



The Linguistic Society of Hong Kong Newsletter

香港語言學學會通訊

Issue 2, 2011 & Issue 1, 2012

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

1. Development of the Society



1.1 Membership

As at 2 December 2011, we have a total of 122 members: 52 Life Members, 14 Regular Members, 19 Affiliated Members, and 36 Student Members.

2. Activities

2.1 LSHK Workshop on Cantonese

The 11th LSHK Workshop on Cantonese (WOC-11), with the theme "Syntax and Semantics of Nominals in Cantonese", was held successfully on Saturday, March 5, 2011 at The Hong Kong Institute of Education. It was organized by the LSHK and co-sponsored by the Research Centre on Linguistics and Language Information Sciences at HKIEd. A total of 7 papers were presented at the Workshop.

WOC-12 will be held at the Chinese University of Hong Kong on 25 February 2012, with the theme "'Sentence' in Cantonese: from a cross-dialectal perspective".

2.2 The 7th Postgraduate Research Forum on Linguistics

The 7th Postgraduate Research Forum on Linguistics was successfully held on May 13-14, 2011 at the City University of Hong Kong, and a total of 32 papers were presented at the Forum. Participants are from various institutions, including Huazhong University of Science and Technology, The University of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Sun Yat-Sen University, Peking University, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hunan University, City University of Hong Kong, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, Islamic Azad University, Seoul National University, University at Hawai'i at Manoa, Korea University and University of Venice. Prof. Tao, Hongyin from UCLA made a keynote speech on *Creative Language Use in China's New Media: Social, Cultural, and Linguistic Dimensions and Some Research Agenda*.

2.3 Awards

LSHK Outstanding Thesis Award

I would like to congratulate the winner of this year's award, Ph.D category, Dr. John Wakefield, and the title of his thesis is 'The English Equivalents of Cantonese Sentence-final Particles: A contrastive analysis'. On behalf of the ExCom, I would like to express our appreciation to all the reviewers for their professional and fair judgments on the nominated theses, and to Peppina LEE and Bit-chee KWOK for coordinating the task.

LSHK Outstanding Student Paper Award

This award aims to encourage postgraduate students to conduct research on Cantonese linguistics. Among the four finalists shortlisted for presentation in the 15th International Conference on Cantonese and Yue Dialects held in Macau Polytechnic Institute on 13-15 December 2010, Miss Yunming SHAN 單韻鳴 from (廣州)暨南大學中文系 won the award with the paper title: 廣州話用作連接成份的「得嚟」及其他.

This year's award, our fourth award, has two finalists shortlisted for presentation at the 16th International Conference on Cantonese and Yue Dialects to be held at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University on Dec. 15-16 2011. The candidates were informed of the result in November.



On behalf of the ExCom, I would like to express our appreciation to all the anonymous reviewers for their professional and fair judgments on the submitted papers, and to Sze-wing TANG, Bit-chee KWOK and Peppina LEE for coordinating the job.

LSHK Fieldwork Subsidy

The ExCom initiated a plan for providing subsidy to students who are LSHK members and need some financial support for their fieldwork. The Society plans to provide up to \$10,000 to at most 3 successful applicants each year, and each of them will receive at least \$3000.

2.4 E-newsletters

To facilitate effective academic discussions among our members over the internet, e-newsletters were published. On behalf of the Ex-Com, I would like to express our appreciation to Bit-chee KWOK and Carine YIU for coordinating the job

3. Sponsorship

3.1 The Society co-sponsored (\$2000) the International Conference on the Chinese Language Learning and Teaching in the Digital Age held on 25-27 November 2011 at the Research Center on Linguistics and Language Information Science at the Hong Kong Institute of Education.

3.2 Sponsored \$2000 to the Linguistics Week organized by the HKU students in May, 2011.

3.3 The Society is a co-sponsor of the 16th International Conference on Cantonese and Yue Dialects to be held at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University on Dec. 15-16, 2011.

