The Linguistic Society of Hong Kong Newsletter

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Editor of this issue:
Bin LI (CityU)
The Annual General Meeting

LSHK Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in Lecture Hall 11, Academic Building 1, City University of Hong Kong on December 6, 2014, at 11:30 am. Members confirmed the minutes of the AGM held on November 30, 2013. Mr. Tom Lai, LSHK President, summarized the society’s work in the year of 2014. Dr. Zhang Wei, LSHK Treasurer, reported on the society’s financial standing.

President’s Report

1. Members of the 15th Executive Committee were elected into office at the 2013 Annual General Meeting. The composition of the committee is as follows:
   - President: Lai Bong Yeung, Tom
   - Vice-president: John Wakefield
   - Secretary: Fung Suk Yee, Roxana
   - Treasurer: Zhang Wei
   - Communication officer: Cheung Yam Leung, Lawrence
   - Newsletter editor: Li Bin
   - Member-at-large: Cheung Kwan Hin
   - Member-at-large: Leung Cheung Shing, Samuel

2. The Executive Committee met eight times from January 2014 to November 2014.

3. We have admitted twelve new members to the society since taking up office: 1 life member, 6 regular members, 2 affiliated members, 3 student members.

4. We have decided that the terms of service of working groups established under the society be aligned with the term of office of the Executive Committee. We have also decided that membership of the working groups be divided into two categories. Working group members who are members of the society shall be internal members. Other working group members shall be external members.

5. All working group members in 2013 have been invited to continue their membership for a term of two years. Cheung Kwan Hin, Lun Suen Caesar and John Wakefield have accepted our invitation to be conveners of the Jyutping Group, the Language Policy Group and the Bilingual Linguistic Glossary Group respectively for a term of two years.

6. Bilingual Linguistic Glossary Group
   i. The Bilingual Linguistic Glossary Group has seven members:
      - Convener: John Wakefield
      - Members: Lee Po Lun Peppina, Tang Sze-Wing, Cheung Kwan Hin, Lee Hun Tak Thomas, Kwok Bit Chee, Lun Suen Caesar
   ii. The group met once in September and once in October. Terms from the following three bilingual dictionaries have been input into the database: 理論與應用語言學英漢辭典 (Taiwan), 語言學名詞2011 (Mainland), 現代語言學詞典 (Mainland). The work being done by members of the group is to recommend which Chinese term should be recommended as the best translation of its English counterpart. When the glossary is finished, the group will decide the best method for making the database available online to the public.

7. Jyutping Group
   i. Members of the group:
      - Convener: Cheung Kwan Hin
      - Members: Chin Chi On Andy, Tang Sze-Wing, Lun Suen Caesar, Man Ching Han, Chung Lung-Shan, Robert Bauer, Chow Bun Ching
   ii. The group is completing the compilation of the wordlist collected in the previous year. Besides the EDB list, about 10,000 characters are being processed.

8. Language Policy Group
   i. Members of the group:
      - Convener: Lun Suen Caesar
      - Members: Lee Po Lun Peppina, Chung Lung-Shan, Lai Bong Yeung Tom
   ii. The group is organizing a special session of the 2014 Annual Research Forum on language policy issues in Hong Kong SAR. It also plans to translate the Universal Declaration of Language Rights into Chinese, as suggested by the 14th Executive Committee.
9. We issued an electronic newsletter in August 2014.

10. 2014 Annual Research Forum
i. The 2014 Annual Research is being held at the City University of Hong Kong (on 6th December 2014).
ii. We have the honour of inviting Professor Jacob Mey to give a keynote speech on "Pragmatics and the Law".
iii. We also have the honour of inviting Mr. Kwok Wing Yin of the Standing Committee on Language Education and Research, Education Bureau, to participate in a special session on language policy issues in Hong Kong SAR.
iv. We invite winners of our Outstanding Thesis Award to present their theses in this forum.
v. There are more than 40 paper presentations in parallel sessions.
vi. We are grateful to all paper presenters, session chairs, helpers and other participants. They join their efforts to make this research forum a success.
vii. We thank the Department of Linguistics and Translation for co-organizing this event and for providing us with administrative support, student helpers and meeting venues. We thank, in particular, Ms. Joey Wong and Mr. Lam Kam Cheung of the department for doing so much for us.
viii. I would like to express my gratitude to all members of the Executive Committee for their dedication and efforts in organizing this event, and to Li Bin and Zhang Wei, in particular, for so bravely and competently taking up the huge amount of work in the final stages.

