

第二十六屆粵語討論會（第廿六鑊）

The 26th Workshop on Cantonese (WOC-26)

Everything in one wok: Cantonese in multilingual environments

炒埋一碟：多語環境下的粵語面貌與轉變



香港城市大學

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Saturday, May 30, 2026

程序表及會議摘要

Programme and Abstracts

主辦 Organised by

香港語言學學會 The Linguistic Society of Hong Kong (LSHK)

香港城市大學翻譯及語言學系 Dept. of Linguistics and Translation, City University of Hong Kong

WOC-26 Programme – AM Sessions

10:00	Opening and Photo Session	
	LI-6603 (Room 1) Zoom: 82554153200 Passcode: 353443	LI-6606 (Room 2) Zoom: 84484621599 Passcode: 029262
	Session 1A: Phonetics and Phonology Chair: Lau Chaak Ming	Session 2A: Syntax and Semantics Chair: Yenan Sun
10:30	The integration of audio-visual information in the perception of Cantonese coda stops (Online) <i>Pauline Bolin Liu and Mingxing Li</i>	A preliminary study on syntactic variation between Saigon and Hong Kong Cantonese (Online) <i>Ka-Fai Yip and My Thi Ha</i>
11:00	Effects of auditory and phonetic training on Cantonese tone perception in novice listeners <i>Yike Yang</i>	Classifier selection in the Cantonese-English variety and the role of little n (Online) <i>Pui Yee Yuen (Minnie)</i>
11:30	The Use of Obstruents in Swear Words: An Experimental Study of Cantonese Speakers <i>So Yi Lap Enoch</i>	Definiteness in Cantonese vs Mandarin: bare nouns, classifiers, and demonstratives (online) <i>Claire Rong</i>
12:00	Lunch	

WOC-26 Programme – PM Sessions

	LI-6603 (Room 1) Session 1B: Diachrony Chair: Tai Chung Pui	LI-6606 (Room 2) Session 2B: Multilingualism Chair: Winnie Chor
13:30	Signal transmitter or Wok? Rethinking the Role of Guangzhou in Sound Change <i>Man Shan HUI</i>	粵音也「內捲」？ ——香港粵語元音[œ]、[y]捲舌現象芻議 張安翹
14:00	現代南寧粵語形成的多源頭可能性 陳東明	Single-word English Preposition in Cantonese-English Code-switching Context <i>CHEUNG Wai Nga Tyra and Tommy Tsz-Ming Lee</i>
14:30	粵語親屬稱謂的節年傳承與變遷 陳汶豐、黎奕葆	香港粵語謂詞性成份「一時時」的語法特徵 陳詠儀

15:00 *Tea Break*

LI-6603 (Room 1)

Session 1C: Language Acquisition

Chair: Lai Yik Po

15:30 Cantonese Interference on L3 Japanese acquisition among Hong Kong Learners: Evidence from Phonology and Prosody

Li Cheuk Yi, Cheri

16:00 Do you mean what you say? Preliminary exploration of L1 and L2 Cantonese sentence-final particle variant production and pragmatic function matching

Ann Wai Huen To and Chaak Ming Lau

16:30 Production of Cantonese tones by the Punjabi-Indian speakers in Hong Kong

Crystal Ching-Yi Lee and Wai-Sum Lee

LI-6606 (Room 2)

Session 2C: Applied Linguistics

Chair: Kevin Chan

“Too much English?”: Pragmatic markedness and the construction of naturalness in bilingual child-directed speech in Hong Kong

LAU, Cindy Wan Yee

香港中英雙語告示的語用差異與翻譯策略研究

陳嘉慧

JyutCollab: A Concept-Based Collaborative Platform for Crowdsourcing Multi-Regional Yue Multi-Character Expressions

HUANG Junxin

17:00 *Closing*

The integration of audio-visual information in the perception of Cantonese coda stops

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Speech perception can be influenced by visual cues (Sumbly & Pollack 1954, McGurk & MacDonald 1976, Gick & Derrick 2009, Ménard et al. 2016) and listeners may integrate audio and visual information as in McGurk Effect (McGurk & MacDonald 1976, Sekiyama & Tohkura 1991). As a common property of the sound systems of Chinese dialects, unreleased coda stops [-p] and [-t] widely exist, e.g., in [sɛp̚] 濕 ‘wet’ and [sɛt̚] 膝 ‘knee’ in Cantonese. This study examines the integration of audio-visual information when perceiving Cantonese stops in different syllable positions (e.g., onset vs. coda), vowel contexts (e.g., [ɪ] vs. [ɐ]), and tonal contexts (e.g., high vs. low).

A two-alternative forced choice experiment recruited 32 Cantonese listeners, whose native language contrasts [p] vs. [t] in different phonetic contexts. The audio-visual stimuli were pairs of monosyllabic morphemes, in which the stops [p] vs. [t] contrast (i) in onset vs. coda (e.g., [pɪk vs. tɪk] and [sɪp vs. sɪt]) and (ii) in different vowels (e.g., [sɪp vs. sɪt] and [sɛp vs. sɛt]); the unreleased coda stops [-p] vs. [-t] also contrast (iii) in short vs. long vowels (e.g., [sɛp vs. sɛt] and [sa:p vs. sa:t]) and (iv) with high vs. low tones (e.g., [sɛp.H vs. sɛt.H] vs. [sɛp.L vs. sɛt.L]). For a pair such as [sɪp] vs. [sɪt], congruent stimuli (e.g., AsɪpVsɪp = Audio [sɪp] + Visual [sɪp]) and **incongruent** stimuli (e.g., AsɪpVsɪt and AsɪtVsɪp) were formed, using two tokens of each target syllable that were closest to the average properties of the multiple produced tokens in terms of the acoustic measurements of consonants and vowels. After the presentation of an audio-visual stimulus, a participant indicated his/her perceived word (e.g., as Cantonese [sɛp̚] 濕 ‘wet’ or [sɛt̚] 膝 ‘knee’) by pressing on the keyboard.

The major findings included four aspects: (i) For different syllable positions, the listeners’ responses indicated more reliance on the audio signal when perceiving a stop in onset than in coda ($\chi^2=37.526$, $df=1$, $p<.001$), which is consistent with the observation that listeners are more sensitive to onset than coda (Swingley 2005, Wang & Seidl 2016) and the fact that Cantonese coda stops are unreleased with less salient audio cues. (ii) For different vowel contexts, the listeners showed less reliance on the audio signal in [ɪ] than in [ɐ] ($\chi^2=52.397$, $df=1$, $p<.001$), which suggests that the challenge of auditory consonant perception in high-front vowel (Winitz et al. 1972, Cole & Iskarous 2001, Li & Zhang 2017) might have given a chance for a stronger influence from the visual signal. (iii) Compared with the short [ɐ], the long [a:] introduced a preference for [-p] responses ($\chi^2=41.111$, $df=1$, $p<.001$), which correlates with longer duration of visual cue and more salient formation transition of [-p] in a long vowel than in a short vowel. (iv) For different tonal contexts, the participants’ responses indicated more reliance on the audio signal when [ɐ] has a high tone than a low tone ($\chi^2=120.92$, $df=1$, $p<.001$), which confirms the findings that a higher pitch introduces more perceptual salience of segments (Liu & Li 2024).

In general, the results above indicate that the integration of audio and visual information may interact with the detailed acoustic and perceptual properties of speech sounds in different phonetic contexts, in terms of syllable positions, vowels, and tones.