3.4 We decided to sponsor local conferences at \$2000 each, up to a maximum of \$10000 per year.

4. Financial Situation

4.1 This is a healthy year for the Society, and we have over \$20K income this year, as will be reflected and detailed in the Financial Report. The Society has a total balance of over half a million HK dollars and over US\$13,000.

5. Acknowledgments

5.1 To the host of LSHK-ARF 2011

Many thanks go to the Department of Chinese, Translation and Linguistics at the City University of Hong Kong, the host and the sponsor of the ARF this year, and particularly to Dr. Peppina Lee and Dr. Bit Chee Kwok, and the Acting Head of the Department, Dr. K. K. SIN, for their help and generous support.

5.2 To the donors

Ms Ke Sihui (柯思慧), Mphil student, CBS, PolyU donated HK\$25 (Feb. 2011); Mr. Evan Miracle, a Supervisory Analyst for HSBC donated HK\$650. (Nov. 2011).

5.3 To other ExCom members

It has been a great pleasure to be the President of the Society. As the outgoing President, I would like to thank the other committee members for their assistance, support and understanding. They are Sze-Wing TANG (Vice-President), Peppina LEE (Secretary), John WAKEFIELD (Treasurer), Peggy MOK (Communications Coordinator), Bit-chee KWOK (Newsletter Editor), Candice CHEUNG and Carine YIU (members-at-large). I really appreciate the time they have spent on matters related to the Society in



achieving the general aims of the Society listed in the Constitution and serving the linguistics community in Hong Kong.

5.4 To all LSHK members

On behalf of the ExCom, I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all our members for your trust, support, and active participation in our activities. It has been a great honor and pleasure to serve you.

Thank you!

Haihua PAN
President, LSHK
December 3, 2011

Financial Report

(December 4, 2010 to December 2, 2011)

	<u>HK\$</u>	<u>US\$</u>
1. Account Balance at Period End (as of December 3, 2010)		
1) Hang Seng Savings A	513,231.69	
2) Hang Seng Current A	24,207.42	
3) <i>Hang Seng US\$ Timed Deposit</i>	0	<i>12,674.20</i>
4) <i>Hang Seng US\$ Savings</i>	0	<i>1,021.04</i>
	537,439.11	13,695.24
<hr/>		
Total	<u>537,439.11</u>	<u>13,695.24</u>
2. Current Period Net Income (See Income Statement for details)		
	<u>21,484.53</u>	<u>1.34</u>
3. Account Balance at Period End (as of December 2, 2011)		
1) Hang Seng Savings A	516,770.34	
2) Hang Seng Current A	42,153.30	
3) <i>Hang Seng US\$ Timed Deposit</i>	0	<i>12,675.54</i>
4) <i>Hang Seng US\$ Savings</i>	0	<i>1,021.04</i>
	558,923.64	13,696.58
<hr/>		
Total	<u>558,923.64</u>	<u>13,696.58</u>

Prepared by **John Wakefield**, Treasurer

Issue 2, 2011 & Issue 1, 2012



Congratulations to Winners of LSHK Awards

The Outstanding Thesis Award of 2011 (Ph.D.)

Name: **John WAKEFIELD**, Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Title: The English equivalents of Cantonese sentence-final particles: a contrastive analysis

Abstract:

Cantonese has a lexical tone system that severely restricts its ability to manipulate pitch. As a result, many of the speaker-oriented discourse meanings that are expressed through intonation in languages such as English are expressed in the form of sentence-final particles (SFPs) in Cantonese. Although this is widely known and accepted by linguists, apparently no study to date has made a systematic attempt to discover whether any of the more than 30 Cantonese SFPs have English intonational equivalents, and if so, what those equivalents are. To work towards filling this research gap, this study examines the English intonational equivalents of four Cantonese SFPs that divide into the following two pairs: particles of obviousness: *lo1* and *aa1maa3*; question particles: *me1* and *aa4*.

