



The Linguistic Society of Hong Kong Newsletter

香港語言學學會通訊

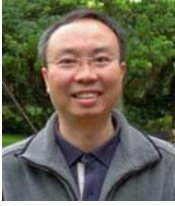
Issue 1, 2010

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Editors of this issue:
Bit-Chee KWOK (CityU) and Carine YIU (HKUST)





1. Development of the Society

1.1. Membership

We are delighted to welcome 55 new members (8 Life Members, 8 Regular Members, 3 Affiliated Members, and 36 Student Members) who joined the Society this year and very pleased to see the rapid growth of the Society's membership. We have totally 101 new members in these two years.

2. New Features

2.1. LSHK server accessible to the mainland

Thanks to the contributions made by our Vice-President Vicky MAN, our website is now accessible to people in the mainland of China. We hope that our website can become a more reliable source to our local members, the linguists in the mainland of China, and the international linguistics community for information exchange purposes.

2.2. E-newsletters

To facilitate effective academic discussions among our members over the internet, we published two issues of the e-newsletter in February and October, respectively, and posted them on our website.

3. Activities

3.1. LSHK Workshop on Cantonese

We had two WOCs in 2009. The 8th LSHK Workshop on Cantonese (WOC-8) was organized on March 28 at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the theme was 'Grammar of Hong Kong *Ciu4jyu5*'. Selected papers from WOC-8 will be published in *Chinese Language Studies* (《中國語文研究》). The 9th LSHK Workshop on Cantonese (WOC-9) was organized on November 14 at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and the theme was 'Representation and Standardization of Cantonese Sounds: Romanization and Standard Pronunciations'. The WOC-9 was co-sponsored by the Center of Chinese Linguistics at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and LangComp.

3.2. Cantonese romanization

3.2.1. *Jyutping promotion group*

Members of the Jyutping promotion group had a meeting with Mr. Dean Head, the author of *Fonetic Cantonese*, on the promotion of Jyutping on October 29 at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University to talk about the possibility of incorporating Jyutping and input from academics into Mr. Head's teaching materials.

3.2.2. *Roundtable discussion on Jyutping promotion*

A roundtable discussion on Jyutping promotion was organized during the 9th LSHK Workshop on Cantonese on November 14 at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

3.3. Awards

3.3.1. *LSHK Outstanding Thesis Awards*

I would like to congratulate the two winners of this year's award, Donald Timothy WHITE (CUHK MA thesis titled 'Speech Rhythm Development in a Balanced Cantonese-English Child') and Aijun HUANG (CUHK MPhil thesis titled 'Count-mass Distinction and the Acquisition of Classifiers in Mandarin-Speaking Children'). On behalf of the ExCom I would like to express our appreciation to the anonymous reviewers for their professional and fair judgments on the nominated theses and their time, and to Peppina LEE and Bit-chee KWOK for coordinating the job.



3.3.2. *LSHK Award for Outstanding Student Paper on Cantonese Linguistics*

The paper titled '勾漏片粵語的兩字連讀變調' by Mr. Xingquan HOU (侯興泉) (Peking University) won the second LSHK Award for Outstanding Student Paper on Cantonese Linguistics (香港語言學學會 粵語語言學 學生傑出論文獎). The award was presented to the winner at the opening ceremony of the 14th International Conference on Cantonese and Yue Dialects held in Guilin, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on December 7. Please join me in congratulating Mr. HOU on winning this competitive award. I would also like to express our appreciation to the anonymous reviewers and to Bit-chee KWOK and Peppina LEE for coordinating the award.

3.4. The 6th LSHK Postgraduate Research Forum on Linguistics

The Society initiated and organized the '6th LSHK Postgraduate Research Forum on Linguistics' (PRFL-6) held at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University on March 14-15, in conjunction with the 'Second PolyU Faculty of Humanities Postgraduate Research Symposium'. The theme of the PRFL-6 was 'East Asian Languages: Theory and Application'. The event began with a keynote speech from Prof. Chu-Ren HUANG titled 'From Lexical Semantics to Knowledge Systems: How to Infer Cognitive Systems from Corpus Data.' A total of 37 presentations were given by the presenters, who were from Hong Kong, the mainland of China, Taiwan, Korea, and Thailand.

4. Sponsorship

4.1. 2009 Seoul International Conference on Linguistic Interfaces

The Society co-sponsored the 2009 Seoul International Conference on Linguistic Interfaces held on June 24-26 at the Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea. Some members of the Society submitted a paper and attended the three day conference.

5. Financial Situation

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

6. Plans for the future

6.1. Conferences on Cantonese linguistics

We plan to organize the 10th LSHK Workshop on Cantonese (WOC-10) in 2010 to mark the tenth anniversary of WOC. It is also expected that the Society will be involved actively in the International Conference on Cantonese and Yue Dialects and will play a leading role in organizing the conference when it is held in Hong Kong. It is highly likely that the conference will be held in Hong Kong in 2011.

6.2. LSHK Award for Outstanding Student Paper on Cantonese Linguistics

We plan to organize the third LSHK Award for Outstanding Student Paper on Cantonese Linguistics. It is hoped that this award will become a trademark of the Society.

6.3. The 7th LSHK Postgraduate Research Forum on Linguistics

It is hoped that the Society will organize the 7th LSHK Postgraduate Research Forum on Linguistics (PRFL-7) in 2010 or in 2011.