11. Outstanding Thesis Awards
i. We received a total of 5 nominations this year. There were 2 nominations for the PhD category, 1 for the MPhil category, and 2 for the MA category.
ii. Based on the scores and comments from the reviewers, it was decided that 1 PhD thesis and 2 MA theses be given awards. No award is given for the category of MPhil this year.
iii. The PhD awardee is Feng Yuli from City University of Hong Kong.
iv. The MA awardees are
   Chen Shuwen from the Chinese University of Hong Kong
   Wong Ming Chiu, Steven, from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
v. We are grateful to all the reviewers for their professional and fair judgments on the nominated theses, and to Roxana Fung and John Wakefield for administering this award scheme and coordinating the review process.
vi. We have decided that a new category of "other doctorate thesis" will be added next year. The current category of "MA thesis" will be renamed "other master's thesis".

12. LSHK Workshop on Cantonese (WOC)
i. WOC14, with "Grammaticalization in Cantonese" as its theme, was held at the City University of Hong Kong on 28th March 2014. It was a very successful workshop. We are grateful to Tang Sze-Wing, Kwok Bit Chee and many other colleagues and students for its organization.
ii. An allocation of HKD1,050 was provided by LSHK.
iii. Tang Sze-Wing and other colleagues are planning to hold WOC15, with "Cantonese Classifiers" as its theme, at the University of Hong Kong on 11th April 2015.

13. LSHK Student Field Work Subsidy
i. HKD5,000 was awarded to Zhang Jingfen, HKUST. Her project was 閩南方言的聲調類型.
ii. HKD5,000 was awarded to Zhong Weiping, CityU. Her project was 閩南語文白異讀與構詞的關係——以廈門、汕頭、海口三點為例.
iii. I am grateful to all members of the Executive Committee for administering of this subsidy scheme and for their professional and fair judgment on the submitted proposals.

14. LSHK website management:
i. The membership login function and some other minor jobs have not been completed by the website development contractor, whose job should have been finished last year. As the website is usable in spite of this, we have an understanding with the contractor that he will not receive any outstanding payments in return for being required to complete the outstanding jobs.

15. LSHK publications:
i. We have made an effort to take stock.
We have decided to keep four sets of hard copies of LSHK publications. All other copies that are now being kept by members of the Executive Committee will be for members to take freely at the 2014 Annual Research Forum.

iii. We plan to make scanned electronic copies LSHK publications available online.

16. Sponsoring linguistic activities:
   i. A sponsorship of $1000 was provided to students of HKU for organizing a Linguistics Week during the summer holiday, as committed by the 14th Executive Committee.
   ii. We have agreed to donate Jyutping T-shirts as prizes for winners in a Jyutping input competition organized by the Department of Linguistics and Translation of the City University of Hong Kong.

17. Sundry donations received:
   i. We have received a donation of HKD500 from Cathy Wong, a member of the society.
   ii. We have received, via a member, a donation of HKD4000 from Mr. Lam Chin Pang for organizing the 2014 Annual Research Forum.

Prepared by Tom Lai
President

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Financial Report and Income Statement

Financial Report

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* Timed Deposit Account balance as of 4 November 2013

2. Current Period Balance (See Income Statement for details)

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3. Account Balance at Period End (as of Dec 1, 2014)

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<td>3) Hang Seng US$ Timed Deposit</td>
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<tr>
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</table>

* HKD Current Account balance as at 2014/10/31.
** Timed Deposit Account balance as of 2014/11/14.
The Annual Research Forum

The 2014 LSHK Annual Research, co-organized with Department of Linguistics and Translation at CityU, was held at CityU on 6th December 2014. More than 50 abstracts were received.

Other highlights of the ARF are as follows. Awardees of LSHK Outstanding Thesis Award delivered presentation of their thesis work. Professor Jacob Mey gave a keynote speech on “Pragmatics and the Law”. A special session with invited speakers was held on language policies in Hong Kong.

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A semantic study on distributive effects in Mandarin Chinese

This dissertation is concerned with the notion of distributivity and the devices for encoding distributivity in Mandarin Chinese. The central claim is that distributivity entails universal quantification but not vice-versa in the following two respects: i) the quantificational mapping of distributive quantification is syntactically restricted; while that of universal quantification may be determined by other factors such as background-focus, and ii) distributive quantification is normally non-trivial, that is, both its restrictor and its scope need to contain multiple members to induce variation; while universal quantification may be trivial. To make this argument, the dissertation presents a detailed investigation and analysis of a series of expressions that are able to induce distributivity in Mandarin, i.e., dou, ge and yi-CL-yi-CL. Also, cross-linguistic comparisons are made with the distributive devices in English and Telugu to further strengthen the claim.

