LSHK Newsletter

Issue 1, Spring 2016

"Changing of the guard": The new Executive Committee of the Linguistics Society of Hong Kong:
Left to Right: Tom Lai, John Wakefield, Paul Law, Andy Chin, Sophia Lee, Cathryn Donohue, Roxana Fung

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL LSHK MEMBERS

At the LSHK Annual General Meeting in December 2015, the 15th Executive Committee completed their two-year term. We would like to thank them for their service and dedication:

President: Tom Lai

Vice-president: John Wakefield

Secretary: Roxana Fung

Treasurer: Zhang Wei

Communications: Lawrence Cheung

Newsletter editor: Li Bin

Member-at-large: Cheung Kwan Hin

Member-at-large: Samuel Leung

2016 brought us the Year of the Monkey and welcomed in the 16th Executive Committee who will serve for the next two years (pictured above):

President: John Wakefield

Vice-president: Roxana Fung

Secretary: Paul Law

Treasurer: Sophia Lee

Communications officer: Andy Chin

Newsletter editor: Cathryn Donohue

Member-at-large: Tom Lai

In this edition of the bi-annual newsletter, we will share news from the LSHK, report on linguistics events and research related activities from around Hong Kong, including members' contributions and notices.

The next newsletter will be sent out at the end of the Summer. You are welcome to send contributions, comments and suggestions to the Editor at any time (`donohue@hku.hk`).

Inside LSHK 2016:1

Message from the President

Dear LSHK members,

The 16th Executive Committee is now a few months into its two-year service. We are doing our best to make sure that the affairs of the society continue to run smoothly. I want to thank the members of the Executive Committee for their voluntary support, which is a serious time commitment in addition to all the other things they do in their busy lives. I also thank all members of our working groups for their time and effort, as well as all members of the society, who have helped in one way or another. Many of you have volunteered your time to the society in the past, and most of you have participated in our annual forums and workshops, and of course your membership fees are what keep us financially viable.

In addition to continuing the work that we have done in the past, we are open to any suggestions you may have for how we might better serve the community of linguists in Hong Kong. If you have any ideas that you would like us to consider, please feel free to contact us at lshk.linguists@gmail.com

I look forward to serving as president over the next two years. Many of you I know well and have spent much time with. For those I have not yet had the chance to get to know so well, I look forward to hopefully getting more acquainted with you during my tenure.

Sincerely yours,

John Wakefield
President

The Linguistics Society of Hong Kong's Annual Research Forum 2015

The Annual Research Forum (ARF), the main annual event organized by the LSHK, was held on 5 December 2015 at the University of Hong.

The ARF was well attended with nearly three dozen talks and two special sessions, including a session on *The future of Cantonese in Hong Kong: Issues on policy and planning* chaired by Dr Caesar Lun from the City University of Hong Kong.

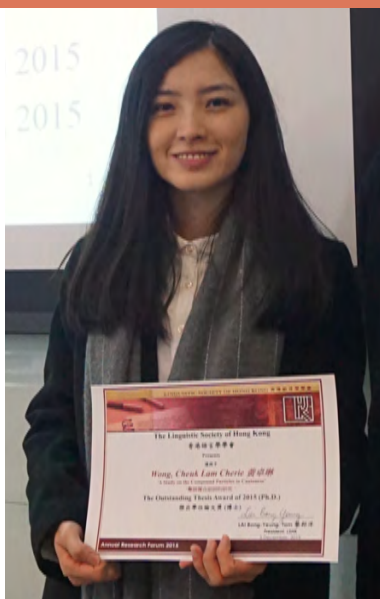*Prof. Robert Bauer speaking in the special session on the future of Cantonese*

The other special session held at the ARF was on *Ultrasound for language research* chaired by Prof. Diana Archangeli from HKU.

Organizers of the second session on Ultrasound for language research (left to right):
Dr Sang-Im Lee-Kim (CUHK), Dr Jonathon Yip (HKU), Prof. Diana Archangeli (HKU)

This year's recipient of the **Outstanding Thesis Award** was Dr Cherie Wong (PhD CUHK, now at Thei), pictured right, for her thesis 粵語複合助詞的研究 [*A study of compound particles in Cantonese*]. An abstract of her thesis is included in the column on the right.

The ARF included presentations from many researchers from both home and abroad. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the **HKU local organizing committee** for their time and energy making the ARF such a success.

An animated presentation by Dr Felix Sze (CUHK) during the regular sessions of the ARF.