The English equivalent form of each of the four SFPs of this study is identified by examining the pitch contours of Cantonese-to-English audio translations, provided by Cantonese/English native-bilingual participants. A definition using Wierzbicka's (1996) natural semantic metalanguage (NSM) is proposed for each SFP, which is hypothesized to apply equally to its English intonational counterpart. Following proposals of Hirst's (1983a) regarding-emphatic intonation, these pitch contours are proposed to be floating tones that exist as lexical entries in the minds of native-English speakers. Syntactic positions are proposed for the SFPs and their English equivalents adopting Rizzi's (1997) split-CP hypothesis.

The findings of this study have far reaching implications regarding the descriptions and classifications of intonation, as well as regarding the classifications of the various forms of suprasegmentals. This study used segmental discourse markers to discover their suprasegmental counterparts in English, exploiting a unique window through which to examine the forms and meanings of English discourse intonation, which is one of the least understood and most difficult to study aspects of English. This research has arguably provided the strongest and clearest evidence to date regarding the forms and meanings of the particular forms of English intonation with which it deals.

LSHK Outstanding Student Paper Award in the 16th International Conference on Cantonese and Yue Dialects

Name: **Hoi-Lam YIU 姚凱琳** 香港中文大學中文系

Title: 香港粵語元音[a][ɐ]的主要區別特徵研究

Abstract:

粵語元音[a][ɐ]又稱長短元音，即在一個音節中韻腹所佔的時長比例一長一短。除了時長差異，[a][ɐ]也有音質上的差異，但究竟哪種差異才是主要的區別特徵，尚無定論。本文研究對象集中香港粵語，利用聲學及聽辨實驗進行研究。聲學實驗測量多個[a][ɐ]韻腹字的時長和共振峰值，旨在說明[a][ɐ]的差異，並找出最不影響[a][ɐ]音質的聲母和韻尾，幫助挑選聽辨用的實驗字。聽辨實驗利用語音軟件將每組[a][ɐ]韻腹字錄音的韻腹長和韻尾長對調，然後請本地人判別語義，從而得知時長改變對字義的影響。聲學實驗發現[a][ɐ]音質差異主要在舌位前後差距，時長差異體現在相對時長而非絕對時長；唇部及喉部聲母、鼻音及塞音韻尾都較不影響[a][ɐ]音質，其中元音韻尾字中的[a][ɐ]較多以音質為區別特徵，鼻音及塞音韻尾字的則較多以時長為區別特徵。聽辨實驗結果顯示，[a][ɐ]音質區別度為 34%，時長區別度為 58%；據此本文的結論為香港粵語元音[a][ɐ]的主要區別特徵是時長而非音質。

Call for Papers

第十二屆粵語討論會 (WOC-12)

截止日期： 2012年1月16日
會議日期： 2011年2月25日
會議地點： 香港中文大學
官方網站： <http://www.swtang.net/woc2012.php>

「第十二屆粵語討論會」將於2012年2月25日（星期六）於香港中文大學舉行。這次討論會的主題是「粵語句子的界定：比較研究」。報告者可以就以下幾個課題作粵語和其他方言的比較：

- 一、「句子」在粵語口語上有何意義？
- 二、除了句首、句末語氣詞外，音韻如何幫助界定「口語句子」？
- 三、「口語句子」的釐定會否影響其他句子下位範疇的看法，如「話題」？

每篇論文的報告時間為二十分鐘，之後有至少十分鐘發問和討論。報告者和參加者可以選擇用粵語、普通話或英語發言。有意報告者請提交一份寫上作者姓名、工作單位和電郵地址的論文摘要，中文、英文均可，長度以一頁A4紙為限。摘要請以DOC電子檔形式儲存，並以電郵擲交以下地址：swtang@cuhk.edu.hk。

如需查詢或有任何疑問，歡迎用電郵跟鄧思穎（swtang@cuhk.edu.hk）聯絡。有關討論會的詳情和最新資料，請瀏覽以下網址：www.lshk.org。「第十二屆粵語討論會」由香港語言學學會主辦、香港中文大學中國文化研究所吳多泰中國語文研究中心和中國語言及文學系粵語研究中心協辦。

Symposium on Word Order in Chinese

Deadline: February 17, 2012
Date: May 17-18, 2012
Venue: The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Website:



We are pleased to announce that the "Symposium on Word Order in Chinese" will be held on May 17-18, 2012 at The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Keynote speakers:
Professor Richard S. Kayne (New York University)
Professor Wei-tien Dylan Tsai (National Tsing Hua University)

This symposium aims at bringing together researchers who are concerned with the syntax of word order in Chinese and its syntactic derivation in the generative framework. Potential issues to be addressed include:

1. Chinese as a head initial or head final language?
2. application of the Linear Correspondence Axiom (LCA) to Chinese word order
3. microparametric study of Chinese word order

Each paper will be allotted 20 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for discussion. Selection of papers is based on anonymous review of abstracts. Please follow these guidelines to submit your abstracts:

All submitted abstracts should be written in English and limited to two single-spaced pages, complete with examples and bibliography. All texts should fit within two A4 pages, with 1-inch margin all around. Use font size 12 throughout.

Please send two copies as attachments by e-mail to wordorder@cuhk.edu.hk. The first copy of your abstract should be an MS Word document with a DOC extension containing the following information: (1) author's name(s), (2) affiliation, and (3) email address. The second copy, to be used for the reviewing process, should be an anonymous PDF document, leaving your name, affiliation, and email address out of the abstract. We DO NOT accept submissions by postal mail. We will accept at most one single-authored work OR one joint-authored work by an individual.

Some of the papers presented at the symposium will be selected for publication in *Studies in Chinese Linguistics*, subject to double-blind peer review and the final decision of the editorial board.

Important Dates:

Deadline for abstract submissions: February 17, 2012

Notification of acceptance: March 31, 2012

Symposium: May 17-18, 2012

If you have further questions, please contact the organizing committee at wordorder@cuhk.edu.hk.

Organizer:

TTN Chinese Language Research Centre
Institute of Chinese Studies
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Co-organizer:

Department of Chinese Language and Literature
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Sponsor:

United College
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Upcoming Events

February

18-19 TEAL-7 (Hiroshima University)
25 12th Workshop on Cantonese (WOC-12) (CLRC, CUHK)

March

16-17 Workshop on Innovations in Cantonese Linguistics (Ohio State University)
24-25 8th Workshop on Formal Syntax and Semantics (FOSS-8) (National Chiao Tung University, Hsin Chu, Taiwan)

May

4-6 Conference on Language, Discourse and Cognition (National Taiwan University, Taipei)
7-9 Workshop on Stance Phenomena in Asian Languages 2: Discourse Perspectives (PolyU)
11-13 14th Conference on Contemporary Linguistics (Xi'an)



- 15-16 International Conference on Bilingualism and Comparative Linguistics (CUHK)
 17-18 Symposium on Word Order in Chinese (CLRC, CUHK)
 18-20 PCC 2012 第十屆中國語音學學術會議 (Tongji University, Shanghai)

June

- 1-3 IsCLL-13 (National Taiwan Normal University, Taipei)
 8-10 NACL-24 (University of San Francisco)
 9-11 Symposium on Chinese Language and Discourse (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)
 26-30 1st World Congress of Scholars of English Linguistics (WCSEL-1) (Hanyang University, Seoul)
 late-Jun Workshop on Chinese Phonology (CHLL, CUHK)

July

- (?) IACL-20 (SOAS, London)

Post Conference Reports

Workshop on Typological Studies of Languages of China

Date: July 21, 2011

Venue: The University of Hong Kong



The Department of Linguistics at University of Hong Kong organized the Workshop on Typological Studies of Languages of China on July 21, 2011. This satellite event to the 9th Biennial Meeting of the Association for Linguistic Typology saw a gathering of around 40 linguists from Australia, Britain, China, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan, U.S., etc. A total of ten presentations were delivered, roughly half on Chinese languages, and half on minority languages of China. While the main theme of the workshop is typology, many papers also deal with other aspects such as historical linguistics, language contact, and theoretical issues.