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Effects of auditory and phonetic training on Cantonese tone perception in novice listeners

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Cantonese lexical tones pose persistent perceptual challenges for second language (L2) learners, particularly for those started to learn Cantonese after puberty (e.g. Yang et al., 2025). L2 speech proficiency has been suggested to be linked to precise auditory processing abilities (Kachlicka et al., 2019), but prior training studies have focused mainly on phonetic training, and auditory training effects on tone perception specifically are underexplored (see Saito et al. 2022 for auditory training on vowel perception). This study investigates whether different training paradigms, including auditory training, phonetic (speech-based) training, and a combination of both, can facilitate novice listeners' perception of Cantonese tones and enhance broader auditory processing abilities.

Eighty participants with no prior knowledge of Cantonese were randomly assigned to one of four groups: a phonetic training group, an auditory training group, a mixed phonetic–auditory training group, and a control group. All participants completed a pre-training test, six training sessions, and a post-training test assessing Cantonese tone perception and general auditory processing skills.

Results showed that both auditory and speech-based training led to significant improvements in general auditory processing, indicating successful enhancement of domain-general listening abilities. However, improvement in Cantonese tone perception was observed only in groups receiving phonetic training, either alone or in combination with auditory training. Auditory training alone did not yield significant gains in tone perception. These findings suggest that while auditory training can strengthen general auditory skills, linguistic input and phonetic-specific training play a critical role in the acquisition of tonal contrasts in L2 learning.

Keywords: Cantonese, lexical tone, speech training, speech perception

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The Use of Obstruents in Swear Words: An Experimental Study of Cantonese Speakers

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Background: Prior studies have suggested that swear words in human languages tend to have a preference of using word-initial plosives and fricatives instead of segments such as approximants, a property proposed to be universal [1,2,3]. For this pattern, studies have explored sound symbolism as a possible link to the cathartic, reflexive nature of swearing [1,4,5]. To examine the potential correlation between obstruents and swearing, an empirical investigation was conducted in this study into listeners' preference of obstruents vs. sonorants in expressions used for swearing.

Method: To complete this research, a Two-Alternative Forced-Choice experiment was conducted. Sixteen young native Cantonese speakers (balanced in gender) served as the listening crew, their ages ranging between 19 and 23 years. Younger speakers were chosen based on the consideration that this age group tend to swear more frequently than older groups [6].

The test materials included visual stimuli and audio stimuli. The visual stimuli were 12 scenarios of images, generated by Hedra AI, each depicting a man experiencing unfortunate events, such as slip and fall (e.g., **Figure 1**). For each of the 12 visual scenarios, the audio stimuli were a pair of nonce words that minimally contrasted by the initial consonants in the first syllable, with an obstruent (fricative or plosive) vs. a nasal, e.g., [fa:tak] vs. [na:tak] or [ba:vu] vs. [na:vu]. The stimulus syllables were produced by a fluent speaker of English, with multiple tokens for each nonce word. One token for each stimulus was selected whose acoustic properties was closest to the average.

The experiment was programmed and conducted using PsychoPy. Participants saw a scenario and then heard a pair of nonce words. They judged which word of the pair was more likely to be uttered in that scenario, by clicking the button with a mouse.

Results: For the participants' choices, obstruent-initial words overall had a higher percentage (62.0%) as compared with nasal-initial words (38.0%). When compared with nasals respectively, plosives had a rate of 64.6% while fricatives 59.4%. This indicated that participants preferred an association of obstruents, in opposition of nasal, with swearing. Within obstruents, detailed differences also showed up between different consonants, such as /t/ vs. /s/. Focusing on the gender difference of participants, female participants turned out to have a more pronounced preference for obstruent than males (65.6% vs. 58.3%).

Discussions and Conclusions: The results of the experiment lent support to the proposal for a universal sound pattern in swear words. More specifically, obstruents, especially plosives, are more likely to be associated with swear words than other phonemes. As a tentative explanation for the phenomenon, the study proposed a possible correlation between the articulation of obstruents, assuming that speakers activate the breath-holding mechanism whilst tolerating pain or stress [7,8].

Keywords: swearing, obstruents, plosives, fricatives, Cantonese



Figure 1. Sample scenario used in the experiment

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A preliminary study on syntactic variation between Saigon and Hong Kong Cantonese

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Introduction. Besides Hong Kong and Mainland China, Cantonese is spoken all around the world such as Southeast Asia and North America. While Cantonese in some regions (e.g., Malaysia and Canada) has received increasing attention recently (e.g., Nagy 2024), there is surprisingly little attention to Vietnam, with an estimated 500,000 Chinese speakers most of which speak Cantonese (Bourgerie 2025). This talk presents a preliminary study as part of a larger project of documenting Cantonese in heritage communities in Vietnam. We focus on the syntactic variation between Saigon Cantonese (SGC) and Hong Kong Cantonese (HKC), both belonging to “gwongfupin” 廣府片. The SGC data come from the second author (third generation) and the HKC data from the first author and the literature.

Syntactic variation. We have identified three major differences between SGC and HKC in the verbal and clausal domains, concerning (i) ditransitives, (ii) comparatives, and (iii) passives.

#1 Ditransitives. HKC only has “inverted” direct object-indirect object (DO-IO) word order in GIVE-type double object constructions unless the DO is phonological heavy (Tang 1998, Chin 2009, a.o.). It is argued to be a dative construction with dropping of the preposition *bei* before the IO. In SGC, however, both IO-DO and DO-IO orders are possible, as in (1). Closer scrutiny reveals that the PP in dative constructions has flexible word order with the DO, as in (2).

- (1) a. HKC: Keoi *bei-zo* {i. *ngo} *deoi haai* {ii. ngo}. (DOC)
b. SGC: Keoi *bei-zo* {i. ngo} *deoi haai* {ii. ngo}.
3SG give-PFV 1SG CL shoe 1SG ‘S/he gave a pair of shoes to me.’
- (2) a. HKC: Keoi *sung-zo* {i. *bei ngo} *deoi haai* {ii. bei ngo}. (Dative)
b. SGC: Keoi *sung-zo* {i. bei ngo} *deoi haai* {ii. bei ngo}.
3SG give-PFV to 1SG CL shoe to 1SG
‘S/he gave a a pair of shoes to me.’

#2 Comparatives. The comparative morpheme *-gwo* ‘-er’ in HKC requires both the comparee (“subject”) and standard (“object”) NPs to be present as in (3). Unlike English *-er*, *-gwo* in HKC cannot occur when the standard NP is absent, and *(jat-)di* ‘(a) bit’ must be alternatively used as in (4). SGC, in contrast, allows *-gwo* to be stranded without a standard NP.

- (3) a. HKC: Keoi *daai-gwo nei*. (4) a.Q: Bingo *daai-{*gwo/di}*? A: Keoi *daai-{*gwo/di}*.
b. SGC: Keoi *daai-gwo nei*. b.Q: Bingo *daai-{gwo/di}*? A: Keoi *daai-{gwo/di}*.
3SG big-er 2SG who big-er/bit 3SG big-er/bit
‘S/he is older than you.’ ‘Q: Who is older?’ ‘A: S/he is older.’

#3 Passives. HKC *bei2* (𠵼) passives, unlike Mandarin *bei* (被) passives and English *get*-passives, can only be long passives with agents. Agentless short passives are disallowed (Tang 2001, 2003). Yet, SGC passives, which also have *bei2* (𠵼), can be agentless as in (5).

- (5) a. HKC: *Zek-man bei2 *(jan) daa-sei-zo*.
b. SGC: *Zek-man bei2 (jan) daa-sei-zo*.
CL-mosquito PASS person hit-die-PFV
‘The mosquito got hit to death (by someone).’

Contact with Vietnamese. We hypothesize that at least some variation may stem from contact with Vietnamese. For example, Vietnamese *bị* passives can be agentless as in (6). In the talk, we will discuss Cases #1-2 in more detail as well as variation in the nominal domain.

- (6) Nam *bị* (Nga) *đánh*. (Vietnamese, Simpson & Ho 2008:828)
Nam *bi* Nga *hit* ‘Nam got hit (by Nga).’