The dissertation centers on dou and bases the analysis of the other two expressions, ge and yi-CL-yi-CL, on the comparison with it. Despite that the expressions under investigation have the same semantic core of universal quantification, they differ in i) the positions where they can appear, ii) the entities that are able to function as the sorting key and the distributed share, and iii) the semantic requirements on the sorting key and the distributed share. To countenance the relevant facts, the dissertation resorts to notions like groups, sums and events to uncover the fine-grained distributive properties of these expressions. All the expressions under investigation are analyzed in a uniform i Neo-Davidsonian framework, which makes visible events as well as how other domains are related with events. Also, a mereological perspective is taken to facilitate generalizations across different domains. The main body of the work is divided into three parts: The first part, Chapter 2, argues extensively against the rival view that dou is a unary maximality operator (Giannakidou & Cheng, 2006) and also addresses the problems with the treatment of dou as a generalized distributive operator (Lin, 1998a). The second part, Chapter 3 and 4, further pins down the distributive effect of dou and deals with its ‘fickleness’ as to its compatibility with various noun phrase and predicate types. The third part, Chapter 5, compares the varieties of distributive effects induced by the three expressions and discusses the interaction among them.

The work contributes to the study of distributivity in Mandarin in the following aspects:
1. The relation and the difference between distributivity and universal quantification are sorted out and dou is pinned down as a universal quantifier in the broad sense.
2. The distributive dou’s interaction with various noun phrase and predicate types indicates that it primarily distributes down to atoms and that its distributive effect needs to be non-trivial.
3. The semantic and syntactic differences in the stock of Mandarin distributive items are formally represented within a unified conceptual framework, which thus enriches the picture of distributivity.
4. As a preliminary endeavor, a map of universal quantification is proposed to illustrate how notions like maximality, distributivity and exhaustivity, etc., interrelate with each other.

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Mental representation of emotion word in the Chinese-English bilingual lexicon

Previous studies examining words containing emotionality proposed that words related to emotions are processed differently from other words. Those studies, however, did not discriminate emotion words (words denoting emotional states, like happy and sad) and emotional-laden words (words that elicit emotions but do not express feelings directly, like wisdom and cancer). The inconformity of terms and mixed stimuli used in the past studies lead to two possible interpretations: emotion words are processed differently from concrete and abstract words; emotional words (words containing emotionality, including both emotion and emotion-laden words) are processed differently from neutral words. Two experiments were conducted to test which of the two hypotheses was correct. Past studies on emotional words in bilinguals also suggested that emotional words are processed differently in bilinguals’ first language (L1) and second language (L2). But no consensus has been reached on why they differ. Some studies attributed the faster access to L1 emotional words to the stronger emotion intensity of L1 words while others proposed that it benefited from the general faster access to all L1 words.

Two cross-language translation priming experiments were conducted on highly proficient Chinese-English bilinguals to test whether emotion words or emotional words are processed differently, and to account for the processing difference between L1 and L2 emotional words. Results of the current study demonstrate that emotional words, not emotion words, are processed differently in the bilingual lexicon. Emotionality of words influences word processing, with negative valence significantly slowing down the reaction time. An interesting finding of the current study is that the asymmetric links between L1 and L2 lexicons were only observed in emotional words, but not in neutral words. This finding presents a challenge to the Revised Hierarchical Model which predicts asymmetric links between L1 and L2 lexicons for all words. It suggests that the asymmetric links between L1 and L2 words may be influenced by the emotionality of words for highly proficient bilinguals, and the faster access to the L1 emotional words may result from the larger number of emotion connotations activated by L1 emotional words.

“Did Obamacare encourage businesses to hire more people?” – An analysis of Mitt Romney and Barack Obama’s use of rhetorical questions in the 2012 US presidential election campaign

