

MASTER'S THESIS

The interlanguage phonology of Hong Kong speakers of Mandarin

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**THE INTERLANGUAGE PHONOLOGY
OF
HONG KONG SPEAKERS OF MANDARIN**

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Abstract

This study attempts to investigate the segmental phonology of the Mandarin spoken by young educated Cantonese speakers in Hong Kong. 10 native Cantonese speaking university students who were attending an advanced level Mandarin class were selected as the informants of the present study. They were asked to read aloud three wordlists designed particularly for eliciting their internalised phonology of Hong Kong Mandarin (HKM). The sound system is described and analysed on its own terms, and rules of alternation and distribution as well as other constraints are explored. Moreover, due to the nature of HKM as an interlanguage, the comparison with the target language, i.e. Beijing Mandarin (BJM), and the exploration of crosslinguistic influence of the native language, i.e. Hong Kong Cantonese (HKC), are also provided.

The result shows that the HKM phonemic system contains 18 consonants, 7 simple vowels, 11 diphthongs, and 4 triphthongs. Compared to BJM, its major phonological features are: the absence of alveolo-palatal obstruents, the onsets [l] and [n] being non-contrastive, the low number of [+back] vowel phonemes, the first element of rising diphthongs and triphthongs being shortened and weakened, *etc.* In addition, it is found that the influence of HKC is evident in many aspects of this system. Nevertheless, it should be noted that the findings support the claim that HKM has a distinctive phonological system of its own, with regularities which can be described and analysed on its own terms, and cannot be reduced to the phonology of either BJM or HKC.

論文摘要

本論文旨在探討母語為粵語（或廣州話）並具相當教育程度的香港青年人口中所說的國語（或普通話）的音段音系。本文選取了十名來自普通話高班、母語為粵語的香港大學生作發音人。發音人須朗讀三張特別設計的字表，用以探究他們內化了的「香港國語」音系。「香港國語」音系的描寫、分析均以該音系自身為本，並據此探討其中同位音和音位間的分佈規律。此外，由於「香港國語」性質上是一種中介語，本文也就「香港國語」和「北京國語」（目的語）作比較，並初步探析了「香港粵語」（本土語）對「香港國語」音系的影響。

研究結果發現，「香港國語」音位系統包含 18 個輔音、7 個單元音、11 個二合元音和 4 個三合元音。跟「北京國語」比較，「香港國語」在音系上主要有以下特點：沒有齶顎阻塞音、聲母[l]和[n]在音位上並非對立、較少[+後]的元音音位，以及後響二合元音和所有三合元音的首個音素變短、弱化等等。此外，研究結果也顯示「香港粵語」對於此音系的各方面均有一定影響。儘管如此，研究結果證實了以下的說法：「香港國語」有本身獨特的音韻系統，其中的規律可以從系統本身得到解釋、加以描寫，並且此音系不可能簡單地「還原」為「北京國語」或「香港粵語」的音系。

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