Smiling faces of some members of the HKU LOC enjoying the forum: Dr Albert Lee (HKU), Ms Suki Yiu (HKU), Ms Mimi Tian (HKU).

A study of compound particles in Cantonese: *Cherie Wong*

Cantonese is renowned for having a rich inventory of sentence final particles which can express a large variety of meanings, such as time, focus, mood, etc. Particles can be used individually or successively. When they co-occur, they are located at different levels in the syntactic hierarchy. Further, there are some sentence final particles consisting of two or more syllables, which are known as "compound particles", such as *baa2laa1* and *hai2laa1*. Previous studies suggest that they are different from the successive use of particles, because the compound particles attach to the preceding clause as a unit. This thesis investigates the semantic meanings and grammatical properties of compound particles and proposes a model of their syntactic derivation.

In addition to *baa2laa1* and *hai2laa1*, the thesis considers *ding2laa1* and *dak1gaa2* as compound particles. They all consist of a predicative element (PE) and a functional element (FE), with basically compositional semantics. I demonstrate that different semantic meanings conveyed by a compound particle are derived by metaphorical projections among various linguistic domains, inc. content, epistemic speech act domains.

It is found that compound particles impose more constraints on the various constituents in the clauses that they are attached to, in contrast to monosyllabic sentence final particles revealing the close relationship between compound particles and their preceding clauses, which is interpreted as a kind of selectional relation.

The thesis thus proposes that compound particles are decomposed into [root（PE）+ suffix (FE)] in the underlying syntactic structure. The PE is the head of VP which selects a clause as its complement and moves from V to T to C forming a compound with the suffixes that are located at T and C. The surface word order is derived by further movement of the clause. The thesis re-examines the nature of "compound particles" and "successive use of particles" suggesting they are consistent in their underlying structures with each of the elements occupying the head position of different phrases. The major difference between them is that every particle in a sequence can be used independently, whereas the predicative element in a compound particle cannot be separated from the suffix. Finally, the thesis suggests possible grammaticalization of the sentence final elements.

LSHK Student Fieldwork Subsidy

Reports from 2015 recipients

The recipients of Student Fieldwork Subsidy last year were Zhong Weiping (CUHK) and Zhang Jingfen (HKUST). In addition to presenting their findings at the LSHK ARF in December, we asked them to provide a short report on the work that they carried out below.

Literary and Colloquial readings: A comparison of three Southern Min dialects
文白異讀與構詞: 三種閩南語方言的比較
Zhong Weiping (HKUST)

I conducted my fieldwork to collect the data on the colloquial and literary readings in Southern Min (SM) dialects. During the fieldwork trips, I interviewed native speakers from three SM dialects, namely, Xiamen, Shantou and Haikou. All informants were guided to read the Chinese words one by one with their vernacular dialects, during which I would explain the meanings of the words if necessary.

Using the firsthand data I have conducted a comparative study of these three dialects on the interactions between different strata from a morphological perspective, both synchronically and diachronically.

The great tone shift: Exploring tonal evolution from synchronic patterns in Southern Min
Zhang Jingfen (HKUST)

I took three fieldwork trips to collect the firsthand acoustic data from local native speakers in Chaoshan area in East Guangdong Province. The main goal of my fieldworks is to figure out the tonal patterns and the evolution of tones in this area. All informants were interviewed one by one

and were instructed to use their own local vernacular to read the Chinese characters on the computer screen I showed them and some of the meanings of the words would be clarified when necessary.

The data I have collected from these field trips are very valuable and will facilitate a better understanding of the tonal patterns and evolution of Chaoshan variety of Southern Min Dialect. They have been integrated into a database on the tonal patterns of Chaoshan dialects.

Pictured left is Zhang Jingfen working with her consultant to collect data for her work on tonal acoustics.

Call for applications: Student Fieldwork Subsidy

Student members are now invited to apply for the LSHK Student Fieldwork subsidy. The subsidy of $3,000-10,000 is intended to help offset fieldwork costs and is available for fieldwork on any language, although languages and dialects of China (including Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan) are particularly encouraged.