Classifier selection in the Cantonese-English variety and the role of little *n*

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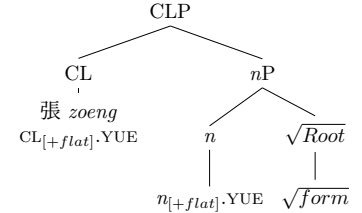
Puzzle and Background: This study investigates the morphosyntax of classifiers (CL) from the lens of language mixing between Cantonese (YUE) and English (EN). Previous studies show a contradictory picture as to whether EN nouns can take a specific CL similar to their YUE equivalents (Chan, 1992; Gibbons, 1987; Leung, 1987). A specific CL is believed to match a noun’s inherent properties (shapes, functions, etc.) Chan (1999) concludes that EN nouns are sensitive to the semantic selectional information associated with the CL use, but many examples of bilinguals suggest otherwise (1). This study aims to address the following questions: (i) whether the EN nouns can get a specific CL; and (ii) if so, where the selectional information comes from. By addressing the patterns of mixing, the question of how YUE nouns acquire selectional information can also be answered.

- (1) *jau*²³ *jan*²¹ *sung*³³ *zo*³⁵ *jat*⁵⁵ *go*³³ / (*bou*²²) digital camera *bei*³⁵ *ngo*²³
 EXIST person gift PFV one CL:DEFAULT / (CL:DEVICE) digital camera to 1.
 ‘Someone gifted me a digital camera’ (Chan, 1999) [Cantonese-English]

Proposal: I provide evidence from the YUE–EN bilingual variety that the semantic selectional information is from the *n*-categoriser. I will adopt Distributed Morphology (DM) (Halle & Marantz, 1993), according to which a word is generated by combining an acategorical root and a categoriser. The root is a constant concept across languages. Extending the previous discussion of root lacking syntactic and semantic information (Harley, 2014), I propose that a root is also void of CL selectional information, which is located at the *n*-categoriser instead, parallel to the analysis of the grammatical gender (Kramer, 2015).

- (2) *zoeng*⁵⁵ / *go*³³ form / *biu*³⁵ (4) [*n*_[+device] [√*camera*]] = ‘camera’
 CL_[+flat] / CL_[+default] form_{EN/YUE} (5) √*mouth* ↔ [□] / *n*_[+handle] ‘mouth’
- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| | Monolingual: | Mixing: |
| | YUE noun | EN noun |
| (3) Default CL | 5.875 | 5.646 |
| Specific CL | 6.250 | 6.448 |
- (6) a. [*n*_[+flat] [√*form*]] = ‘flat form’
 b. [*n*_[+pile] [√*form*]] = ‘pile of form’

Data and Analysis: An acceptability judgement test was conducted with bilingual speakers of YUE and EN. The nominal phrases differed in two factors: in language (head noun in YUE or EN) and in choice of CL (specific or default CL) (2). The means of the four conditions (see table (3)) reveal that EN nouns can take both specific and default CL, just as their YUE equivalents, even though EN nouns lack such information in general. I propose that the CL information is from the *n*. YUE has multiple *ns*, which come with different features (as suggested in Kramer (2015)) e.g. *n*_[+flat], *n*_[+device], whereas EN has only one *n* without selectional restriction, i.e. *n*_□, which leads to the use of the default CL. An EN root is categorised by a YUE *n* carrying the features (i.e. mixing occurs between *n* and the root, as commonly found in other mixing varieties Alexiadou & Lohndal (2018); López (2020)). The combination of the *n* with a root is governed by the licensing condition in the encyclopedia (Kramer, 2015). Some combinations are more rigid (4), whereas some show flexibility (6). The arbitrary combination is governed by the Vocabulary Insertion condition instead (5). After that, The *n* and the CL in the upper layer enter an agreement relationship. The semantics of *n* determine the semantics of the combination of *n* and root (Acquaviva (2005) and subsequent works). An undefined CL at the higher node can access the feature at *n*-head and get valued by it (8). After the feature valuation, Vocabulary Insertion takes place according to the Subset Principle (9), in which (9a) with more matched features wins the competition. The morphosyntactic derivation is shown in (7).



- (8) [CL[uF:_] [*n*[iF:flat] root] → [CL[F:flat] [*n*[iF:flat] root]]
 (9) a. [CL, flat] ↔ *zoeng* b. [CL] ↔ *go*

This analysis is further supported by deverbal nominals in YUE. A verb does not contain any CL information, and lacks the ability to take any CLs. Yet, the verb e.g. *faat*³³*ming*²¹ ‘invent’ can be overtly nominalised by a suffix *gaa*⁵⁵ (similar to *-er* in English), creating *faat*³³*ming*²¹*gaa*⁵⁵ ‘inventor’, a human referent. The suffix *gaa*, as a nominaliser, is located at *n*, represented as (10).

- (10) [*n.gaa*⁵⁵_[+human] [√*invent*]] = ‘*inventor*_[+human]’

Definiteness in Cantonese vs Mandarin: bare nouns, classifiers, and demonstratives

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I propose a unified account of the syntax and semantics of four DP types in Mandarin and Cantonese: bare nouns (BN), bare classifier phrases [Cl+N], numeral-classifier phrases [Num+Cl+N], and demonstratives [Dem+Num+Cl+N]. The analysis reconciles two influential but partial approaches: [5], which offers a well-articulated DP syntax but under-generates the empirical distribution of Mandarin definites, and [4], which captures semantic contrasts in Mandarin but addresses neither syntactic composition nor the case of Cantonese. Empirically, both languages allow BNs with definite and indefinite interpretations, but Cantonese [Cl_{SG}+N] additionally has a definite use. Cantonese therefore has three surface forms for definiteness: BN, [Cl_{SG}+N], and [Dem+Cl_{SG}+N]. Building on situational semantics (r = type of situations), I propose the following entries:

- (a) $\llbracket \cup \text{BN} \rrbracket = \lambda s \lambda x. \text{BN}_s(x)$ following [2], with \cup mapping kinds to properties
- (b) $\llbracket \text{AT} \rrbracket = \lambda P_{et} \lambda x. [P(x) \wedge \neg \exists y \in P [y < x]]$ AT for atomic
- (c) $\llbracket \text{Cl}_{\text{SG}} \rrbracket = \lambda P_{\langle r, et \rangle} \lambda s \lambda x. \text{AT}(P_s)(x)$
- (d) $\llbracket \text{Num}_{\#} \rrbracket = \lambda P_{\langle r, et \rangle} \lambda s \lambda x : \text{AT}(P_s)(x). \exists f [*f(P_s)(x) \wedge |f(P_s)| = \#]$
- (e) $\llbracket \text{Dem} \rrbracket = \lambda s \lambda P_{\langle r, et \rangle} \lambda Q_{\langle e, t \rangle} : \exists s' \supseteq s [|P_{s'}| > 1]. \iota x [P_s(x) \wedge Q(x)]$
- (f) $\llbracket \text{index } i \rrbracket^g = \lambda x. [g(i) = x]$
- (g) $\llbracket \iota \rrbracket = \lambda s \lambda P_{\langle r, et \rangle} \lambda Q_{\langle e, t \rangle} : \exists! x [P_s(x) \wedge Q(x)]. \iota x [P_s(x) \wedge Q(x)]$

ι introduces a uniqueness presupposition, while Dem introduces anti-uniqueness. Num introduces a choice function f , allowing us to derive an asymmetry that [1] reports but does not account for: in Mandarin (and in fact, also Cantonese), [Cl_{SG}+N] is not a phonological reduction of [one+Cl_{SG}+N], as the former can only be non-specific, but the latter can be both specific and non-specific. The compositional structure is:

- for indefinite noun phrases [DP [D] [NumP [Num] [CIP [Cl] [NP [N]]]]]
- for definite noun phrases [DP [Spec] [D'] [D] [NumP [Num] [CIP [Cl] [NP [N]]]]].