7. Acknowledgments

7.1. To the host of LSHK-ARF 2009

Many thanks go to the Research Centre into Language Education and Acquisition in Multilingual Societies (RCLEAMS) and the Department of Early Childhood Education at the Hong Kong Institute of Education, the host and the co-sponsors of the ARF this year, and particularly to Dr. Sam LEUNG, Head of the Department, and Prof. David Li of the RCLEAMS for their help and generous support.



7.2. To other ExCom members

As President of the outgoing ExCom, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to the other committee members for their assistance and contribution: Vicky MAN (Vice-President), Peppina LEE (Secretary), John WAKEFIELD (Treasurer), Peggy MOK (Communications Coordinator), Bit-chee KWOK (Editor), Virginia YIP and Sam LEUNG (members-at-large). It has been a great privilege being able to work with them with great enthusiasm and harmony for these two years.

7.3. To all members

On behalf of the ExCom, I would like to express our thanks to all our members for their trust, support, and active participation in our activities in the past two years. Thank you!

Sze-Wing TANG
President, LSHK
December 12, 2009



Financial Report

(December 7, 2008 to December 12, 2009)

	<u>HK\$</u>	<u>US\$</u>
1. Account Balance at Period End (as of December 6, 2008)		
1) Hang Seng Savings A	472,667.14	
2) Hang Seng Current A	8,684.47	
3) <i>Hang Seng US\$ Timed Deposit</i>	0	<i>12,666.33</i>
4) <i>Hang Seng US\$ Savings</i>	0	<i>885.57</i>
	481,351.61	13,551.90
<hr/>		
Total	<u>481,351.61</u>	<u>13,551.90</u>
2. Current Period Net Income (See Income Statement for details)		
	<u>37,626.95</u>	<u>30.76</u>
3. Account Balance at Period End (as of December 12, 2009)		
1) Hang Seng Savings A	508,455.24	
2) Hang Seng Current A	10,523.32	
3) <i>Hang Seng US\$ Timed Deposit</i>	0	<i>12,672.87</i>
4) <i>Hang Seng US\$ Savings</i>	0	<i>909.79</i>
	518,978.56	13,582.66
<hr/>		
Total	<u>518,978.56</u>	<u>13,582.66</u>

The Outstanding Thesis Award of 2009 (M.Phil.)

Name: **Aijun HUANG**, Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Title: Count-mass Distinction and the Acquisition of Classifiers in Mandarin-speaking Children

Abstract:

The count-mass distinction is traditionally regarded as a sub-categorization of nouns defined according to formal (morphological and syntactic) criteria. Whether a linguistic count-mass distinction exists in Chinese and how it should be analyzed have been subject to a variety of treatments (Chao 1968, Hansen 1983, Tai 1994, Kuo 2003, Tang 2005). In recent analyses of Chinese, some scholars argue that the distinction is lexically encoded: count nouns like *pingguo* 'apple' denote things naturally appearing in discrete, countable entities, while mass nouns like *shui* 'water' denote amorphous substances (Doetjes 1997, Cheng and Sybesma 1998, 1999). Furthermore, the count-mass distinction is also marked in the numeral classifier system, as only count nouns are selected by count classifiers (i.e., individual classifiers) while mass classifiers (non-individual classifiers) are unselective with respect to count or mass nouns. Alternatively, other scholars hold that nouns are cross-linguistically unmarked for either count or mass before being anchored to a dividing functional structure in syntax (Borer 2005).

How the count-mass distinction is acquired by children has received attention from philosophers and psychologists, who differ on whether they think it is syntax or semantics that initiates children into the distinction. On one view, it is argued that children may initially understand words such as *mama*, *apple* and *water* alike without individuating the referents, and it is the syntax of quantification that guides the child to the semantic differences between count and mass nouns (Quine 1960). On the other hand, language acquisition studies have shown that children rely on ontological properties of the referents of nouns when interpreting count nouns and mass nouns, quite independently of syntactic cues (Bloom 1990, Soja, Carey and Spelke 1991, Soja 1992).

In this thesis, we take the view that bare nouns in Chinese are unspecified in number and individuation, and the representation of individuals in Chinese is achieved via the numeral classifier system, a position favoring Borer's view. Furthermore, we propose a compositional analysis of Chinese classifiers, differentiating them in terms of the presence/absence of quantification, individuation and classification functions. We argue that the dichotomy of count classifiers and mass classifiers as proposed by Cheng and Sybesma (1998, 1999, 2005) under-represents the similarities and differences between subtypes of classifiers, and critically assess their arguments for the existence of a grammatical count-mass distinction in Chinese.

The thesis explores the quantification and individuation functions of classifiers by investigating how Mandarin-speaking children aged between three and six years old interpret nouns preceded by individual classifiers and container classifiers, corresponding to count-classifiers and mass classifiers respectively in Cheng and Sybesma's taxonomy. Three cross-sectional experiments were conducted using a picture verification method. The results show that the quantification and individuation functions of classifiers are not developed in a parallel way in children. On the one hand, children as young as three years old understood the quantification function of both types of classifiers. They were sensitive to the number distinction in the interpretation of bare nouns and classifier-bearing nominals. They also understood that the default number interpretation of the classifier-noun structure in the absence of a numeral is unitary. On the other hand, however, the mastery of the individuation function of individual classifiers was much delayed. Unlike older children aged between five and six and a half years old, younger children aged between three and a half to five years old antithetically accepted partial object situations and substance situations across the board.

Our findings invite us to propose The Early Lack of Noun Individuation Hypothesis, i.e., Children are not born with noun individuation based on ontological properties of nouns; instead, they come to attain noun individuation through the learning of the individuation function of linguistic forms (for Chinese children, the individual classifiers). Cross-linguistically, this study sheds light on how a functional category (classifiers) and its syntactic context cue the child to the quantificational and individuation properties of nouns, lending support to a syntax-first approach to the acquisition of the count-mass distinction, and casting doubt on the psychological reality of a syntactic count-mass distinction at the level of classifiers.