Interested applicants can learn more about the subsidy online at: `http://lshk.org/subsidy1`

Please note that applications are due 1 April 2016

The LSHK Bilingual Glossary

We are pleased to announce that the beta version of the LSHK Bilingual Glossary app can now be downloaded onto your iOS or Android phones and pads. This app is made freely available by LSHK. Simply search for "LSHK Bilingual Glossary" to find it online. This app was created to provide a reference for linguists and for students of linguistics who need to know the Chinese or English translation of a linguistic term for educational or academic purposes. It is based on the glossary of linguistic terms that was created by LSHK's Bilingual Glossary Working Group, which was formed in 2013 to create the bilingual glossary that this app is based on. The members of the group are as follows in alphabetical order:

> Dr. Cheung, Kwan Hin
> Dr. Kwok, Bit-Chee
> Prof. Lee, Thomas Hun-tak
> Dr. Lee, Po Lun Peppina
> Dr. Lun, Suen Caesar
> Prof. Tang, Sze-Wing
> Dr. Wakefield, John C.

Special thanks also go to Miss Yuen, Wing Chi, Gigi, who input all of the data for this project.

For the creation of the glossary, three bilingual dictionaries were initially consulted for reference: 语言学百科词典. 上海辞书出版社, 1993; 理論與應用語言學英漢辭典. 文鶴出版有限公司, 1992; 语言学名词, 2011. 商務印書館, 2011. Over a period of more than two years, the working group prioritized, deleted, and/or recommended a new Chinese term (or Chinese terms) as the best translation for each English term that is included in those three books.

The app's glossary can be set as Chinese-to-English or English-to-Chinese. The entire glossary appears in alphabetical order in English or by stroke order in Chinese. One can either look at the entire glossary or select from a number of subfields (e.g., syntax, semantics, phonology, etc.) in order to show only the terms from a specific subfield. There is a special "bookmark" subfield which shows only the terms that a user has entered into his or her personalized list of bookmarked terms. This provides a tool for learning and reviewing terms that are important to a specific user. There is a multiple-choice game that is based on speed of response. When someone gets 10-in-a-row correct at a given level, they will advance to the next level. This game can be used for the entire glossary, a specific subfield, or for the personalized list of terms that have been bookmarked.

The app is currently in its beta version and we strongly encourage users to provide us with feedback so that we can make improvements to later versions. Not only would we appreciate hearing your views about how to improve the function of the app, but also in relation to any views you may have on the choice of translations for specific terms. Please send these comments to John Wakefield at: clinton.wakefield@gmail.com.

In addition to the LSHK Annual Research Forum, several conferences took place in Hong Kong in recent months. Following are short reports on three of these: the 20th International conference on Yue dialects, Ultrafest VII and the International Conference on Corpus Linguistics and Technology Advancement.

The 20th International conference on Yue dialects

The International Conference on Yue Dialects celebrated its 20th anniversary this year. The honour of hosting it was fittingly given to The Chinese University of Hong Kong which also hosted the inaugural meeting in 1987 and the 10th meeting in 2005. It was held 11-12 December 2015 and organized by the Department of Chinese Language and Literature, co-organized by the T.T. Ng Chinese Language Research Centre, Institute of Chinese Studies, and sponsored by the Faculty of Arts, CUHK, New Asia College, United College, and the Linguistic Society of Hong Kong. The theme of the conference was on "Comparative Grammar", with a special focus on the properties of Cantonese grammar under formal approaches, diachronic grammar, and interface studies, which provided an ideal occasion for experts and students in the field from different parts of the world to share current research findings on Cantonese and other Yue dialects. The "LSHK Award for Outstanding Student Paper on Cantonese Linguistics" was given to Mr. Shing-kit Wong, a student of the Department of Chinese Language and Literature, The Chinese University of Hong Kong for his paper on the grammatical properties of verbal suffix *ding6* in Cantonese.

Ultrasound research in Hong Kong: Ultrafest VII

Hong Kong was the center of the ultrasound-for-language universe in early December 2015, when the University of Hong Kong hosted Ultrafest VII, a conference focused on language research using ultrasound, supported by a HKU Faculty of Arts Conference Support Scheme award to Professor Diana Archangeli. It was largely in preparation for this event that Prof. Archangeli and Dr Jonathon Yip of HKU and Dr. Sang-Im Lee-Kim of CUHK offered a special session at the 2015 LSHK ARF meeting on using ultrasound for language research.
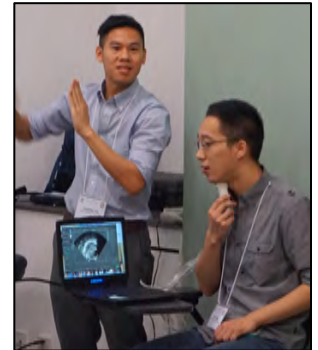
Dr Jonathon Yip and Eric Liu (both HKU) demonstrate use of the ultrasound at the ARF.