This study examines how the use of rhetorical questions (RQs) by presidential candidates Mitt Romney and Barack Obama in the 2012 US presidential election varies depending on the target audience, i.e. (1) Democrat-safe states, (2) Republican-safe states, and (3) swing states. More specifically, we examine Romney’s use of RQs in his 48 speeches delivered to 18 states and Obama’s use of RQs in his 52 of his 105 speeches delivered to 14 states, in terms of (1) usage frequency, (2) question type, and (3) pragmatic function(s). Our findings reveal that both candidates tended to ask more RQs in the states that leaned more toward their political rival in comparison to their own safe states (i.e. Democrat-safe states for Romney; Republican-safe states for Obama), with the swing states receiving the highest number of rhetorical questions. We also identified the following two tendencies in their use of rhetorical questions. Firstly, in the safe states of their opponents, both candidates preferred the more indirect and less face-threatening wh-questions, and they also used more persuasive and doubt-inducing RQs against their opponents. Secondly, in the swing states, the two candidates intended to reverse their strategy and relied more on using the more direct yes/no question as a more aggressive and forceful approach when addressing the swing-state voters. In addition, they also made more frequent use of the aggressive challenging RQs against their opponents. Both results highlighted the importance of rhetorical
questions as a useful means not only for enhancing the persuasiveness of presidential candidates’ messages, but also allowing them to avoid directly engaging in face-threatening acts when criticizing each other. This study elucidates how politicians use effective communication strategies to compete for votes in election campaigns.

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**LSHK Student Field Work Subsidy (2014)**

**Awardee and project abstract**

ZHANG Jingfen 張静芬, The University of Science and Technology

**Tonal Patterns of Southern Min Dialects in Guangdong (粤东闽南方言的声调类型)**

The acoustic study about the tones of Southern-Min dialects in Guangdong province is nearly an empty page of Chinese linguistics. My research will potentially be a small step forward toward a better understanding of the tones and its patterns in Southern-Min dialect.

Equipped with the “Multi-registers and four level” model and the universal tone inventory, we can further distinguish different tonal patterns among this “Yuedong” dialectal district. While in describing the Chinese tonal systems, especially those of the southern dialects, in addition to pitch height, other phonetic features should be noticed as well, such as phonation and duration. Furthermore, I will focus on the typology of the tonal patterns among these Min dialects and figure out the evolution path of these Southern-Min tones.

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ZHONG Weiping 鍾蔚苹, 香港城市大學中文及歷史學系

**閩南語文白異讀與構詞的關係——以廈門、汕頭、海口三點為例**

本計劃擬以閩南語廈門、汕頭、海口三點為例, 對其文白異讀與構詞的關係進行調查、描寫及比較研究, 找出影響文白異讀在詞彙上的表現的因素, 探討三點間的差異反映了各自演化過程的哪些特點, 並揭示漢字在文白異讀競爭融合中的作用。本研究希望結合詞彙環境來研究文白異讀, 彌補以往研究只重音韻層面, 而忽視音韻與詞彙互動的缺憾。

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**Call for Papers**

The 20th International Conference on Yue Dialect will be hosted by the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Dec. 11-12, 2015. The submission deadline is Sep. 7 2015. Please refer to the conference website at [http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/chi/yue20/](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/chi/yue20/)


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The LSHK Award for Outstanding Student Paper on Cantonese Linguistics. The competition is sponsored by LSHK to promote, recognize, and encourage scholarship by students to conduct research on Cantonese linguistics. The competition is held in conjunction with the International Conference on Yue Dialects. All papers submitted for
the competition are subject to review by a Review Committee appointed by the Executive Committee of the LSHK. The author of the best paper will be honored during the International Conference on Yue Dialects and presented with an Award Certificate and honorarium. More information can be found at [http://www.lshk.org/award](http://www.lshk.org/award).

**Post Conference and Activity Reports**

**Language Lecture**
**Date:** 2015 年 1 月 19 日  
**Location:** CUHK

By the Chinese University of Hong Kong Chinese Culture Research Centre and the Chinese Language and Literature Language Research Centre of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the "Language Lecture" was held on 19 January 2015 at the City University of Hong Kong. This lecture invited Associate Professor, Department of Chinese Language and Literature of Guangdong Normal University/ Wu Duo Tai Chinese Language Research Centre to give a lecture on "Data-based Study of the Phonology of the Outdated Chinese Inscriptions in the State of Chu". Professor thoroughly explained the significance and idea of this research, and he also explained the preliminary findings of this research: (1) the relationship between Ming and Nua in the Middle Ages, (2) the relationship between Xiao and Zai in the Chu简中的 relationship, and (3) the relationship between the Zhui and the Geng. More information can be found at [http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/ics/clrc/](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/ics/clrc/).

**Contributed by TANG, Sze-Wing (CUHK)**

**2015 Full City Chinese Dialect and Minyan Pronunciation Competition**

In January 2015, the City University of Translation and Linguistics, in cooperation with the Hong Kong Language Society, held the "2015 Full City Cantonese Pronunciation Competition" (divided into Secondary School and College Groups). This is the third time this type of competition has been held, with the College Group being added this time. In addition, more than 10 students from secondary schools participated. This is the largest number of participants in any year.