The Outstanding Thesis Award of 2009 (M.A.)

Name: **Donald Timothy WHITE**, Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Title: Speech Rhythm Development in a Balanced Cantonese-English Child

Abstract:

This in-depth case study investigates speech rhythm development in a Cantonese-English balanced bilingual child acquiring both languages simultaneously from birth. The data of the bilingual child came from the Child Language Data Exchange System (CHILDES), and both quantitative and qualitative data were analyzed.

Quantitatively, the study measures the rhythm of the child at two ages, (3;0.15) (years; months.days) and (4;2.0). Several speech rhythm metrics were used to gauge the phonological development of the child in her two languages, including Varco C, V and S; Pairwise Variability Indices (PVI); Percent V (%V) and Delta C, V and S (ΔC , ΔV , ΔS). A total of 80 utterances—20 utterances per language and per age—were measured and compared between languages and ages. The utterances of the child are also compared to utterances of monolingual English- and Cantonese-speaking children at the same ages. Several of the quantitative results suggest cross-linguistic influence between the bilingual child's languages, and rhythmic development that is distinct from her monolingual peers. The results also indicate a greater rhythmic separation between the child's language at age 4;2.0 than at 3;0.15. The most robust and consistent rhythm metrics were %V, PVI_V, PVI_S, Varco V and Varco S.

Qualitatively, this study investigates the bilingual child's word borrowing from English to Cantonese. Between the ages of 3;0.26 and 4;6.8, there were a number of parallel utterances of the same word on the same day in each language. These pairs of words are investigated impressionistically and compared to each other. The phonological adaptation of the borrowed words is discussed with regard to the implications for speech rhythm acquisition and the metalinguistic awareness of the child.

LSHK Outstanding Student Paper Award in the 14th International Conference on Cantonese and Yue Dialects

Name: **Xingquan HOU**, Department of Chinese, Peking University

Title: 勾漏片粵語的兩字連讀變調

Abstract:

前人的研究和筆者的調查分析表明，勾漏片粵語普遍存在連讀變調現象。勾漏片粵語兩字組的後字通常不變調，前字聲調為中平（或中降）和低平（或低降）時通常也不變調，其他調值的聲調在前字位置一般都會發生連讀變調，其主要變調規律是：陰調類聲調變成較低的中平或中降調，陽調類聲調變成更低的低平或低降調。勾漏片粵語的連讀變調受輕重節奏律制約，這種模式的形成應該是受到壯侗語的影響所致。

香港語言學學會粵語語言學傑出學生論文獎

截止日期： 2010年7月31日
會議日期： 2010年12月14-16日
會議地點： 澳門

「香港語言學學會粵語語言學傑出學生論文獎」，是香港語言學學會（LSHK）為了鼓勵學生從事粵語研究而設的一個獎項。參賽者必須是本科生或研究生，在報名前已經入學、或將於2010年7月31日或以前入學。只有香港語言學學會的會員才有資格參加比賽。非會員的參賽者請準備在赴會時辦理入會的手續。

「香港語言學學會粵語語言學傑出學生論文獎比賽」（以下簡稱「比賽」），是國際粵方言研討會其中一個環節，每年舉行一次。徵稿通知由香港語言學學會的執行委員會（以下簡稱「本會」）發出，截止日期比國際粵方言研討會一般摘要的截止日期為早。參賽者需要向本會提交一份不超過十五頁的論文全文，中英皆可。參賽的論文，必須是未經出版、或未曾接受出版（包括論文集）的論文。以往的得獎者，將不能再次參加比賽。曾提交參加比賽的論文，也不能再次提交。

所有提交論文獎比賽的作品，都經由本會委任的評審專家作評審，選出最多五位（一般是二至四位）的入圍參賽者，並安排在國際粵方言研討會論文獎比賽的環節上、在評判團前作口頭報告**（評審委員會有作最後決定、以及決定有沒有入圍者的權力）。論文獎得獎者將在大會上宣佈，並頒贈證書及港幣一千五百元。

** 請注意：參賽者不會收到任何形式的資助，例如註冊費、住宿、交通等資助。

參賽要求：

- 參賽者必須為大學本科生或研究生（文學碩士、哲學碩士或哲學博士），在報名前已經入學、或將於2010年7月31日或以前入學。參賽的論文必須是原創的和未經發表的研究。論文的長度不能超過十五頁，字體為12號，頁邊空白為一英吋，中英皆可。
- 參賽者需要提交一篇單一作者的全文（含MSWord檔及pdf檔，不要寫上作者的姓名及單位）、以及在另一份文件中提供下列資料的表格：(1) 作者姓名；(2) 所屬單位及所修讀的課程；(3) 參賽論文的題目；(4) 通訊地址及電郵地址。提交論文時，請同時附上學生證明文件的掃描本（學生證或入學通知的複印本）。
- 參賽者請於2010年7月31日或以前用電郵附件的形式把論文和學生證明文件副本交給本會，電郵地址為：lshk.linguists@gmail.com。論文收到後，本會會發出通知以作確認。

「第十五屆國際粵方言研討會」將於2010年12月在澳門舉行。一切和會務、住宿、交通有關的問題，請直接和國際粵方言研討會主辦單位聯絡（電郵：15yueconferencemacau@gmail.com）。

The LSHK Award for Outstanding Student Paper on Cantonese

Deadline for Submissions: July 31, 2010
Conference Dates: December 16-18, 2010
Venue: Macau

The LSHK Award for Outstanding Student Paper on Cantonese Linguistics competition is an innovative attempt by the Linguistic Society of Hong Kong (LSHK) to promote, recognize, and encourage scholarship by students to conduct research on Cantonese linguistics. Current undergraduate or postgraduate students, registered by the time of submission or by 31 July 2010, are eligible to compete for the Award. Only members of the LSHK are eligible to participate in the competition; non-members must be prepared to join the LSHK at the time of participation.

