

## MASTER'S THESIS

### Topic particles in Cantonese = 香港粵語主題語助詞

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*MA in Language Studies*

**TOPIC PARTICLES  
IN CANTONESE**  
香港粵語主題語助詞

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## 摘要

本研究應用話語分析來為粵語主題語助詞作出了初步的鑒別和驗證。研究目的有兩個：(一) 找出主題語助詞的特性及驗證它們的功能；(二) 得出一個主題語助詞的匯集。從日常生活中觀察的話語是本研究的第一手資料，而學者游順釗於一九六五年得出的助詞匯集則為本研究的第二手資料。本文對主題語助詞提出了一個假設——「主題語助詞傳遞著延續的意思」，並根據這個建議的特性，從一百一十六個粵語助詞中得出四十九個主題語助詞（包括助詞群）。文中對每一個在句子或話語層面上的粵語主題語助詞均加以舉例和說明，並討論其功能。主題語助詞跟那些只附有完結意思的句末助詞的對比，也是本文探討的範疇之一。希望透過這些詳細的討論，進一步證實本研究的假設。本研究發現，主題語助詞對主題的延續起著很重要的作用，正由於這個原因，那些只附有完結意思的句末助詞便不能作為主題語助詞。此外，本文亦會帶出一些富爭論性的議題，如音調的變化、助詞群等，然後嘗試作出辯證，以對粵語主題語助詞提供一個全面的分析。作者希望本研究能對粵語語言學作出些微貢獻，並能引發其他研究者多加探索此領域。

## **ABSTRACT**

This paper is a preliminary attempt to identify and examine topic particles in Cantonese from a discourse analysis. The purpose of this study is twofold: (a) to find out the properties of topic particles and to examine their pragmatic functions; (b) to work out a corpus of Cantonese topic particles. The corpus from Yau (1965) is adopted as the secondary source while utterances observed in daily life is the primary source in the present study. A hypothesis on topic particles, "topic particles denote continuation", is proposed and a corpus of 49 topic particles (including particle clusters), is diagnosed from a pool of 116 utterance particles with this suggested property. Each of these topic particles, in both the sentence as well as the discourse levels, is illustrated with example(s) and its specific functions are also discussed. A contrast with other kinds of utterance particles is also made, in order to justify our hypothesis. It is found that topic particles play an important role in the "continuation" of a topic. Because of this reason, those utterance particles that denote "completion" solely cannot serve as topic particles. Some controversial issues such as tonal variations and particle clusters are also under discussion, so as to come up with a complete treatment in Cantonese topic particles. It is hoped that this study can contribute to the Cantonese linguistics and arouse others' interests to explore this area.

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