The resulting DP denotations are:

- (h) $\lambda s \lambda x : \text{AT}(\cup \text{BN}_s)(x). [* \cup f(\text{BN}_s(x)) \wedge | \cup f(\text{BN}_s(x)) | = \#]$ Mandarin/Cantonese indefinite [Num_#+Cl_{SG}+N]
- (i) $\exists! x [\cup \text{BN}_s(x)]. \iota x [\cup \text{BN}_s(x)]$ Mandarin/Cantonese definite BN
- (j) $\exists! x [\text{AT}(\cup \text{BN}_s)(x) \wedge Q(x)]. \iota x [\text{AT}(\cup \text{BN}_s)(x) \wedge Q(x)]$ Cantonese definite [Cl_{SG}+N]
- (k) $\exists s' \supseteq s [| \text{AT}(\cup \text{BN}_{s'}) | > 1]. \iota x [\text{AT}(\cup \text{BN}_s)(x) \wedge g(i) = x]$ Mandarin/Cantonese demonstrative [Dem_i+Cl_{SG}+N]

I propose that definiteness involves a situational restriction Q in Spec-DP. This externally supplied restriction is independently motivated cross-linguistically and even cross-modality, as [3] show that in American Sign Language, sign height can overtly widen or narrow contextually supplied nominal domains, suggesting that domain restriction may be syntactically represented outside the determiner itself. Definite BNs take a trivial restriction ($Q = \lambda x. \top$), thus making them dispreferred compared to [Cl_{SG}+N] in Cantonese (which can combine with a contextually supplied non-trivial Q) in anaphoric contexts. [Dem+Cl_{SG}+N] is also possible in anaphoric contexts, but differs from [Cl_{SG}+N] in presuppositional strength: [Cl_{SG}+N] adds contextual restriction via Q , whereas demonstratives require anti-uniqueness and indexing. This derives the preference ranking [Cl_{SG}+N] > BN (greater informativeness), with a possible preference for [Dem+Cl_{SG}+N] depending on whether domain widening ($\exists s' \supseteq s$ in (e)) can satisfy anti-uniqueness. This derives competition between the two Mandarin forms in terms of preference and not categorical judgments (as in the desiderata of [4], and experimentally confirmed in [7]), but extends it to the three Cantonese forms and unifies it with syntactic accounts.

Finally, I extend the analysis to plural classifiers (Mandarin 些, Cantonese 啲), by proposing $\llbracket \text{Cl}_{\text{PL}} \rrbracket = \lambda P_{\langle r, et \rangle} \lambda s \lambda X. X \subseteq \oplus P_s$, where X is a sum of individuals. Cantonese *di*-phrases display a generic reading only under modification, observed in [1] but left unaccounted for: 我中意食啲西瓜 is strictly non-generic, while 我中意食啲无籽嘅西瓜 allows for a generic reading. I analyze this as ambiguity between a referential LF and a generic LF involving the GEN operator. This reveals a parallel between definite plurals and subtriggering, a phenomenon previously analyzed only for English singular indefinites in [6].

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Signal transmitter or Wok? Rethinking the Role of Guangzhou or Hong Kong in Sound Change

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In traditional dialectology and sociolinguistics, political or economic centers—or dialects with higher socio-economic prestige—are typically regarded as primary sources of sound change. For example, Labov (1990) observes that women are more likely than men to abandon traditional rural dialect forms in favor of innovative variants associated with prestige varieties, suggesting that prestigious varieties often function as loci from which new sound changes exported. Similar observations have been made in Yue studies, where Guangzhou and Hong Kong (Urban) are frequently characterized as an exporter of sound change, e.g. Lau & Leung 2011.

However, the present study reveals that Guangzhou acts not only as an exporter but also as a recipient of sound change. The present study investigates the tonal development of *-ia-Yinru reflexes, eg. 脊 *tsiak⁷ ‘spine’, of 62 Yue dialects in Guangxi and Guangdong using dialect geography and quantitative methods (dialectometry). The findings indicate that the development of a low vowel -ɛ- with Tone 7B (and their correspondences) is an innovation affecting the majority of Yue dialects, with the exception of peripheral and mountainous areas. Importantly, Guangzhou is shown to be a recipient of this sound change as it exhibits irregularities of this change which suggests an outcome of dialect borrowing. The study highlights that political and economic centers of the Yue-speaking region, i.e. Guangzhou and Hong Kong (Urban), should not be conceptualized solely as ‘signal transmitters’ of sound change. Rather, they may also be a ‘wok’: receiving influences from surrounding dialects (the ‘ingredients’) and subsequently redistributing these influences to other Yue varieties (the ‘customers’).

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現代南寧粵語形成的多源頭可能性

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南寧粵語（南寧白話）是廣西首府南寧市區自 20 世紀初至今的主流漢語方言。在《中國語言地圖集》被劃分為「邕潯片」的南寧粵語目前也是廣西沿江粵語的重要代表點之一。長期以來，對於南寧粵語的研究主要集中在現代共時角度的音系、詞彙、語法研究，且上述研究多在廣西省內視角下進行。儘管對於南寧粵語的研究多會於引言部份介紹與廣東移民有密切關係，但將南寧粵語與珠江三角洲源頭的多種粵語進行對比分析之研究，或報告南寧粵語與早期廣州話可能存在聯繫的研究則近乎乏善可陳。（彭小川, 2004）（林亦，覃鳳余，2008）（麥耘，2009）（郭必之，2019）。

如今，基於對《粵語方言研究概要》(Caysac, 1926)的判讀與分析，對於南寧粵語的研究已經可以擴展並深入到對南寧粵語自身的歷時對比研究。早前，陳東明（2025）已報告南寧粵語的音系大致與清中期至清末的廣州話一致，進而推出南寧粵語的語言層次本不應超過清末的廣州話。這一論斷已經在《粵語方言研究概要》所描述的早期基底南寧粵語中得到證實。但另一方面，現代南寧粵語的音系，詞彙，語法卻已經與早期廣州話共用同一套語言系統的早期南寧粵語差異明顯，且上述差異多與廣州話自身發展無關。單就音系而言，現代南寧粵語出現了清邊擦音與廣泛存在的[ɛ-]組韻母與[a-]組韻母的文-白異讀。而詞彙，語法上的差異則更為顯著。單就詞彙而言，現代南寧粵語中帶有語法性質的近遠指代詞以及地點代詞全部發生變化，這種變化更擴展至否定副詞與動詞完成體標記。（陳東明，2026，進行中）此外，實詞中的形容詞以及一系列特殊的狀貌詞亦大為增加（郭必之，2019）。語法則表現出具有壯侗語系語言的鮮明特點。（De Sousa, 2015）（郭必之，2019）。

與此同時，筆者於南寧查閱文獻並進行語言調查時亦發現搬遷至南寧的珠三角地區移民構成背景複雜。於地域而言，新會、台山、南海、順德、中山等地的移民均有分佈，在分屬於不同的社會階層之餘，就算是同一地區的移民時間跨度也相當大，最大的跨度可以達到兩百年。而我們在將早期基底南寧粵語的音系（莫卓士，陳東明，2026，進行中）與詞彙與現代南寧粵語進行比較後，發現現代南寧粵語的音系、詞彙上均有來自珠三角不同地區的粵語方言遺留之痕跡，而這些痕跡是位於廣西沿江粵語東段的梧州、桂平等地的粵語所不具備的。

