonological, morphological and syntactic level, reflecting natural language properties such as hierarchical organization of linguistic structure and constraints of interpretation. These properties manifest themselves in how phonological parameters of handshape, location, movement, and palm orientation are combined in sign formation; how morphological units are “stacked up” in compounding, verb agreement, classifier predicates; and how non-manual expressions co-occur with certain syntactic structures. What is more, we have come to realize that sign language utilizes space in linguistic organization and simultaneous linguistic expression is made possible by more than one set of articulators, which are the hands, body and facial expressions.

The current project aims to further consolidate these earlier observations, with the prospect of eventually compiling a reference grammar of the language, to support further research and deaf development programs in Hong Kong. The outputs will benefit developments in sign language teaching, deaf education, speech and language rehabilitation, as well as sign interpretation, research areas that are still underdeveloped in Hong Kong.

<b>Project title:</b>	The Postverbal Constraint across Chinese Dialects 漢語方言中的動後限制
<b>Principal Investigator:</b>	Zhang Min (HKUST)
<b>Supported by:</b>	General Research Fund, Research Grants Council

No other grammatical feature can better reveal the typological uniqueness of Modern Chinese among world languages than its strong tendency to disallow the occurrence of more than one constituent after the verb in a sentence, known in the field as the “Postverbal Constraint”. Generally, if a language has a basic word order of V(erb)O(bject), i.e., the object following the verb, such as in Thai, Vietnamese, Akan, Ewe, and English, it can allow two, three, or more elements to occur after the verb, as illustrated by “he wiped [the table] [clean] [for the guests]” in English. Conversely, if a language has an order of O(bject)V(erb), like Japanese, Korean, and Mongolian, it would generally allow no phrasal constituent after the verb, but two, three, or more before the verb. Chinese is a VO language but tends to allow only one constituent after the verb. This trait sets Chinese apart from all other languages in the world. To further complicate matters, the constraint is not a strict rule, and many exceptions can be found in Standard Mandarin, such as “gěi (give) – tā (him) – yīběn-shū (a book)”.

Over the past four decades, linguists working on Chinese have been perplexed by questions like how to explain the existence of this unusual feature in Chinese, and how to account for the exceptions. The first question seems to be easier to answer than the second. China is geographically intermediate between North Asia (where all languages have the order of OV) and continental Southeast Asia (which is dominated by VO languages). Therefore it wouldn't be surprising if Chinese is structurally intermediate between OV and VO with some peculiar features resulting from language contact and areal diffusion. Attractive and plausible as it is, this hypothesis is nevertheless not easy to prove with concrete evidence.

This project will be the first comprehensive survey on the Postverbal Constraint with exclusive data from Chinese dialects – the real mother tongues of the Chinese-speaking population, aiming to approach the issue from a different perspective. It stems from my earlier research on a different but related topic, where some northern Chinese dialects in my sample are observed to allow much fewer exceptions than Standard Mandarin; some exhibit a strict adherence to the constraint without any exception; and some others go beyond the standard constraint, intolerant of even a single postverbal element. The finding leads to the proposal of a “Postverbal Constraint Continuum” across Chinese dialects, serving as the working hypothesis for the project. We plan to investigate 100-140 dialects in 20 provinces on 8 grammatical features pertaining to the constraint. All linguistic data will be entered into a GIS system, together with extralinguistic data collected from each fieldwork site, such as records of immigration history, information on language contact situation past and present, for subsequent multifactorial analysis. A big step forward toward the solution of the perplexing questions would be made if the Postverbal Constraint Continuum turns out to coincide with another continuum, along which the Sinitic contact with non-Sinitic northern OV languages varies proportionally in terms of intensity and historical depth.

