

## MASTER'S THESIS

### Language attitude of Hong Kong native Cantonese speakers towards mainland-dialect-accented Cantonese

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*Date of Award:*  
1998

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LANGUAGE ATTITUDE OF  
HONG KONG NATIVE CANTONESE SPEAKERS  
TOWARDS  
MAINLAND-DIALECT-ACCENTED CANTONESE

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A Dissertation Submitted In Partial  
Fulfilment Of The

MASTER OF ARTS IN LANGUAGE STUDIES

HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

DECEMBER 1998

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## **ABSTRACT**

The objective of this thesis is to investigate language attitude formation towards Mainland-Dialect-Accented Cantonese speakers. Members from the banking sector, all are Native Hong Kong Cantonese speakers, have been selected to offer opinion on these accented speakers. The examination was conducted through a focus group study and a closed-ended questionnaire survey. The results support the idea that Native Hong Kong Cantonese speakers tend to attach negative personal traits to Mainland-Dialect-Accented Cantonese speakers. Also, there is strong indication that accented Cantonese has been used as an identifier for screening 'in-group' and 'out-group' members. Moreover, evidences, which indicate the unwillingness of Native Hong Kong Cantonese speakers to assimilate Mainland-Dialect-Accented Cantonese speakers, have been found. The most intriguing finding is that gender difference exists in attitude formation towards Mainland-Dialect-Accented Cantonese speakers. In general, females are found to hold a more negative opinion against Mainland-Dialect-Accented Cantonese speakers than their male counterparts.