因此，基於對早期基底南寧粵語音系、詞彙、語法至現代南寧粵語的歷時分析，我們認為現代南寧粵語的形成並不是單一地區移民作用的結果，它的形成由其源頭開始就已經受到來自珠三角不同地區移民的共同影響。而這種已有濃厚語言接觸色彩的珠三角粵語基底在 1940s 年代後人為調控的大規模語言轉移，以及早期基底南寧粵語失去教學媒介語作引導與規範的情況下繼續與南寧本地的平話，以及南寧周邊的壯語，乃至其他漢語方言，甚至是普通話發生深入與廣泛的語言接觸。在這種人為干預色彩濃厚的過程之中，源於珠三角多地移民的南寧粵語迅速實現了本地化，本土化，不再與早期廣府粵語共用同一語言系統，似乎在取代南寧平話、南寧官話的基礎上成為了一種唯一能夠代表南寧市區的「本土語言」。我們希望以此研究為契機，繼續促進粵語在多語環境與語言接觸影響下的相關研究。

粵語親屬稱謂的百年傳承與變遷

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漢語親屬系統在人類學中屬於最為複雜的描述型系統 (Morgan 1871)，不同親屬按其輩分、長幼、血親或姻親、直系或旁系而有不同稱謂。粵語作為漢語方言之一，亦有此特點。

	直系血親	旁系血親	姻親
平輩	哥、弟、姐等	堂、表	嫂、姐夫等
父輩	爸、媽	伯、叔等	舅、姨等
祖輩	爺、嫲、公、婆	姨婆、叔公等	孀婆、丈公等

前人對粵語親屬稱謂的研究中，大多集中在構詞學與音韻學範疇，說明親屬稱謂的字詞結構與詞綴等，以及分析親屬稱謂讀音的由來與變化。例如說明親屬稱謂同時包含並列結構（爸爸）與前後綴（阿姨）等，以及解釋爸爸、媽媽等同字不同音的現象。唯前人並未系統化整理同一親屬稱謂在近百年的歷時性傳承與改變，亦未深入探討稱謂改變或不變背後的原因。

故本研究旨在探討粵語從曾祖輩到平輩，共四代直系、旁系、姻親關係親屬稱謂近百年的傳承與改變，並嘗試填補有關漏洞。本研究先從「早期粵語口語文獻資料庫」（張洪年 2012）、「Terms of address in Chinese」（張洪年 1990）、《廣州方言研究》（李新魁 1995）等資料收集並整理早期對該四代的親屬稱謂，再透過問卷調查現今二十至四十歲數人士對有關親屬的稱謂，比較二百年間不同親屬稱謂的傳承或改變，最後嘗試總結有關規律。

本研究旨在探討粵語親屬稱謂的傳承與變遷，其中特別關注以下幾個問題：

- 一、甚麼親屬的稱謂被人所遺忘？隨着社會變遷，常用的親屬稱謂越來越少，我們預期為數不少的親屬稱謂會被人所遺忘，造成親屬稱謂系統的簡化。
- 二、除了比較常見的稱呼父母為「爹咗」（Daddy）和「媽咪」（Mummy），還有甚麼親屬稱謂有使用英語或英語借詞的情況？此外，粵語的親屬稱謂又有否受到書面語或普通話影響？研究會找出涉及這種情況的親屬稱謂，並評估常見程度。
- 三、親屬稱謂的使用場合有甚麼改變？其他稱呼方式，例如直呼其名，有時會在某些場合取代親屬稱謂的使用，我們預期這種情況會變得比以常見。

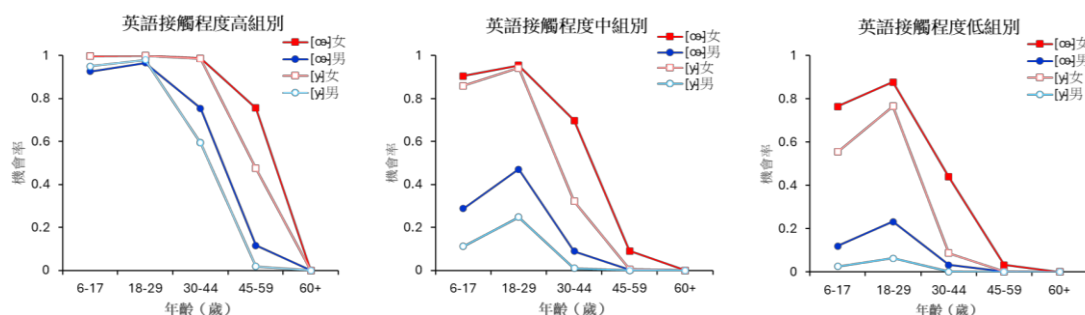
粵音也「內捲」？——香港粵語元音[œ]、[y]捲舌現象芻議

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摘要 香港粵語和英語接觸頻繁。粵英夾雜、港式英文、語法歐化等現象相當普遍，粵音「西化」卻較少受關注。近年，有把香港粵語元音[œ]、[y]讀成捲舌的[œ̥]、[y̥]，坊間戲稱「港女腔」、「ABC腔」，其分佈、影響因素、發展等卻缺乏深入探討。本文採用配額抽樣，收集 60 位香港公眾人物在直播及訪問的[œ]、[y]發音，分析[œ]、[y]捲舌現象與英語接觸程度、年齡和性別的關係，指出英語影響粵語發音的方式並不簡單。

結果顯示，[œ]、[y]的分佈趨勢清晰、相似。[œ]佔 41.67%，[y]佔 33.33%。兩者都較集中在年輕、女性和英語接觸程度較高的組別。卡方分析顯示，[œ]和[y]的語音實現，跟英語接觸程度 ($p = .03, V = .34$) ($p = .01, V = .41$)、年齡 ($p < .001, V = .59$) ($p < .001, V = .56$) 和性別 ($p = .02, V = .30$) ($p = .03, V = .28$) 都顯著相關。就[œ]的邏輯迴歸結果說，[œ]出現的可能性，英語接觸程度每高一級，增加約 6.25 倍 (OR = .16)；年齡每年輕一級，增加約 5 倍 (OR = .20)；女性約為男性的 14.3 倍 (OR = .07)。 $[y]$ 的分佈方向相似，只是整體分佈更集中、規整，在英語接觸程度較低以及男性組別的擴散程度較[œ]低。



這可能與[œ]、[y]跟英語元音是否相似有關。[œ]在聽感上容易和英語元音[ɜ]、[ə]聯繫起來，這些元音在美式英語多讀捲舌[ɜ̥]、[ə̥]，促發[œ]的捲舌化。不少寫法生僻或沒有固定寫法的粵語口語（如「sir 滑梯」、「條氣唔 gur」、「jer jer 鷄煲」）和流行語（如「chur」）用「r」表示[œ]，寫法、讀音互為影響。[y]缺乏這種對應，捲舌現象未必來自英語的直接作用，更可能是英語捲舌發音在香港社會崇洋心態下享有較高聲望，加上發音動作慣性，才擴散蔓延。這說明英語對粵語發音的影響有直接的，有間接的；涉及音系本身，也關乎社會和群體因素。[œ]和[y]音系特點、使用習慣不同，接觸外語的反應便異。

外來元素進入本土，往往出現不同程度的本土化，語音也不例外。本文認為，香港粵音的捲舌現象，不宜都理解為外語的直接借用或模仿，而是在音系條件、群體差異、文化氛圍等多元因素下逐步形成的語音變異。這些不辨義的音位變體，從社會語言學說，有區別社會意義和成員（如性別、年齡、階層）的作用，反映語言互動、社會觀念和文化。

關鍵詞 香港粵語、粵語、粵音、語音變異、外語接觸

Single-word English Preposition in Cantonese-English Code-switching Context

Keywords: Code-switching, Cantonese-English, Prepositions, Structural hybridization

Outline: Building on prior work by Chan (2018), this study examines the borrowing of single-word English prepositions in Cantonese-English code-switching. It goes beyond the [NP+COP+English P+NP+(VP)] pattern identified by Chan (2018) and documents innovative usages, including categorial reanalysis. These usages show complex morphosyntactic integration driven by semantic-pragmatic functions. A comparison between English prepositions and Cantonese *gaai3-ci4* further shows partial correspondence at the semantic and functional levels, alongside differences in syntactic behaviour and morphological properties.