<b>Project title:</b>	Exploring word order variation in Chinese: A case study of the use of BA construction 以“把”字結構為例探索漢語語序變異的現象
<b>Principal Investigator:</b>	Yao Yao (PolyU)
<b>Supported by:</b>	General Research Fund, Research Grants Council

In this research, we will make use of some recent development in probabilistic linguistics to build a corpus-based probabilistic model for predicting the use of BA construction in context. Using a large set of annotated corpus data, the model will try to relate the use of BA construction with various potential sources of influence in syntax, semantics, pragmatics, etc. Modeling results will be compared with human subjects' performance in behavioral experiments, in order to verify the psycholinguistic basis of the model. Findings from this research will not only shed light on our understanding of how BA construction is used in natural contexts, but also contribute to linguistic research methodology and computational linguistics.

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**Project title:** Linguistic Analysis of Mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century Hong Kong Cantonese by Constructing an Annotated Spoken Corpus

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**Principal Investigator:** Andy Chin (HKIEd)

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**Supported by:** General Research Fund, Research Grants Council

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This proposed project thus takes on a *real-time* and *corpus-based* approach to bridge this critical gap in Cantonese diachronic research. An annotated corpus of mid-20<sup>th</sup> century Hong Kong Cantonese will be constructed with spoken data drawn from the dialogs of 100 Cantonese movies (generally known as 粵語長片) produced in Hong Kong between the 1950s and the 1970s. Movies of different genres (except Cantonese operas 粵劇) will be selected in order to obtain a balanced and representative view of the language of the period concerned. The dialogs of the 100 movies will first be transcribed with Chinese characters, then annotated with parts-of-speech and Cantonese pronunciations, non-linguistic attributes, such as genders and names of speakers, etc. It is estimated that the corpus will consist of about 1.2 million Chinese characters (i.e. about 12,000 characters per movie) and the processed and indexed data will be available for search through a user - friendly online search engine. In-depth analysis of the corpus data pertinent to the areas of lexical items, syntax, semantics and discourse will be undertaken by the PI and his team. It is planned that a research monograph on some salient linguistic features highlighting mid-20<sup>th</sup> Hong Kong Cantonese will be produced. When compared with the 19<sup>th</sup> century Cantonese materials which mostly include literary works such as language manuals, dictionaries or translation of Bible, this proposed corpus will draw on authentic and natural spoken data which can largely reflect and represent the language actually used in the society of the period concerned. The real-time nature of the corpus data could also allow us to uncover some linguistic usage or features unnoticed in previous Cantonese studies, especially those that are not in current use in contemporary Cantonese.

In the long run, this corpus could also benefit other disciplines in linguistics, such as discourse analysis, pragmatics and conversation analysis, as well as the inter-relationship between language and culture of mid-20<sup>th</sup> century Hong Kong.

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**Project title:** The Landscape of Chinese Quantifiers --- with special reference to Mandarin Chinese and Cantonese

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**Principal Investigator:** Peppina Lee (CityU)

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**Supported by:** General Research Fund, Research Grants Council

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Quantifiers are used to express quantity of things or amount of stuff in human language, and languages may differ with respect to strategies of quantification. In Chinese, D- and A-quantifications (Partee 1995) are expressed by different categories --- determiners, classifiers, numerals, indefinites, wh-indefinites, auxiliaries, adverbs or predicate modifiers, verbal suffixes/particles, and sentence-final particles. Much cross-linguistic work on quantification (e.g., Bach et. al. 1995, Matthewson 2008 and Keenan & Paperno 2012 among others) covers a wide range of languages from different linguistic families, but barely touches on Chinese.

In this light, the project aims to derive a landscape of quantifiers in Chinese and provides an account to capture different types of quantifiers and predict patterns of quantification in different varieties of Chinese. This study makes special reference --- to Mandarin Chinese and Cantonese. Cantonese is specifically selected for its two unique features that are either not very productive or unattested in Mandarin: (i) its particularly rich inventory of particles, and (ii) multiple forms of quantifiers in determiner and adverbial forms co-occurring in the same sentence, with no redundancy in meaning. Cantonese data help fill some gaps in the A-quantifications in Mandarin Chinese.