Contributed by
Picus DING (HKU)

The 17th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS-17)

Date: August 17-21, 2011

Venue: The Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

The 17th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS XVII 2011) was held on 17-21 August, 2011 in the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The event was jointly organized by (i) the Department of Chinese, Translation and Linguistics, City University of Hong Kong, (ii) the Institute of Linguistics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing (Co-organizer), and (iii) the Institute of Linguistics, Academia Sinica, Taipei (Co-organizer), under the auspices of the Permanent Council for the Organization of the International Congress of Phonetic Sciences of the International Phonetic Association.

The ICPhS is organized every four years. This was the first time for the ICPhS to be organized in Asia since the first ICPhS in Amsterdam 1932. The ICPhS XVII 2011 offered an interdisciplinary forum for exchange of findings of basic and applied research in phonetic sciences. There were more than 700 delegates from over 40 countries attended the conference, presenting a total of 579 papers. The main areas covered at the ICPhS XVII 2011 were speech production, speech acoustics, speech perception, speech prosody, sound change, phonology, sociophonetics, language typology, first and second language acquisition, forensic phonetics, voice quality, clinical phonetics, and speech technology.

The organization of the ICPhS XVII 2011 was considered by many participants and all the officials of the Permanent Council (PC) for the Organization of the ICPhS as a big success. The organizers have put out a three-volume proceedings of the congress of a total of 2343 pages with a companion CD. The Proceedings of ICPhS XVII 2011 was also published on-line at the conference website, <http://www.icphs2011.hk>.

Contributed by
Vanti LEE (CityU)

The Psycholinguistic Representation of Tone Conference 2011 (PLRT)

Date: August 22-23, 2011

Venue: The Chinese University of Hong Kong

The first Psycholinguistic Representation of Tone (PLRT) conference was a satellite conference to the 17th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS) held in Hong Kong. The PLRT conference was established to promote research on tone, explore research issues raised



by tone, and facilitate information transfer and collaboration



between researchers from diverse areas. It was organized by Prof. Dennis Burnham from University of Western Sydney, Dr. Karen Mattock from Lancaster University and Dr. Peggy Mok from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. The conference was co-sponsored by LSHK. The two keynote speakers, Prof. Jack Gandour from Purdue University and Prof. Yi Xu from

University College London, delivered a talk on 'Neural bases of tonal processing' and 'Articulatory-functional mechanisms and computational modelling' respectively. In addition, there were 25 oral presentations and 17 poster presentations. Over 60 people from different parts of the world participated in the conference. The conference concluded with a discussion of future plans for PLRT conference. More information can be found here:

<http://www.psych.lancs.ac.uk/res/PLRT2011.html>.

Contributed by
Peggy MOK (CUHK)

「漢語數碼化教與學」國際會議

日期： 2011年11月至25-27月

地點： 香港教育學院

香港教育學院語言資訊科學研究中心 11月25日至27日舉辦「漢語數碼化教與學」國際會議。會議的重點是探討數碼時代下漢語教學與學習的深層意義和內涵、教學法和資源運用，並且探討跨學科的新課題，如不同年齡、族群與文化背景的漢語學習歷程和策略，從認知科學和腦神經科學的角度檢視漢語學習的獨特性。這些都是數碼時代帶來全球化漢語教學的新研究方向。參與會議的130多位研究人



員和學者來自亞洲、歐洲、北美洲等十多個國家和地區，合計發表超過一百篇論文，顯示出漢語教學在國際間的重要性和備受關注。

香港教育學院校長張炳良教授於開幕典禮致辭，歡迎與會者。三位在國際間享有盛譽的學者分別發表專題演講：

- 譚力海教授(香港大學)：「大腦的中國語言功能區問題的腦成像研究」
- 陸儉明教授(北京大學)：「基於互聯網的漢語要素教學研究之管見」
- 曾志朗教授(中央研究院)：「透視文明：來自閱讀者的眼-腦神經對應之線索」

此外，會議舉行了專家對談講座，由曹逢甫教授(台灣清華大學)主持，陸儉明教授(北京大學)和鄒嘉彥教授(香港教育學院)討論漢語教學的基本和核心問題：基本詞彙。探討的課題包括漢語基本詞彙的數量、性質和如何界定等。