The LSHK Award for Outstanding Student Paper on Cantonese Linguistics competition is held once a year in conjunction with the International Conference on Cantonese and Yue Dialects. A call for papers is issued by the Executive Committee of the LSHK, normally with a deadline earlier than the usual conference abstract deadline. Participants are each required to submit a full paper of not more than 15 pages in length, either in Chinese or in English, to the Executive Committee of the LSHK. All submissions for the LSHK Award for Outstanding Student Paper must be original papers



that have not been published, or accepted for publication including proceedings. Previous award winners are not allowed to re-enter the competition. The same paper cannot be re-submitted.

All papers submitted for the LSHK Award for Outstanding Student Paper on Cantonese Linguistics competition are subject to review by a Review Committee appointed by the Executive Committee of the LSHK. A maximum of 5 (normally 2-4) finalists may be selected to make an oral presentation at a special session during the International Conference on Cantonese and Yue Dialects organized for this purpose, before a Panel of Judges.** (The Review Committee of any given year reserves the right to make the final decision and may also recommend that no finalist be invited.) The author of the best paper selected by the Panel will be honored during the International Conference on Cantonese and Yue Dialects and presented with an Award Certificate and HK\$1,500.

*** Please note that no extra subsidy including travel subsidy will be provided.

Requirements

- a. Current undergraduate or postgraduate (MA/MPhil/PhD) students, registered by the time of submission or by 31 July 2010, are eligible to compete for the Award. Papers submitted must represent original and unpublished research. The length of the paper should not exceed 15 pages with font size point 12 throughout and 1-inch margin all around and can be in Chinese or English.
- b. Candidates are required to submit one single-authored full paper (without the author's name and in both MSWord and pdf formats) and a separate sheet with the following information: (1) name of the author, (2) institutional affiliation and programme undertaking, (3) the title of the paper, and (4) correspondence and e-mail addresses.
- c. Paper submissions, together with the information and document mentioned in (b) above, should reach the LSHK at lshk.linguists@gmail.com in the form of e-mail attachments on or before 31 July 2010. All submissions will be confirmed upon receipt by the Executive Committee of the LSHK via e-mail.

The 15th International Conference on Cantonese and Yue Dialects will be held in Macau in December 2010. For matters related to conference arrangements, accommodation and travel, please contact the Organizers directly (E-mail: 15yueconferencemacau@gmail.com).

The 2010 Annual Research Forum of the Linguistic Society of Hong Kong

Deadline for Submissions: October 11, 2010

Conference Dates: December 4, 2010

Venue: The Chinese University of Hong Kong

LSHK members are cordially invited to attend and to present papers at the 2010 Annual Research Forum of the Linguistic Society of Hong Kong (LSHK-ARF 2010), which will be hosted by the Chinese University of Hong Kong, on December 4, 2010 (Saturday).

As is customary ARF practice, there will be parallel sessions, and papers related to any area of linguistics are welcome. Every paper will be allotted 20 minutes for oral presentation and 10 minutes for discussion.

Please note that **all** presenters have to be an LSHK member. If you are not yet a member, please apply for the LSHK membership by filling in the application form which can be downloaded from www.lshk.org.

Each member is maximally entitled to one single-author presentation and one joint presentation. Each submission should be an abstract of no more than 400 words in English or 800 characters in Chinese.

Moreover, members who would like to propose a discussion session based on a particular theme or a theme-based parallel session are welcome to send a proposal



(maximum two pages) to the LSHK Executive Committee, specifying the theme and the format of the session and target participants.

ARF abstract submissions and registration will be done *online* at www.lshk.org. Email and/or paper abstract submissions will NOT be accepted.

For inquiries, please contact us by email at lshk.arf@gmail.com.

The 2010 LSHK Outstanding Thesis Award

Deadline for Submissions: September 6, 2010

Inquiries: lshk.linguists@gmail.com

The Linguistic Society of Hong Kong is now inviting nomination for the 2010 LSHK Outstanding Thesis Award. The deadline for nomination and submission of theses is September 6, 2010 (Monday). Other details are given as follows:

(1) Topic

Any outstanding thesis which contributes to any area in linguistics will be considered.

(2) Category

There are three categories:

M.A. thesis (awarded within the academic year of 2009/2010)

M.Phil. thesis (awarded within the academic year of 2009/2010)

Ph.D. thesis (awarded within the academic year of 2009/2010)

Note:

"Awarded within the academic year of 2009/2010" is defined as follows: the student must have the final copy of his/her thesis submitted to the graduate school or the university (for MPhil and PhD theses) and submitted to and approved by the department (for MA theses) during the period from 1 October 2009 to 31 August 2010.

(3) Eligibility

Only students enrolled at local tertiary education institutions are eligible. The Chief Supervisor must be a regular staff member at a local tertiary education institution and an LSHK member to be eligible to nominate his/her students. The nomination must be made by the Chief Supervisor. No supervisor should submit more than one nomination per category in any year.

(4) Procedure

Please submit two hard copies and a soft copy of the thesis for review. The supervisor should ensure that the nominee, if awarded, agrees to give a presentation of the thesis at the 2010 Annual Research Forum of the Linguistic Society of Hong Kong on December 4, 2010.