To derive the landscape, the project investigates the semantic aspect of existential, universal, distributive, counting and proportional quantifications in Mandarin Chinese and Cantonese. It focuses on the following issues of theoretical significance: (a) examine and compare existential quantification in Mandarin Chinese and Cantonese, and address the issue of the extent to which semantic representations bear on event and individual quantifications; (b) examine and compare distributivity and universal quantification in Mandarin Chinese and

Cantonese, and in particular, the difference between distributivity and D-universals; (c) examine and compare counting and proportional quantifiers in Mandarin Chinese and Cantonese, and study the extent to which syntactic difference bears on the semantics of counters in natural language; (d) examine the semantics and syntax of multiple quantifications in Mandarin Chinese and Cantonese; and (e) derive a landscape of Chinese quantifiers, based on results obtained from (a) to (d), and predict possible and impossible quantificational patterns in Chinese.

With the landscape of quantifiers derived, this study contributes to the current linguistic endeavor by refining existing theories on quantification in Chinese and in natural language at large. The description of quantificational features in Mandarin Chinese and Cantonese will also prove useful in any contrastive studies of the two.

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<b>Project title:</b>	A study on subgrouping of Southern Min
<b>Principal Investigator:</b>	Kwok Bit-chee (CityU)
<b>Supported by:</b>	Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange

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This project proposes to investigate the phylogenetic relationships (i.e. subgrouping) of twelve Southern Min dialects, and to reconstruct the first-ever family tree for Southern Min. While subgrouping has been a widely accepted model for language relationships in the Indo-European World, it is rather new and unfamiliar to Chinese dialectologists. Traditional classificatory proposals on Chinese dialects tend to see the Middle Chinese (or Qieyun) framework as a main reference point, considering that most Chinese dialects, if not all, are derivable from Middle Chinese. Such notions, however, are not without problems, especially when applied to the case of Min, which is thought to have split off from the mainstream of the Chinese language around two millennia ago, a time much earlier than Middle Chinese. In this regard, it seems that only subgrouping can convincingly explain the historical relationships among different varieties of Southern Min.

Our project consists of four main procedures: (a) to gather and verify the data from the twelve target dialects, which are distributed over Fujian, Guangdong, Hainan, Zhejiang, Jiangxi and Taiwan; (b) to reconstruct parts of Proto-Southern-Min using the comparative method; (c) to summarize the rules of phonological innovation and of lexical innovation; and (d) to produce possible family tree(s) for Southern Min which show(s) the subgrouping of the twelve dialects using a technique borrowed from biology (Camin-Sokal parsimony). This project is the first systemic attempt to subgroup Southern Min, and can be regarded as a first step towards our long term plan: to apply similar methods to subgroup other Chinese dialects. The project would lead us to a better understanding of the history of Southern Min, and would contribute significantly to Chinese dialectology and historical linguistics.

## Job opening

The **Hong Kong Institute of Education** invites applications for the following posts:

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(Ref: AssoProf/AsstProf/Lect/LML/FHM/0113)

Faculty of Humanities

The Faculty of Humanities seeks applications for a full-time academic position at the rank of Lecturer, Assistant Professor or Associate Professor. The appointee will be responsible for teaching duties, contributing to programme development, engaging in departmental and school services, and pursuing an active research and publication agenda, including the application for research funding from external sources.

Applicants should have a doctoral degree in linguistics or a related discipline, with a successful record of research and teaching. Preferences will be given to those who specialize in one or more of the following areas: **discourse analysis, cognitive linguistics, or computational linguistics**. A capacity in conducting interdisciplinary linguistic research will be an advantage. Fresh PhD holders or PhD students in their final year with good potential in research may be considered for the rank of Lecturer (academic track). Applicants with a very strong record of research and publications will be considered for the rank of Associate Professor.

More details can be found in the following URL:

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