這次會議設立了「青年學者論文獎」，以鼓勵青年學者參與數碼時代漢語教學學術研究，兩位入圍決選者在會議中口頭報告，四位資深學者組成的評審小組評分，結果是香港理工大學博士生葉惠興獲獎。會議內容可瀏覽：
http://www.rclis.ied.edu.hk/icclltda/index_tc.html



Contributed by **Andy CHIN** (HKIEd)

Workshop on Early Cantonese Grammar

Date: December 14, 2011

Venue: The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology



Organized by the Center for Chinese Linguistics and the Division of Humanities of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, the Workshop on Early Cantonese Grammar was held on 14 December 2011.

Eight speakers from abroad and the local community gathered to share their recent findings on early Cantonese grammar. The topics of the papers covered a wide range, including studies on the nominal, verbal and sentential domains, attracting some thirty colleagues and fans of Cantonese. Moreover, new sets of materials were introduced such as the *Huajian Ji*, a work which might have appeared as early as in the late Ming dynasty. Another set of materials introduced at the Workshop referred to a set of pedagogical materials published in the 1930s and 1940s in Japan. The Workshop started at 9:30 and ended at around 19:00, a long day which was filled up with exciting research findings and fruitful discussions.

Another attraction of the Workshop was the Early Cantonese Tagged Database, a first of its kind which was originally built to study the use of directional verbs in the Cantonese language spoken in the 19th and the early 20th centuries. The database consists of 10 early Cantonese texts, of which two are Bible translations while the rest is pedagogical materials. The texts were compiled between 1872-1931 with a total of about 160,000 characters. All the



words in the texts were tagged according to a list of 34 syntactic categories. The database would go on-line after upgrade, providing open access to all interested scholars. The construction of the database also aims to provide standardization on the manipulation of early dialectal materials, expand the empirical base for theorization and enable accurate as well as efficient data

search. The database is an outcome of the GRF project “Directional verbs in early Cantonese colloquial texts: A study of metaphorical extension and word order change” (#644608).

The 8 speakers and the titles of their papers were as follows:

講者	論文題目
竹越美奈子 日本愛知東邦大學	論二十世紀前半葉日本粵語資料中的粵語語法
楊敬宇 廣州中山大學	清末民初粵方言文獻中“個”的使用
張洪年 香港中文大學	「咁」又如何？ -- 再探早期粵語中的指示代詞
姚玉敏 香港科技大學	早期粵語中的趨向動詞
Shin KATAOKA Research Centre on Linguistics and Language Information Sciences, Hong Kong Institute of Education	On the Historical Development of Aspectual Suffix <i>GAN</i> in Cantonese
Marjorie K.M. CHAN The Ohio State University	Exploring early Cantonese grammar: Some interrogatives and interrogative constructions in the <i>Huajian Ji</i> (花箋記)
錢志安 香港教育學院語言資訊科技研究中心	粵語間接賓語標記省略現象的共時和歷時研究
張敏 香港科技大學	「畀/俾」來源新說的進一步論證

The 10 texts of the Early Cantonese Tagged Database

1. 1872. 《馬可傳福音書 (廣東土白)》。上海：上海美華書館。
2. 1899. *The Gospel according to St. Mark in English and Cantonese* 《馬可傳福音書 (中西字)》. Shanghai: American Presbyterian Mission Press.
3. 1877. 《散語四十章》。香港：香港聖保羅書院。
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Contributed by **Carine YIU** (HKUST)

The 16th International Conference on Yue Dialects

Date: December 15-16, 2011

Venue: The Hong Kong Polytechnic University



The 16th International Conference on Yue Dialects was held on 15 & 16 December 2011. The Society was a co-sponsor of the event, while the Department of Chinese & Bilingual Studies and the HK PolyU-PKU Research Centre on Chinese Linguistics of the Polytechnic University of Hong Kong were the co-organizers.

Altogether 64 papers were presented. There were 4 parallel sessions. It was noteworthy that all papers scheduled got presented and no schedule change was required whatsoever. The enthusiasm, reliability and professionalism of participants were evident.