(5) Submission Methods

The two hardcopies of the thesis can be submitted to an LSHK representative at your institution or mailed to the address below:

Mr. John Wakefield
Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Hung Hom, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

Please e-mail the soft copy of the thesis to clinton.wakefield@gmail.com.



Upcoming Events



第十六次現代漢語語法學術討論會

會議日期： 2010年6月8-10日

會議地點： 香港城市大學 15 號及 17 號演講廳

大會報告： 沈家煊 (中國社會科學院)、石定栩 (香港理工大學)、吳為善 (上海師範大學)、沈陽 (北京大學)、陸丙甫 (南昌大學)、劉丹青 (中國社會科學院)、郭銳 (北京大學)

查詢：

電郵：ernestl@cityu.edu.hk (林澍峰先生)

網頁：<http://www.smcg.ctl.cityu.edu.hk>

The 12th International Symposium on Chinese Languages and Linguistics

Date: June 19-21, 2010

Venue: Institute of Linguistics, Academia Sinica, Taipei

Invited Speaker: Susan Rothstein (Bar-Ilan University), Chris Kennedy (University of Chicago), Hilda Koopman (UCLA) and Stephen Matthews (University of Hong Kong)

Inquiries:

Email: iscll@sinica.edu.tw

Website: <http://www.ling.sinica.edu.tw/>





GLOW in Asia VIII

Date: August 12-16, 2010

Venue: Beijing Language and Culture University, Beijing

Keynote Speaker: Noam Chomsky (MIT)

Inquiries:

Email: glow2010@blcu.edu.cn

Website: <http://www.blcu.edu.cn/CLT/glow/glowasia8.html>

The Sixth International Workshop on Theoretical East Asian Linguistics (TEAL-6)

Date: August 15-16, 2010

Venue: Peking University, Beijing

Inquiries:

Email: teal6workshop@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.teal.cbs.polyu.edu.hk/contact.html>



The Symposium Commemorating the 90th Anniversary of the Birth of Prof. Zhu Dexi and the 50th Anniversary of Prof. Lu Jianming's Teaching

Date: August 17-18, 2010

Venue: Peking University, Beijing

Inquiries:

Email: zhulu2010conference@gmail.com

Website: <http://ccl.pku.edu.cn/zhulu2010/>



**An International Conference
Languages of Education: the Chinese Context**

Date: October 22-23, 2010

Venue: The Hong Kong Institute of Education

Organizer: The Research Centre into Language Education and Acquisition in Multilingual Societies (RCLEAMS), The Hong Kong Institute of Education

Inquiries:

Email: lecc@ied.edu.hk

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Recent Events / Post Conference Reports

第十四屆國際粵方言研討會暨第五屆土話平話國際學術研討會

會議日期：2009年12月7日至9日

會議地點：桂林

自2006年，廣西地區也成為國際粵方言研討會主辦單位之一。2009年「第十四屆國際粵方言研討會暨第五屆土話平話國際學術研討會」在有「山水甲天下」美譽的桂林市舉行。這次會議為期三天(2009年12月7至9日)，由桂林師範高等專科學校承辦，劉村漢教授主持。與會者來自中國大陸、香港、澳門和日本，宣讀論文共60篇(論文題目及與會者名單見於《方言》2010年，第1期，96-97頁)。



這次會議同時舉辦由香港語言學學會設立的第二屆「香港語言學學會粵語語言學傑出學生論文獎」。論文獎的目的是為了鼓勵更多學生(本科生及研究生)從事粵語研究工作。這個獎項將會成為日後國際粵方言研討會的其中一個環節及標誌。第二屆傑出學生論文獎的得主是北京大學博士生侯興泉，論文題目是「勾漏粵語的兩字連讀變調」。

2010年第十五屆國際粵方言研討會將會由澳門主辦，澳門中國語文學會會長胡培周會長在閉幕儀式上致辭及接棒。

Contributed by
Andy Chin (HKIEd)

The 2009 Annual Research Forum of the Linguistic Society of Hong Kong (LSHK-ARF 2009)

Date: December 12, 2009

Venue: The Hong Kong Institute of Education

The 2009 Annual Research Forum of the Linguistic Society of Hong Kong (LSHK-ARF 2009) was held in the Hong Kong Institute of Education on December 12, 2010.

The opening remarks were given by Dr. Sam Leung on behalf of the host. This was followed by the presentation ceremony of the Outstanding Thesis Award and the reports made by two awardees. For the MA category, the awardee was Mr. Donand Timothy White from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, with the title of his thesis "Speech Rhythm Development in a Balanced Cantonese-English Child"; for the MPhil category, the awardee was Ms. Aijun Huang from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, with the title of her thesis "Count-mass Distinction and the Acquisition of Classifiers in Mandarin-speaking Children".

Professor Chris Kennedy from the University of Chicago was invited to deliver keynote speech in the Forum. The title of his presentation was "Serving the Degree Argument from the Adjective".

31 papers were presented in 11 sessions, with presenters from universities in Hong Kong, mainland China, Japan, the Netherlands, UK and US. The presented papers covered a wide range of topics, including syntax, semantics, pragmatics, phonetics, phonology as well as L1 and L2 acquisition, with examples and evidences drawing from languages like Modern Standard Chinese, Cantonese, Old Chinese, Tangut, Japanese, French and English.

After each presentation, 10 minutes were allocated for discussion, with vigorous and stimulating exchanges between participants and the presenters. The LSHK-ARF closed officially closed at 5.50 pm.

