

MASTER'S THESIS

The interactions of verbs and aspectual markers in the Cantonese aspectual system

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**THE INTERACTIONS OF VERBS AND ASPECTUAL
MARKERS IN THE CANTONESE ASPECTUAL
SYSTEM**

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Abstract

This dissertation is a study of Cantonese aspectual system. In this thesis, the interaction of verbs and four aspectual markers *jo* (咗), *gwo* (過), *gan* (緊) and *zyu* (住) in Cantonese will be examined. The situation types at the sentence level resulted from the interaction of verbs and the four markers are investigated.

In Section 1, Cantonese verbs are categorized into stative verbs, activity verbs, accomplishment verbs and achievement verbs according to Vendler's (1967) classification of verb classes in English. The above-mentioned four aspectual markers in Cantonese will be introduced and the justification of choosing the four aspectual markers will be provided in Section 1.

Section 2 and Section 3 are the main body of this thesis. In Section 2, the relationships between the situation type at the sentence level and the lexical aspect of a verb with no aspectual markers are investigated. In Section 3, focus is put on the interactions of different verb classes and different aspectual markers in Cantonese. Section 3 examines what situation types are derived from their interactions.

This thesis suggests that the Cantonese aspectual system resembles those in English. Situation types in Cantonese are compositional. The writer has examined the interactions of verbs and aspectual markers in Cantonese. It is hoped that this work stimulates the study of the interactions of verbs with other sentential constituents in the field of Cantonese aspect.

論文摘要

本論文研究粵語中的體貌系統 (aspectual system)。這論文集中討論粵語不同類別動詞和粵語的四個體貌標記：「咗」、「過」、「嚟」和「住」的相互作用。本文同時研究由不同類別動詞和四個體貌標記所構成在句子層面的不同體貌意義。

在第一節裏，粵語動詞將按照 Vendler (1967) 在英語動詞中的四分法作分類。粵語動詞將被歸納為「情態動詞」、「動作動詞」、「成就動詞」和「達成動詞」四類。而上述所列四個體貌標記也會在這一節中作介紹。

第二節和第三節為本文的重心。在第二節中，將會研究在沒有體貌標記下，句子層面的體貌意義和不同類別粵語動詞的關係。第三節集中討論不同類別動詞跟以上四個體貌標記在句子中的相互作用，從而找出在句子層面上的體貌意義。

本文解釋了粵語體貌系統跟英語體貌系統相似，在兩者中，句子層面的體貌意義均由句子不同成份構成。本文討論了其中粵語不同類別動詞跟體貌標記的關係，希望透過本文，能啟發在粵語體貌系統的研究中，不同動詞跟其它句子成份相互作用的討論。

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