In terms of language, 14 of the presentations had text in English, while some presentations used Cantonese as the spoken medium. The speech of the officiating guest of honour the Vice President (Academic Development) of PolyU was given in Cantonese. He made reference to Robert Morrison's *A Vocabulary of the Canton Dialect* of 1828 and the new Cantonese translation of the Bible of 1997. The free and interactive use of English and Cantonese is an undeniable edge of Hong Kong rounds of the Yue conference. This freedom is in marked contrast with the restrictive "广东省国家通用语言文字规定" issued recently for implementation on 1 March 2012.

The 3 keynote presentations were "A Conversation Analytic Approach to the Study of Cantonese Particles" by K K Luke from Singapore, "Rhyming, Timing and Tempo: Some Humour Strategies in Cantonese Operas and Early Cantopop Songs" by Marjorie Chan from Ohio, the United States and "廣東粵方言完成體標記的綜合研究" by GAN, Yu'en from Guangzhou.

The key role the Society played in the conference was administering the 香港語言學學會粵語語言學傑出學生論文獎. This year the award went to "香港粵語元音 [a][ɛ] 的主要區別特徵研究" by Yiu, Hoi-Lam.



The organizers announced in the conference their plan to have select papers of the conference published. The deadline for paper submission is the end of February 2012.

The next conference, scheduled for 2012, is to be hosted by the Chinese Dialects Research Centre of the Ji'nan University, Guangzhou.

Contributed by **Kwan-Hin CHEUNG** (PolyU)

Member's Publication

Author: **Adams BODOMO (The University of Hong Kong)**

Title: ***Africans in China: A Sociocultural Study and Its Implications on Africa-China Relations***

Publisher: **Cambria Press**



At the beginning of the twenty-first century, Africa and China began to establish closer links, starting with the formation of the Forum for China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in 2000. FOCAC and other Africa-China relations platforms aim to promote mutually beneficial sociopolitical, socioeconomic, and sociocultural relations between these two major parts of the world. However, these closer ties are also seen by some third-party analysts, especially many scholars and politicians from the West, as attempts by China to exploit African resources to fuel its fast-growing economy and, possibly, end up colonizing the continent. Africa-China relations are thus a topic of intense academic discussion. On the back of these closer government-to-government contacts between Africa and China are also closer people-to-people interactions in the form of travel and the establishment of Diaspora communities by Africans in China and Chinese in Africa.

While there is much discussion on Africa-China relations, the focus tends to lean more on the Chinese presence in Africa than on the African presence in China. There are numerous studies on the former but, with the exception of a few articles on the presence of African traders and students in China, little is known of the latter, even though an increasing number of Africans are visiting and settling in China and forming migrant communities there. This is a phenomenon that has never happened before the turn of the century and has thus led to what is often termed Africa's newest Diaspora. This book focuses on analyzing this new Diaspora, addressing the crucial question: What is it like to be an African in China?

Africans in China is the first book-length study of the process of Africans travelling to China and forming communities there. Based on innovative intermingling of qualitative and quantitative research methods involving prolonged interaction with approximately 800 Africans across six main Chinese cities--Guangzhou, Yiwu, Shanghai, Beijing, Hong Kong and Macau--sociolinguistic and sociocultural profiles are constructed to depict the everyday life of Africans in China. The study provides insights into understanding issues such as why Africans go to China, what they do there, how they communicate with their Chinese hosts, what opportunities and problems they encounter in their China sojourn, and how they are received by the Chinese state. Beyond these methodological and empirical contributions, the book also makes a theoretical contribution by proposing a crosscultural bridge theory of migrant-indigene relations, arguing that Africans in China act as sociopolitical, socioeconomic, and sociocultural bridges linking Africa to China. This approach to the analysis of Diaspora communities has consequences for crosscultural and crosslinguistic studies in an era of globalization.

Africans in China is an important book for African Studies, Asian Studies, Africa-China relations studies, linguistics, anthropology, sociology, international studies, and migration and Diaspora studies in an era of globalization.