The program and the abstracts are available at: <http://www.lshk.org/arf2009/>.

Contributed by
Bit-Chee KWOK (CityU)

漢語文白對照及檢索平台 — 「雅歌匯」發佈會

日期：2010年3月15日

地點：香港城市大學

香港城市大學語言資訊科學研究中心研發出華人地區首個漢語文言白話對照及檢索平台—「雅歌匯」，利用資訊科技把傳統文學與現代接軌。語言資訊科學研究中心獲政府創新及科技基金 (ITF) 資助，於2008年10月開始進行系統研發，並於2010年3月15日舉辦系統發佈會，正式發佈「雅歌匯」。負責研發系統的語言資訊科學研究中心主任教授鄒嘉彥教授在發佈會上介紹了「雅歌匯」的研發背景及應用。大會邀請了香港城市大學署理副校長（研究及科技）葉豪盛教授、香港中文大學中國語言及文學系講座教授張洪年教授、香港教育學院語文學院院長及中文學系講座教授陳國球教授以及香港商務印書館總編輯張倩儀女士在會上致詞。香港教育學院中文系副教授謝家浩博士亦在發佈會上分享了用「雅歌匯」的體驗。



「雅歌匯」讓用戶上傳文言文及白話譯文，並對上傳文本自動逐句分拆，識別字詞對應。用戶亦可編輯上傳文本資料，校勘句子及詞語的對應。隨着用戶上傳文件的數量增加，系統內置的詞典和知識庫的數據會不斷累積及自動更新，為日後的用戶提供更方便共享或自用的知識平台。此外，「雅歌匯」



具備文白雙向搜索功能，用戶不但可以查閱一詞多解的詞條，而且可以按詞首、詞尾等作更精確搜索，搜索範圍更可以覆蓋原文詳細內容。系統目前已匯集了約百餘篇共十多萬字的文言文文本及對應白話譯文，其中包括《論語》、《顏氏家訓》等著名典籍，以及多篇中學中國語文課文。「雅歌匯」適合古文學者、中小學師生以及出版商作教學編寫研之用，亦為自學者開闢網上學習文言文的新途徑。歡迎進入「雅歌匯」官方網頁，親身試用系統：<https://acker.chilin.hk/>

Contributed by **Kenny MOK** (CityU / HKIEd)

Public Lecture 'What is Theoretical Linguistics?'

Speaker: Professor Robert D. BORSLEY (University of Essex)

Date: April 14, 2010

Time: 16.30-18.30

Venue: Hong Kong Baptist University

* This event was supported by HKBU Strategic Development Fund

Abstract:

Most human beings have one or more complex systems of (largely unconscious) linguistic knowledge. Theoretical linguistics is first and foremost an attempt to understand these systems, which Chomsky calls I-languages. It is concerned with exactly what form I-languages take and with how much they may vary. It looks especially at how words are combined to form sentences (syntax), how words and sentences are pronounced (phonology) and what meanings they can convey (semantics), but it also considers how I-languages are acquired and how they are used. From this perspective speech and writing are not language but the results of using some I-language, while languages in the ordinary sense are sets of broadly similar I-languages.

Theoretical linguistics is sometimes contrasted with descriptive linguistics and applied linguistics. Descriptive linguistics aims at relatively informal descriptions of linguistic phenomena with little concern with general issues whereas the general issues are central for theoretical linguistics. However, there is no sharp division between theoretical and description linguistics and each should benefit from the other. Applied linguistics on the other hand is often an investigation of a range of language related matters with little real connection with theoretical linguistics.

Within theoretical linguistics there is no consensus about what form I-languages take or with how much they may vary. However, it is clear that I-languages are considerably more complex than speakers are inclined to think, and much has been done to identify the nature of the complexity.

Thus, there are major unresolved issues here, but thanks to work in theoretical linguistics we know much more about linguistic phenomena than we did fifty years ago, from which non-linguists may benefit.

About the speaker:

Bob Borsley was an undergraduate at the University of Wales Bangor and did his Ph.D. at the University of Edinburgh. His research interests are in syntactic theory (especially Head-driven Phrase Structure Grammar), and the syntax of Welsh and Polish. In the 1970s he worked at Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland. Then after jobs in University College London, the IBM UK Scientific Centre in Winchester, and University College Dublin, he worked at the University of Wales Bangor from 1986 to 2000, and he became a Professor in 1997. Since 2000 he has been a Professor of Linguistics at the University of Essex. He is the author of *Syntactic Theory: A Unified Approach* (Edward Arnold, 1991/1999), *Modern Phrase Structure Grammar* (Blackwell, 1996),



Welsh Negation and Grammatical Theory (University of Wales Press, 2005) (with Bob Morris Jones), and *The Syntax of Welsh* (Cambridge University Press, 2007) (with Maggie Tallerman and David Willis). He is editor of *The Nature and Function of Syntactic Categories* (Academic Press, 2000) and co-editor (with Ian Roberts) of *The Syntax of the Celtic Languages* (Cambridge University Press, 1996) and (with Adam Przepiórkowski) of *Slavic in Head-driven Phrase Structure Grammar* (CSLI, 1999). He is also an editor of *Journal of Linguistics*, the journal of the Linguistics Association of Great Britain.

Contributed by **Suying YANG** (HKBU)

Membership Profile

Membership type	Number
Life	48
Regular	47
Affiliate	23
Student	113
Total	231

*figures as of May 13, 2010.