At the same time, to promote the use of the Cantonese pronunciation scheme, promote the use of "correct pronunciation" in the aspects of information technology, the City University of Translation and Linguistic created the resource station at [http://jyutping.lt.cityu.edu.hk/](http://jyutping.lt.cityu.edu.hk/) to share the pronunciation learning materials, teaching experiences, and application experiences.

In Hong Kong, voice education is not valued. Cantonese is the main dialect of most Hong Kong people, it is also the mother tongue of most Hong Kong people. However, until today, there is no complete and suitable pronouncing scheme that can be used in various fields. In order to develop a pronunciation scheme that is easy to use, the Hong Kong Language Society (http://www.lshk.org) collected the opinions of experts from universities in Hong Kong and established the "Hong Kong Language Society Cantonese Pronunciation Scheme" (abbreviated as "Cantonese""). The pronunciation of the letter uses the Latin alphabet (A to Z), and the tone uses the Arabic number (1 to 6). This scheme has been adopted by the government, education departments, universities, publishers, and computer vendors. With the development of computers and the need to promote the use of Cantonese pronunciation, many schools and social organizations have begun to cooperate with us to promote the use of Cantonese pronunciation.

**Related Web Resources:**
- Cantonese Pronunciation Database: [http://www.lshk.org/node/31](http://www.lshk.org/node/31)
輕鬆粵語輸入法
http://www.52z.com/soft/14892.html
香港中文學習 字詞表(2007)
http://www.edbchinese.hk/lexlist/
中英對照香港小學中文學習基礎 字詞 （2008）
http://www.edbchinese.hk/lexlist_en/
粵語審音配詞字庫(香港中文中文大學)
http://humanum.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/Lexis/lexi-can/
香港語言學學會粵語拼音方案（維基百科）
http://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E9%A6%99%E6%B8%AF%E8%AA%9E%E8%A8%80%E5%AD%B8%E5%AD%B8%E6%9C%83%E7%B2%B5%E8%AA%9E%E6%8B%8C%E9%9F%B3%E6%96%B9%E6%A1%88
粵語協會
http://www.cantonese.asia/
珠海學院粵語拼音及正音講座
20140920 Dr LUN, Suen Caesar Part 1
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zd3AyK__mhU
20140920 Dr LUN, Suen Caesar Part 2
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_mjogafwI7g
20141108 Dr LUN, Suen Caesar PART2
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sCZ3Ds5oJc

香港語言學學會周年研究論壇語言政策討論分場

我們邀請了中文大學的鄧思穎教授和香港教育局的郭永賢先生給我們分享了他們對香港語言現象和政策的一些看法。我們也報告了本會語言政策工作組的工作以及學會和城市大學在2015年一月合辦的全港中學/大專粵語拼音比賽的計畫，呼籲大家介紹給學生參加。以下是鄧思穎的發言總結：

當中文遇上普通話
鄧思穎
「普教中」這個命題，「中」是「教」的賓語，是教學的內容；「普」是「教中」的狀語，是教學的方法。近日爭論的焦點，主要在於狀語這一部分。「中」就是中國語文，跟語言、文學的訓練，甚至文化、品德培育等的提升都有關係。雖然通過語文訓練，學生預期能掌握好規範書面語、流利粵語和普通話，但「中」的教學內容並不只限於「普」。狀語的「普」是教學方法，跟教學語言有關。教學語言跟研讀對象分家是可行的（如以現代的粵語或普通話研讀文言文），但教學語言跟研讀對象一致較為合理（如以普通話研讀白話文）。此外，用自己熟悉的語言學習，最能提升學習興趣，尤其是用母語學習文學、文化、品德思維等內容，效果更佳，這也是推行母語教學的動機。因此，從語文學習的層面來考慮，教學語言跟研讀對象一致比較合理，從文學文化等層次考慮，以母語教授的效果應更佳。

最後，我們在这里再一次呼吁大家针对粤语在香港的地位及应用进行研究和分享，也希望多些会员加入我们的语言政策工作组。

Contributed by
Caesar Lun (CityU) and Tang Sze-Wing (CUHK)

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The 20th International Conference on Yue Dialects

The Chinese University of Hong Kong
2015.12.11-12

Comparative Grammar

Call for Papers

The theme is on "Comparative Grammar", with a special focus on the properties of Cantonese grammar under formal approaches, diachronic grammar, and interface studies. Abstracts for submission on all aspects of linguistics of Cantonese and other Yue dialects are cordially invited, preferably associated with the theme.