Research Design. A qualitative corpus-based approach is adopted. Data were collected from public posts and comments on Hong Kong's major microblogging platform Threads between 2024 and 2026. Targeted prepositions were selected according to frequency and their tendency to appear in code-switched text. After data collection, phrasal verb particles and preposition-like adverbs were excluded.

Distribution. The borrowing pattern falls into two types: P+NP and P+null/non-nominal. Within these types, nine syntactic functions are observed: (i) predicate complement, (ii) adverbial modifier, (iii) main verb, (iv) coverb-like preposition, (v) adjectival predicate, (vi) pre- or post-nominal PP, (vii) pre- or post-verbal PP, (viii) subordinator, and (ix) elliptical predicate. Over 90% of tokens follow the dominant P+NP structure and perform these functions, except the adjectival predicate.

- (1) jyut6-naam4 club taai3-gwok3 club jau5 zi1 gwok3-kei4 hai2 ziu1-pai4
 Vietnam club Thailand club have CL national flag be signboard
 for faan1 keoi5-dei6 zi6-gei2 waan2
 for-DIRECTIONAL 3PL self play
 'Vietnamese clubs (and) Thai clubs have a national flag on the signboard for them to play.'

Innovative usages. English prepositions may behave as coverb-like prepositions rather than as *de facto* coverbs. When borrowed, they can serve as the main verb without a copula or coverb-like element in a serial verb construction. In Example (1), although the form corresponds to Cantonese *bei2* and is marked by a directional aspect marker, it does not appear to the left of the main verb *jau5* and thus remains prepositional.

- (2) ngo5 faat3-jin6 zi2-jiu3 m4 against nei1-di1 cing4-seoi5
 I discover only not against this-CLPL emotions
 'I discover that as long as (you) don't go against these emotions.'

A preposition can also be reanalysed as a main verb without an aspect marker or verbal particle. In Example (2), 'against' appears with only the negative marker *m4*, suggesting a functional shift from preposition to verb, though it does not fully behave as a verb in morphology.

- (3) teng1-gwo3 jat1 go3 gong1-wu4-cyun4-man4 about GENZ
 hear-PERF one CL rumour about GENZ
 'I've heard an unverified rumour about Gen Z.'

The post-head PP in Example (3) shows that bilingual speakers can override the native Cantonese pattern and adopt the English head-initial order. The nominal modifier follows the noun directly, while the overall structure remains compatible with Cantonese syntax.

- (4) wun6-zau2 zo2 Nmecha, despite keoi5 seng4-go3 bun3-coeng4 ging6 jan2-jing4 lin4
 substitute-PERF Nmecha, despite 3SG entire CL half CL very invisible even
 bo1 dou1 dim6 m4 dou2 gei2 ci3
 ball too touch NEG even few time

Example (4) suggests that 'despite' functions as a subordinator in Cantonese-English code-switching. Here, the speaker prioritizes semantic-pragmatic meaning over the English syntactic requirement that 'despite' take an NP complement, allowing a full TP to follow.

- (5) hou2-ci5 jau5 di1 taai3 zi6-seon3, over zo2
 seems like have CL_{PL} too confident, over-PERF
 'Seems a bit too confident, overdid it.'

English prepositions can also function as adjectival predicates. In Example (5), 'over' is reanalysed through the perfective particle *-zo2* and the intensifier *taai3*, both of which are typical of adjectival modification.

Comparative analysis. Cantonese imposes syntactic constraints, such as restrictions on preposition stranding and pied-piping, which shape how English prepositions are integrated into hybrid structures. Although P-stranding and pied-piping are central to English, they do not appear in Cantonese-English code-switching because Cantonese is a wh-in-situ language, while English involves wh-movement.

- (6) *tai2 nei5 maai5-lei4 for
 see 2SG buy come for
 'See what/when/where/who? you are buying it for.'

Example (6) shows that the sentence remains incomplete under a P-stranding test. Without wh-movement, the intended reference is unclear, and the direction of the question cannot be recovered.

- (7) seoi1-jin4 ngo5 m4 zi1 tiu4 nei2 luk6 lei4 for mat1
 although I NEG know CL girl film come for what
 'Although I don't know for what the girl is filming.'

Example (7) shows structural hybridization: the purpose phrase follows Cantonese in-situ order, while the borrowed English preposition is retained in post-verbal position.

Comparative findings. English prepositions are borrowed for semantic-pragmatic reasons and the Principle of Economy (Li, 1999). Cantonese *gaai3-ci4* is broader than English prepositions, and the two systems overlap only partly. Their correspondence may be semantic, functional, or syntactic, but these levels do not always align. Thus, when one English preposition can replace several Cantonese *gaai3-ci4*, bilingual speakers often choose the more economical option.

香港粵語謂詞性成份「一時時」的語法特徵

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粵語「一時時」雖與時間副詞「間中」的「偶爾」語義相近，但兩者的語法特徵實不能作等量齊觀。有別於時間副詞，「一時時」不能在句中作狀語使用，其核心句法位置為謂語，甚至能單獨成句，可見以下句子：

- (1) 呢個情況係唔係一時時？
- (2) 呢個情況（都係）一時時。
- (3) 天氣間中轉涼。
- (4) *天氣一時時轉涼。
- (5) 天氣轉涼，一時時。
- (6) 一時時啦！天氣轉涼。

句(1)正反問句式「係唔係」能插入於「呢個情況」與「一時時」之間，明確劃分了句中的主謂邊界，句(2)則進一步顯示，在繫詞「(都)係」可自由省略的條件下，「一時時」充當了謂語功能。從句(3)及句(4)可知，「一時時」不能如「間中」般作狀語搭配動詞用，但如句(5)及(6)所示，它能出現於句末，甚至獨立成句。

值得注意的是，句(5)「天氣轉涼」已能成句，「一時時」為停頓之後的追補成分。有別於一般需黏附在動詞後、無法獨立的常見粵語後置成分，如「你食先」的「先」，句(6)證明了「一時時」能夠獨立使用，足見其並非後置成分。

而有關「一時時」不能充當狀語使用的成因，從動詞後綴「咗」的搭配測試，可知一二：

- (7a) 佢一時打爛咗隻杯。
- (7b) 佢*一時時打爛咗隻杯。
- (7c) 佢打爛杯，一時時。

關鍵在於該動作的性質是屬於單次抑或是重複，是已發生抑或是潛在可能發生。狀語修飾的是動詞，要求動作本身能配合這個時間特徵。「一時」指向的是單次的、已成定局的事件，「一時時」則指向重複、潛在可能發生的事件，故單次事件不能用表示不規律頻率的「一時時」來修飾，而重複發生的事件，則可以用「一時時」來評估它發生的頻率。

另外，本文亦有意討論粵語「一時時」相比一般現代漢語量詞重疊式（一+CL+CL）較常作謂語的特殊性。

Cantonese Interference on L3 Japanese acquisition among Hong Kong Learners: Evidence from Phonology and Prosody

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With growing interest in Japanese among Hong Kong students, this mixed-methods study examines how Cantonese (L1) and English (L2) shape third-language Japanese acquisition, focusing on learning motivations, cross-linguistic influence, common difficulties, and pedagogical responses. Survey, interview, and proficiency-task data reveal systematic effects across semantic, morphological/orthographic, and phonological domains and among the three domains investigated, phonological evidence of Cantonese interference remains most valuable.