At Ultrafest VII, researchers at all levels shared ideas and research in all stages of work, from pilot studies to completed projects. There were scholars from four continents (North America, Europe, Asia, Oceania) and 15 countries in attendance, with three days of paper and poster presentations. Hong Kong was well-represented, with presentations from Professor Archangeli, Dr. Yip (both joint and individual), Professor Carol To (HKU), and Professor Patrick Wong (CUHK) as a keynote speaker, as well as posters from Professor Archangeli (two posters), John Culnan (HKU), and jointly by Shuwen Chen, Xinran Ren, Richard Gananathan, Yan-jiao Zhu, Sang-Im Lee Kim, and Professor Peggy Mok (all CUHK).

These events were particularly timely because HKU and the Faculty of Arts have recently funded the development of an ultrasound research lab in the department of Linguistics, and CUHK followed suit in 2015, the only such labs in southeast Asia.

The cutting edge in using ultrasound for language research represented here by the international delegates attending Ultrafest VII

International Conference on Corpus Linguistics & Technology

The Department of Linguistics and Modern Language Studies of The Hong Kong Institute of Education organized the International Conference on Corpus Linguistics and Technology Advancement (CoLTA) in December 2015. CoLTA aimed to bring together academics from around the world to report on their various corpus linguistics related research work, especially new technologies employed in the investigation into corpora in linguistics, language learning and translation studies.

There were four keynote speakers at CoLTA: Professor Andy Kirkpatrick (Griffith University), Professor Tao Hongyin (UCLA), Professor Huang Chu-Ren (HK PolyU), Professor Paul Thompson (University of Birmingham). In addition, there were three thematic workshops on (a) Asian Corpus of English; (b) Corpus and second language acquisition; (c) Digital Humanities on Chinese.

As one of the highlights, the finale session of CoLTA featured a 90-minute live-broadcast panel discussion on "When World Englishes Meet World Chineses" led by the four keynote speakers.

For more information, please visit the CoLTA website: http://corpus.ied.edu.hk/colta2015/

Representing Hong Kong abroad: 'Hungary' for research on Cantonese!

The 13th Old World Conference in Phonology (OCP 13) was organized by the Variation in Phonology joint research group of Eötvös Loránd University and the Research Institute of Linguistics, Hungarian Academy of Sciences from 13-16 January 2016. This year, OCP was held in Budapest, Hungary, where conference participants got a mild taste of Budapest's sunny and snowy winter. OCP is one of the most important international platforms welcoming phonologists from different theoretical backgrounds to meet and discuss long-standing issues as well as new trends in phonology. Paul Smolensky (Johns Hopkins University) delivered a pre-conference talk on Grammatical Theory with Gradient Symbol Structures. Keynote speakers of the main conference Outi Bat-El (Tel-Aviv University), Eugeniusz Cyran (John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin), and Bruce Hayes (University of California Los Angeles) covered topics of Hebrew Stress, Laryngeal Relativism, and Stochastic constraint-based grammars for Hausa verse and song respectively. OCP 13 also featured a workshop on variation in phonology, including a day of talks on a range of languages such as English, Tarma Quechua, Japanese, Hungarian and Russian.

It was a great opportunity to present my work on underspecified tone in Cantonese English, supervised by Stephen Matthews and Diana Archangeli. I argue that Cantonese English has a privative tone system: /H, Ø/, where Ø syllables either receive derived tones or retain their tonal under-specification in the surface form, based on pitch tracks and smoothing spline ANOVAs (Gu 2002/2013). Cantonese English shows reflexes of both Cantonese tone and English intonation, bringing an interesting case to phonological-typological studies. The challenge for formalising an Optimality-Theoretical explanation for this tone system lies in the co-existence of specification and underspecification of the underlying Ø syllables in the surface form, and the manifestation of different surface tones on different Ø syllables. I received valuable comments from the audience on specification, methodology, and typology related respects. Abstracts, handouts and posters are available on the website of OCP13: http://seas3.elte.hu/ocp/times.html
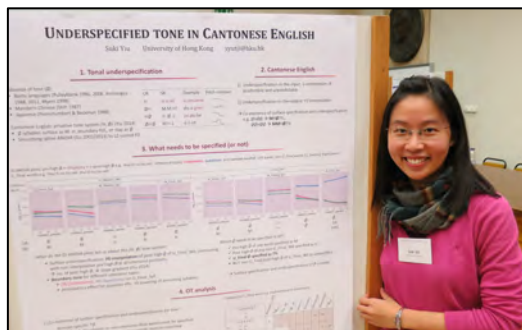
*Suki S.Y. Yiu,
PhD student,
HKU*
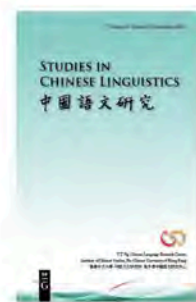
Member **Charles Ko** would like to share the following publications reviewed from the online Language Science catalogue:

http://langsci-press.org/catalog

Got news?