Members' Publications (2009-now)



Editor: **Kathleen AHRENS**
 Book Title: **Politics, Gender, and Conceptual Metaphors**
 Publication Year: 2009
 Publisher: Basingstroke and New York: Palgrave-MacMillan

Author: **Adams BODOMO**

Book Title: **Computer-Mediated Communication for Linguistics and Literacy: Technology and Natural Language Education**

Publication Year: 2010

Publisher: IGI Global, Hershey, PA, USA

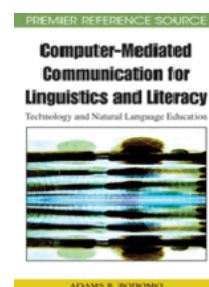
Description:

Due to the complex diversity and multi-disciplinary nature of computer-mediated communication, a reference source solely dedicated to the subject's direct influence on literacy and language becomes imperative among educators.

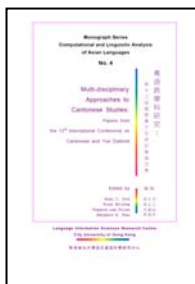
Computer-Mediated Communication for Linguistics and Literacy: Technology and Natural Language Education fills a void within research due to its clear and direct focus on the interactions between human language and communication technologies. Containing extensive research and analysis, this authoritative collection examines the practical implications and applications of how computers can be used to process natural languages for the design of communication systems and devices.

On-line information about this book:

<http://www.igi-global.com/Bookstore/TitleDetails.aspx?TitleId=187>



Author: **Adams BODOMO**, Charles MARFO and Lauren HALL-LEW
Book Title: **Let's Speak Twi: A Proficiency Course in Akan Language and Culture**
Publication Year: 2010
Publisher: Stanford University: CSLI Publications



Editors: **Andy C. CHIN**, **Bit-Chee KWOK**, **Peppina Po-Lun LEE**,
Benjamin K. TSOU

Book Title: **Multi-disciplinary Approach to Cantonese Studies:
Papers from the 13th International Conference on Cantonese
and Yue Dialects** 粵語跨學科研究：第十三屆國際粵方言研討會論文集

Publication Year: 2009

Publisher: Language Information Sciences Research Centre, City
University of Hong Kong

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To order the proceeding, please contact Ms. Hui at vyyhui@ied.edu.hk.

Postgraduate Studies Opportunities

Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies (CBS), The Hong Kong Polytechnic University invites applications for research postgraduate studies (MPhil and PhD). The major research areas of CBS are (in alphabetic order):

Bilingual Communication and Bilingual Education;
 Chinese and Education: Acquisition, Assessment and CSL;
 Language and Technology;
 Linguistics of Chinese and other East Asian Languages; and
 Translation and Interpreting Studies



For applicants for the area in "Bilingual Communication and Bilingual Education", those with at least three years' working experience in corporate communication and/or related professional areas will have an advantage.

To be admitted to the research postgraduate program, applicants must satisfy the entrance requirements. For the details of the requirements and further information, please check the E-prospectus: <http://www.polyu.edu.hk/ro/e-prospectus/2010-11/>.

Applicants should fill in the on-line application form, write up a detailed research proposal, and send all the required documents to the Research Office for our consideration.

Contact Information: Dr. Sze-Wing Tang (sw.tang@polyu.edu.hk)

Obituaries

Professor Li FANG 方立教授 (1942-2010)



It was with great sadness that I learned of the passing away of Professor Fang Li of Beijing Language and Culture University on Sunday, April 11, 2010.

Professor Fang has made tremendous contributions to the education of formal linguists in China. He is one of the very few linguists in China with a deep knowledge of non-transformational models of generative grammar and Montague semantics. Professor Fang devoted all his life to the propagation of ideas of formal linguistics, his books on logical semantics and mathematical linguistics being seminal publications on these topics in China.

In his writings, Professor Fang introduced to the Chinese linguistics world the main tenets of the interface theory of Arnold Zwicky and Geoffrey Pullum, Head-driven Phrase Structure Grammar, and Montague semantics. By keeping alive a critical discussion of non-transformational approaches to the formal study of language, which have all along attracted little attention among Chinese linguists, he has deepened our understanding of the essentials of mainstream generative grammar. Professor Fang shared with us his insights on the analysis of '*lian..dou*', modals and scope of negation. He is one of the very few theoretical linguists in China who has taken the psycholinguistic implications of generative grammar seriously, and moved headstrong into language acquisition research. He was steadfast and unswerving in his conviction in nativism, coming at it from the perspective of semantic universals.

Professor Fang was a most conscientious teacher and taught with an indefatigable spirit. He insisted on giving his students a comprehensive and systematic education in formal grammar, offering courses on Montague grammar, HPSG, GB and minimalism. The range of the courses he offered was remarkable, and remains so even today, even in comparison to the advanced linguistics course being offered in Hong Kong universities. Under his influence, many of Professor Fang's students have gone on to become active generative linguists in their own right making important contributions to the field.



I first met Professor Fang in 1990 at a conference in Shanghai. Since then, we've engaged in many dialogues on language and shared similar visions on how to promote formal linguistics in China.

He visited and lectured at Chinese University of Hong Kong a couple of times, once in winter of 1996, and then later in the summer of 2006. He also visited City University of Hong Kong in April of 2002 when I taught there.

Professor Fang kindly provided an opportunity for me to teach a short term at BLCU when I left CUHK in 1999, and many colleagues who we know today -- Fan Li, Song Gang, Yang Ning -- were master's or doctoral students of his back then.