Phonologically, Cantonese learners appear advantaged in articulating Japanese sokuon (geminate consonants) due to the presence of unreleased stops (-p, -t, -k) in Cantonese checked tones. Interviews echoed with this statement, with participants highlighting a shared “air-stopping” articulatory process in Cantonese words ending with checked tones (-p, -t, -k) and Japanese words with sokuon (following -p, -t, -k, -s), further proving a positive transfer from Cantonese to Japanese acquisition.

Paradoxically, despite the articulatory ease, the oral proficiency remains low. Data revealed that only 22% of participants successfully distinguished long-vowel minimal pairs (chōon) even with the characters shown in the task. This study argues that this underperformance arose from prosodic interference as the syllable-timed rhythm of Cantonese conflicts with the mora-timed structure of Japanese. Thus, learners can successfully articulate unreleased stops but fail to allocate the required temporal duration to geminates and long vowels in continuous speech, resulting in phonological inaccuracy.

In conclusion, while L1 Cantonese provides significant positive transfer in basic phonetic articulation, the rhythmic disparity between the two systems creates persistent prosodic hurdles. To address these challenges, a prosody-centred pedagogical approach is proposed. Instructors should incorporate metric and musical exercises to train learners' sensitivity to temporal duration, helping them internalise the mora-timed framework, thereby empowering Hong Kong learners to leverage their existing Cantonese phonetic features more systematically and confidently.

Keywords: cross-linguistic influence, sokuon, chōon, mora timing, Cantonese, L3 Japanese, Hong Kong Learners

Notes: This abstract presents a focal analysis derived from a broader study on L3 acquisition among Cantonese-English bilinguals.

Do you mean what you say? Preliminary exploration of L1 and L2 Cantonese sentence-final particle variant production and pragmatic function matching

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SFPs are often described as a key challenge for Cantonese learners, as the same SFP form (onset-rime-tone combination) can carry multiple functions (henceforth variants). These functions are highly context-dependent and cannot be easily translated [1].

This study compares the tokens of SFP variants produced by L1 and L2 Cantonese speakers. Twelve L1 speakers and twelve Mandarin-dominant L2 Cantonese learners with intermediate to advanced proficiency read aloud sentences containing selected SFP variants (three SFPs, two variants each; Table 1). The function of each SFP variant was presented through either (1) an explicit description or (2) an implicit context presented as a two-turn dialogue. A native Cantonese speaker judged whether the participants' productions perceptually matched or mismatched the provided function. Tokens were discarded if they were produced incorrectly.

We hypothesized that the L2 speakers would produce fewer matched tokens than the L1 speakers. To our surprise, our results showed no significant differences between the two groups (Fig 1). These results suggest that the L2 speakers were able to vary their production to convey specific meanings in a manner similar to the L1 speakers. Further investigation using acoustic measurements will be carried out to detect finer differences.

Table 1. SFP and the function of each variant

SFP	Variant 1	Variant 2
嘅 ge2 [2]	Express reservation [表示質疑]	Express reluctance [勉強同意]
咩 me1 [3]*	Express questioning [表示質疑]	Rhetorical, expressing agreement [反問, 表示認同]
先 sin1 [4]	Marker of chronological order [先後次序]	Emphatic marker “wh-on-earth” [表示到底, 究竟]

*note: The functions cited in [3] are expressing amusement [表驚愕] and rhetorical [表反詰]. Modifications were made for easier understanding and elicitation in the experiment.

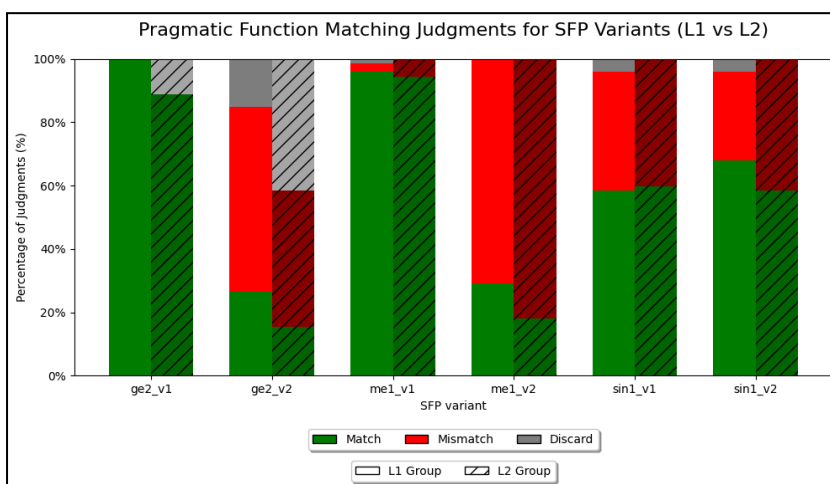


Fig 1. Matching of SFP variants and their perceived function based on expert judgment

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Production of Cantonese tones by the Punjabi-Indian speakers in Hong Kong

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Abstract

Introduction. There are many young Punjabi-Indians who were born and raised in Hong Kong speaking three languages, including Punjabi as the first language spoken at home and both English and Cantonese as the second languages spoken at school. A challenge to the Punjabi speakers when speaking Cantonese is the tones. While Punjabi is also a tonal language, its tonal system contains only three lexical tones, namely a high-falling tone, a low-falling tone, and a low-rising tone. By contrast, the complex tonal system of Cantonese contains six long lexical tones, including /55/ /33/ /22/ /25/ /23/ /21/. Furthermore, there are similarities in tone shape and/or tone level between the Cantonese tones. Presumably the differences in the tone system between the two languages pose difficulty for the Punjabi speakers in distinguishing and thus pronouncing the Cantonese tones. This study analyzes the fundamental frequency (F_0) contours of the Cantonese tones produced by the Punjabi-Indians in Hong Kong to assess their performance in producing the six long lexical tones in Cantonese.

Method. Five male and five female Punjabi-Indian speakers, who were born and raised in Hong Kong, were invited to participate in the study. All the speakers were university students in their twenties. They have been speaking Cantonese since early childhood. They were instructed to read in three repetitions a list of Chinese monosyllabic words that contain the test syllables, /si/ /fu/ /se/, associated with the six Cantonese long lexical tones, /55/ /33/ /22/ /21/ /25/ /23/. Praat was used to perform frequency analysis of the tones on the test words for measuring the F_0 values at the time points that mark each 10% interval of the total duration of a tone.

Results. Results of the analysis of the F_0 contours of the tones show that overall the Punjabi speakers perform less well than expected. The speakers better perform on the two high tones, /55/ and /25/, but much less so on the non-high tones, /33/, /22/, /21/, and /23/. The difference in performance between the two groups of the tones may suggest that the speakers are more capable of distinguishing and thus producing correctly the tones with a high F_0 value, such as /55/, or a large difference in F_0 value between the tone onset and tone offset, such as /25/. As for the non-high level tones, /33/ and /22/, they are mispronounced with a raised or lowered pitch level, thus the level /33/ tone as /55/ or /22/ and the level /22/ tone as /55/, /33/, or /21/. As for the non-high contour tones, /21/ and /23/, both are mispronounced with a flattened F_0 contour, lacking a significant downward or upward F_0 deflection towards the end, thus the falling /21/ tone as /22/ and the rising /23/ tone as /33/ or /22/. A few Punjabi speakers mispronounce /23/ as /25/ with a large F_0 upward deflection towards the end of the tone.

Conclusion. The Punjabi speakers' underperformance of the six Cantonese long lexical tones is presumably due to the differences in complexity of the tonal system between Punjabi and Cantonese. The differences are likely to cause perceptual confusion among the six Cantonese lexical tones for the Punjabi speakers, which results in their underperformance in producing the tones. Further studies of the perception of Cantonese tones by Punjabi speakers are called for to determine their perceptual confusion of the tones.

