

## MASTER'S THESIS

### The similarities and differences between semantic and syntactic features of Mandarin imperfective aspect marker zhe(著) and Cantonese imperfective aspect marker jyuh(住)

Chang, Che Ho Anthony

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M.A. in Language Studies

THE SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES  
BETWEEN SEMANTIC AND SYNTACTIC  
FEATURES OF MANDARIN  
IMPERFECTIVE ASPECT MARKER *Zhe* (著)  
AND CANTONESE IMPERFECTIVE  
ASPECT MARKER *Jyuh* (住)

CHANG CHE HO, ANTHONY  
STUDENT NO. 97400998

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## Abstract

Most of the past work on "aspect" was done on English rather than Chinese. Though there is increasing research done on Chinese, both Mandarin and Cantonese, not many linguists have made a contrastive study between Mandarin aspect markers and Cantonese ones. This study of mine attempts to explore the similarities and differences between Mandarin imperfective aspect marker *zhe* (著) and Cantonese imperfective aspect marker *zyuh* (住).

Basically, since *zhe* (著) can show continuation as its primary function and can also show progression as its secondary function, whereas *zyuh* (住) can basically only show continuation, *zhe* (著) usually corresponds with *zyuh* (住) when co-occurring with locative State verbs and relatively static Activity verbs, but when co-occurring with relatively dynamic Activity verbs and Accomplishment verbs, it usually corresponds with Cantonese progressive 'gan' (緊) instead of 'zyuh' (住).

## 提要

以往談論體貌的文章大多探討英文方面，比較少探討中文。雖然現在已有多些就中文體貌進行的研究，不論國語還是粵語也好，但是仍未有很多語言學者對國語和粵語體貌標記進行比較研究。本論文試圖探討國語未完成體貌標記「著」和粵語未完成體貌標記「住」的異同。

基本上，由於「著」字有表示持續體的基本功能，亦兼有表示進行體的次要功能，而「住」則基本上只可以顯示持續體，因此「著」字往往在與表示處所位置的狀態動詞和較靜態的活動動詞同現的情況下和「住」字相配，但在與較動態的活動動詞和結束動詞同現的情況下，則往往改為和粵語進行體貌標記「緊」字相配。

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