The next newsletter will be published in late August. Calls for contributions will be announced during the summer, but keep it in mind!

We appreciate your contributions!
(which can be emailed at any time)

The Editor
donohue@hku.hk

The Tong Corpus
Multimedia longitudinal child Mandarin corpus launched!

We are happy to announce the release of a multimedia longitudinal child Mandarin corpus: The Tong Corpus. Given the importance of Mandarin Chinese as a language spoken by more than one billion people in China and overseas communities, this longitudinal corpus has far-reaching implications for the field. It contains naturalistic interactions between a Mandarin-speaking child Tong and his caregivers mainly in the home setting, from age 1;0 to 4;8.

For the first installment of this corpus, 22 hours of recordings of the child from the age of 1;7 to 3;4 have been deposited in CHILDES. The speech data have been transcribed in Chinese characters, and annotated with a morphosyntactic tier providing pinyin, parts of speech, and English translation. The transcripts are linked to audio or video files. Details of the corpus can be found at http://cbrchk.org/the-tong

This corpus goes beyond existing published corpora of child Mandarin in having more data for a single child, as well as media linking. It will contribute to related fields including Chinese linguistics, corpus linguistics, developmental psycholinguistics, education, and speech and language therapy.

Xiangjun Deng & **Virginia Yip**
Bilingualism and Language Disorders Laboratory, Chinese University of Hong Kong
(CUHK)-Shenzhen Research Institute Childhood Bilingualism Research Centre, CUHK
CUHK-Peking University-University System of Taiwan Joint Research Centre for Language and Human Complexity

第十六屆
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粵語討論會
jyut6 jyu5 tou2 leon6 wui2

The Sixteenth Workshop on Cantonese

2016年4月9日（星期六）
April 9, 2016 (Saturday)
香港科技大學
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/ics/clrc/

主題 Theme
粵問粵開心
Everything You Want to Know about Cantonese

香港語言學學會
香港科技大學中國語言學研究中心
香港中文大學 中國文化研究所 吳多泰中國語文研究中心
Linguistic Society of Hong Kong
Center for Chinese Linguistics, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
T. T. Ng Chinese Language Research Centre, Institute of Chinese Studies,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

16th Workshop on Cantonese (WOC-16)

WOC-16 will be held at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology on Saturday, April 9, 2016.

The theme of this workshop is "Everything you want to know about Cantonese". It is jointly organized by the LSHK, the Centre for Chinese Linguistics (HKUST) and the T.T.Ng Chinese Language Research Centre (CUHK).

Call for papers: Abstracts are invited for 20-minute talks with at least 10 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: yyiu@ust.hk.

Deadline for submissions: March 14, 2016

If you have further questions, please contact Carine Yiu at yyiu@ust.hk.

For details and updated information, please visit: **http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/ics/clrc/** or scan the QR code on the poster (left).

Membership renewals

The Linguistics Society of Hong Kong will be updating its membership list and would like to remind those of you who have not yet renewed your membership for this year (September 2015-August 2016) to please do so as soon as possible.

We are working on improving our website. One thing we hope to implement is a PayPal system so that you will be able to renew your membership online. In the meantime, please send any outstanding membership dues by cheque to:

> The Linguistics Society of Hong Kong
> GPO Box 9772, Hong Kong

The current rates (in HKD) are:
> Life-time members (one-time fee): $3000
> Regular members: $300 per annum
> Affiliate members: $150 per annum
> Student members: $75 per annum (with proof of status)

For more information please visit the web page: `http://lshk.org/membership`

Save the date: ARF2016

The Hong Kong Institute of Education will be hosting our next Linguistics Society of Hong Kong Annual Research Forum on Saturday 3 December 2016. The call for papers will be issued at the end of the Summer. Meanwhile, save the date!

We hope you have enjoyed the latest edition of the LSHK Newsletter
and would like to thank you for your continued support of the society!