Keywords tone production, tonal interference, Punjabi speakers, Cantonese

“Too much English?”: Pragmatic markedness and the construction of naturalness in bilingual child-directed speech in Hong Kong

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Code-mixing has been widely studied in terms of structural constraints (Poplack, 1980; Myers-Scotton, 1993), child bilingual production (Yip & Matthews, 2007), and caregiver input patterns (De Houwer, 2009; Hoff, 2006). However, less attention has been paid to how speakers themselves evaluate what counts as natural or excessive code-mixing in child-directed speech (CDS). While bilingual caregivers are known to mix languages in interaction with children, and children’s language use is shaped by such input, speakers’ judgments of appropriateness remain underexplored.

This paper presents a sociolinguistic study of Cantonese–English CDS focusing on Hong Kong mothers’ metalinguistic judgments. Rather than treating highly mixed maternal speech as direct evidence of everyday usage, it is approached as a socially recognizable, stylized register that reveals speakers’ intuitions about naturalness, excessiveness, and appropriateness. Using questionnaire data, participants rate CDS utterances varying in code-mixing density and lexical type in terms of (i) naturalness, (ii) likelihood of use, (iii) perceived child comprehension, and (iv) their reasoning.

The study investigates whether there is an optimal range of code-mixing perceived as natural, and whether denser mixing is evaluated as pragmatically marked. Building on sociolinguistic work on enregisterment and language ideology (Agha, 2007), it argues that naturalness in bilingual CDS is a socially constructed judgment shaped by parental identity, beliefs about children’s linguistic competence, and the multilingual ecology of Hong Kong households. By focusing on how code-mixing is evaluated, the study contributes to Cantonese sociolinguistics and research on bilingual CDS.

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香港中英雙語告示的語用差異與翻譯策略研究 陳嘉慧 (香港樹仁大學)

摘要 香港作為國際化都市，中英雙語並行的語言生態為觀察語言接觸、翻譯策略及跨文化傳播提供了獨特場域。公共告示語作為城市管理與社會溝通的重要載體，其中英版本在語義對等性、語用功能及文化適應性方面呈現顯著差異。現有文獻多聚焦於中國內地公示語翻譯問題(趙夢夢、袁學萍, 2021; 薛燕, 2024)，針對香港本土告示語的系統性研究尚付闕如。廖穎詩(2024)首次提出反語正譯法與正話反譯法的分析框架，並初步揭示中英告示的語義不對等現象，為本領域奠定重要基礎。然而，廖氏研究在可容許範圍的系統量化、關注點差異的理論闡釋等方面仍有拓展空間。本研究建基於廖氏框架，通過擴充樣本、深化分類分析，系統性探討香港中英告示在翻譯策略、信息容許範圍及關注點分佈上的語用差異，為多語言環境下的雙語政策制定與翻譯實踐提供更完整的理論支持。

本研究聚焦三個核心問題: (一) 香港中英告示採用何種翻譯策略? 反語正譯法與正話反譯法的使用頻率及功能差異為何? (二) 中英告示在信息可容許範圍上是否存在系統性差異? 何種語言呈現更大語義彈性? (三) 中英告示在關注點分佈上有何不同? 兩種語言分別側重過程描述抑或後果陳述? 研究樣本通過實地調查收集，涵蓋大廈、道路、交通工具、醫院、學校等公共場所的 27 條中英雙語告示(包含語義差異者)。分析維度包括翻譯策略類型(反語正譯/正話反譯)、語義容許範圍(中英告示對同一行為的限制寬嚴)以及信息關注點(過程/行為 vs. 後果/原因)。

主要發現有三: (一)翻譯策略: 驗證並量化廖穎詩的觀察——反語正譯法使用頻率(10 條, 37%)顯著高於正話反譯法(3 條, 11%)。中文告示傾向直接禁止(如「請勿停留」)，英文則採積極引導(如"Please keep moving")，反映中文重明確限制、英文重正面指引的文化差異。(二)可容許範圍(本研究新發現): 中文告示呈現更大語義彈性(7 條 vs. 3 條)。例如「請勿擺放雜物」允許人員停留，而英文"Keep clear"要求完全清空; 「嚴禁遛狗 請勿讓狗隻隨處便溺」僅禁止不良行為，英文"No Dogs allowed"則全面禁止狗隻進入。此差異顯示中文容許多元解讀，英文追求指令明確性，補充廖氏提出的「灰色地帶」概念。(三)關注點差異(本研究新發現): 所有英文告示(27 條)均提及具體行為或過程，中文則呈現多樣性——僅提及過程(18 條)、僅提及後果(6 條)、兩者兼具(3 條)。例如「慎防門後有人」僅陳述風險，對應英文"Please open gently"則給出明確動作。此現象凸顯英文重行動指引、中文重情境提示的語用取向。

本研究在廖穎詩(2024)奠定的基礎上，首次系統量化香港中英告示的翻譯策略分佈，並創新性提出「可容許範圍」與「關注點差異」兩大分析維度，深化對香港本土告示語語用機制的理解，為政府雙語政策優化、公共標識設計及翻譯研究提供實證參考。

關鍵詞: 中英雙語告示、翻譯策略、語用差異、社會語言學

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JyutCollab: A Concept-Based Collaborative Platform for Crowdsourcing Multi-Regional Yue Multi-Character Expressions

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Despite over 70 million speakers across dozens of mutually unintelligible varieties, systematic documentation of multi-character lexical expressions in Yue remains strikingly fragmented — a gap that comparable corpora like NINJAL's BCCWJ for Japanese have long filled. Coupled with areal-linguistic evidence (Muysken, 2025), this documentary deficit constitutes a structural barrier to areal-typological research, leaving dozens of varieties without durable lexical archives amid rapid attrition.

This paper introduces JyutCollab, a concept-driven, AI-scaffolded, community-contributed platform that organises multi-character expressions within a semantic taxonomy derived from the *Practical Thesaurus of Spoken Guangzhou Cantonese* (Mai & Tan, 2016). Built on the hand-verified Yue Dialect Character Table (YDCT), the platform anchors every expression to a shared conceptual domain, enabling structured cross-dialectal comparison.

During data entry, contributors submit local variants while large language models (LLMs) recommend thematic categories, generate definitions and example sentences, and flag potential issues — with every AI suggestion requiring explicit human accept/modify/reject decisions before entering the dataset. A reference-driven input mechanism surfaces existing entries from other dialect points as contextual anchors, facilitating cross-dialectal comparison while guarding against prestige-variety bias.

A two-week pilot with 4 contributors across 4 Yue dialect points generated 266 crowdsourced entries (2,548 AI suggestions, 242 cross-dialectal reference events). Three principal findings emerged. First, theme classification was completed at a 93.6% rate, though Guangzhou-centric coverage of the taxonomy constrained broader applicability. Second, AI suggestions were adopted at 93% among those reaching a terminal decision, yet contributors rated AI usefulness at only 1.75 out of 5 — indicating that adoption-rate metrics systematically overestimate user-perceived value where local expertise is the scarce resource. Third, cross-dialectal reference engagement exhibited a descending adoption gradient (100% YDCT Jyutping assistance → 45% Jyutjyu.com dictionary references → 20% cross-dialectal entries), evidencing judgement-driven rather than prestige-biased engagement.

These findings contribute a replicable architectural template for community-driven dialect documentation, the first empirical evidence on LLM-based editorial scaffolding in dialect lexicography, and a functioning platform spanning 4 dialect points — infrastructure whose urgency one contributor captured: 「我們的方言馬上就要死掉了」.

Keywords: areal linguistics, crowdsourced language documentation, human-AI collaborative lexicography; editorial scaffolding, Yue varieties

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