Member's Recent Activity

Principal Investigator: Andy CHIN (Hong Kong Institute of Education)

Co-Investigator: Benjamin TSOU (Hong Kong Institute of Education)

Project Title: A Typological and Sociolinguistic Study of the Gelong Language Spoken in Western Hainan

Source of Funding: GRF 2010/11

Abstract:

This project proposes to investigate the unusual Gelong (村語/哥龍話) language now spoken in Dongfang city (東方市), western Hainan, from typological and sociolinguistic perspectives. Gelong is special in a number of ways, such as:

(1) Gelong is found to contain linguistic strata of the aboriginal Li language (a Tai-Kadai language) and Chinese. It can thus be considered a creole language resulting from intensive and prolonged contact of these two languages since ancient time. An important question to raise is whether Gelong is a Sinicized Li language or a Chinese language influenced by Li. More importantly, what roles have the two languages played in the formation of Gelong and how can they be determined?

(2) The various language varieties spoken in Dongfang city are sociolinguistically stratified and Gelong is found to begin losing ground to Putonghua with some native Gelong speakers competent in Putonghua shifting from their first language to Putonghua in order to enhance social mobility. What is the degree of language shift/drift of the Gelong community? How and why is it different from other multi-lingual communities such as Sanya (in Hainan) and Guangxi?

(3) Language shift can subsequently affect the linguistic structure of languages such as word order, especially when the languages bearing typological differences come into contact. To what extent the Putonghua patterns might influence the ones in Gelong? How can we capture this situation quantitatively and qualitatively?

It is expected that a thorough sociolinguistic and typological study of the Gelong language with respect to the above three areas can (1) deepen our understanding of language development such as the identification of substrate and superstrate languages contributed by speakers of different languages and cultural background of different ethnic groups which have had prolonged and extensive language contact and (2) increase the awareness, particularly within the Gelong community, on language endangerment resulting from language shift.

New Postgraduate Opportunity

Faculty of Humanities, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Doctor of Applied Language Sciences

應用語言科學博士

Duration & Credit Requirement

Programme code	03002
Mode of Study	Mixed-mode, Full-time or Part-time
Normal Duration	3 to 5 years
Credits Required for Graduation	48 (24 credits for coursework and 24 credits for thesis)
Tuition Fee	HK \$6,000 per credit
Programme Committee Chair	Prof. Christian M.I.M. MATTHIESSEN
Programme website	www.polyu.edu.hk/FH/DALS/

Programme Aims

The Doctor of Applied Language Sciences (DALs) programme aims to help nurture and develop a critical mass of future leaders in language-related professions. The students will be informed of the developments in language sciences and develop an advanced understanding of the inextricable link between theory and practice. They will be able to integrate linguistic knowledge and research skills with reflective practice in coping with the demands and development of their careers as language professionals in an age of globalization and digitalization.

The DALs curriculum provides four strands or areas of enquiry for the students to choose from and within which to develop their specialism(s):

1. Second Language Education (第二語言教學)
2. Intercultural and Professional Communication (跨文化與專業語言傳意)
3. Translating and Interpreting (翻譯與傳譯)
4. Language and Information Technology (語言與信息處理)

本課程旨在培育語言應用領域的專家和領導人才，以適應全球化、數位化時代對語言應用、語言科學發展的要求和挑戰。本課程著重提高學生對現代語言學理論和應用語言學研究方法的認識，引導學生探索和分析多語、多文化社會中的語言教育、專業語言應用以及語言信息處理等方面的問題，培養學生發展創新性的學術研究和解決問題的能力。

本課程適合語言應用領域的資深工作者報讀，包括語言教師、語言界別資深行政人員、翻譯或傳譯專才及語言信息專才等。

Enquiries

For further programme information, please contact the Faculty Office:

Email: fh.enquiry@polyu.edu.hk

Tel no.: 3400 8212; Fax no.: 2363 8955

For information on academic matters, please contact: Dr. Doreen Wu

Tel: (852) 2766 7441; Email: ctdwu@inet.polyu.edu.hk