Professor Fang led the BLCU group of the Beijing Chinese Early Language Acquisition (BJCELA) project, and kindly and generously supported me in all my research efforts wherever I was, in Hong Kong, Hunan or Beijing. In the two Yuelu conferences in Formal linguistics and Language acquisition Professor Ning Chunyan and I organized in Changsha, Professor Fang Li came and presented papers with his students. In the numerous work meetings we held in Beijing from 2001 to 2006, Professor Fang always came in support despite his hectic schedule.



As many of us who met and worked with him know, Professor Fang is a gentleman and a most affable personage, always supportive and appreciative of the efforts of young researchers. While he is 10 years my senior and has no doubt experienced life in greater depth and complexity than I, there are a lot of things we shared, not just about linguistics, but about China and the world, social and human relations, life and friendship.

Professor Fang does not always express his views explicitly, but through his mild but weighty remarks, he shared with me a lot of his concerns, his insights and his wisdom, as scholar and friend.

I still remember with warmth and fondness the many hours we chatted smoking together, in walks and coffee chats, in Beijing, Changsha and Hong Kong. It's with a deep sense of pain and loss that I can now only have such pleasures of his friendship through his writings and in my recollections.

Thomas Lee, CUHK

Professor Shikai ZHAO 趙世開教授 (1926-2010)

Professor Zhao Shikai, who left us on May 1, 2010, is remembered by many of us in Hong Kong as a veteran linguist who has played a major role in bringing theories of Western linguistics to the Chinese mainland, in particular in the years immediately after the Cultural Revolution.



Born in 1926, Professor Zhao Shikai was a native of Shanghai and received his high school education in Tsing Hua Middle School during the war years. In the late 1940s, he studied at Wuhan University majoring in English language and literature, taught by the Harvard-educated literary scholar Wu Mi (吳宓), who had a lasting intellectual influence on him. Professor Zhao was one of the few linguists I know of who received both an undergraduate training in English and one in Chinese. From 1957 to 1960, he studied Linguistics at the Chinese department of Peking University under Professor Gao Mingkai.

Professor Zhao was posted to the People's Liberation Army between 1950 and 1957 as a teacher and interpreter, with a brief stint in North Korea. He joined the Institute of Linguistics of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in 1961, and worked at the Linguistics Abroad unit there until his retirement.



Professor Zhao was perhaps the first PRC linguist to research on the history of American Linguistics comprehensively, resulting in his 1989 book *A concise history of American Linguistics*, still a classic reference and the only monograph in Chinese that I know of on the subject. In this text, he gave a succinct and systematic introduction to the ideas of Boas, Sapir, Bloomfield, Harris and Chomsky. He was modest enough to admit the inadequacies of his own research, and outlined the stringent standards that a Chinese linguistics historian will have to meet in future research of this type.

Professor Zhao has contributed to contrastive grammatical studies of Chinese and English in the areas of empty categories and anaphora, and has thought deeply and worked extensively on Chinese translations of modern linguistics terminology. In 1979, he published with Professor Liu Yongquan *An English-Chinese glossary of Linguistic Terms*, a delightfully handy and useful reference tool for standard Chinese linguistics terms. In the years when he was editor-in-chief of the journal *Linguistics Abroad* (國外語言學), 1985-1989, he started a small column in the journal giving his translations and explanations of selected western linguistic terms, some of which we still struggle with today. Among those he touched on in the issues of 1989-90 were: *cohesion*, *performative/constative*, *theme/rheme*, *valency*, *deixis*, *barriers*, *X-bar*, *filters*, *constraints*, *trace*, *scope*, and *mapping*. In the last ten years, Professor Zhao has been carrying out a project revising and updating the 1979 glossary, which I hope can be published posthumously at some point.



Professor Zhao visited Hong Kong a number of times. He presented papers at the 1988 Wu dialect conference held at CUHK and the 1990 LSHK conference on the Teaching of Linguistics in Chinese communities held at HKBU. He visited the Department of English of CUHK in 1994 and HKU in 1999. I can still remember with vividness the lectures on Bloomfield that Professor Zhao gave at CUHK in 1994 to a joint group of linguistics and philosophy students, in which he brought to life the human dynamics of the story of Jack and Jill, which I had previously understood mechanically and literally as nothing but a boring behaviorist illustration of a model of human communication.

I first met Professor Zhao at the Second Harbin Conference held at Heilongjiang University in 1987. Conversations with him since have always been intellectual pleasures. Listening to his personal reflections on linguistic scholarship, and the many enticing anecdotes he enjoyed sharing about veteran scholars ranging from Wu Mi to Gao Mingkai, I learned much about the history of linguistic research in twentieth century China, and about the sociology of knowledge. Professor Zhao has always held an open heart toward the ideas of western civilization, and always welcomed advances in interdisciplinary approaches to the study of Chinese language.

In the present era of global capitalism, in which everything is integrated into the world of corporate finance and material gains, I was impressed with the bold and unequivocal statement Professor Zhao made to a group of young graduate students in a talk he gave in 2006 at Beijing Foreign Language University, to the effect that scholarship is strictly incompatible with the pursuit of material wealth. I don't know if this is an anachronistic statement, but if it were, it would be a lovely anachronistic truth that I would not tire of reminding my graduate students of.

At a personal level, many linguist friends and I consider Professor Zhao a paradigm example of the Jiangnan (江南) intellectual, warm, gentle and graceful in his manners,



always decently dressed, even in times of difficulty and hardship. He was perhaps unique in having an incessantly youthful mind and heart, always willing to share with young people not only his successes, but also his pitfalls and weaknesses, with frankness and honesty. To me, he is a Morrie Schwartz of contemporary Chinese academia, and will always be so in my memory, as scholar, teacher, mentor and friend.

Thomas Lee, CUHK