

MASTER'S THESIS

Realization of "th" in Hong Kong English

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Realization of <th> in Hong Kong English

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A Dissertation Submitted In Partial Fulfilment Of The
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Abstract

Hong Kong English (HKE) is gaining momentum being recognized as having its unique system. The theory of interlanguage has been used in recent decades to explain the acquisition of second language like HKE. This study is to focus on using the realization of <th> in HKE, which is usually regarded to be one of the most distinguishable features of Hong Kong English, to explain the theory of interlanguage applying in HKE.

37 native Hong Kong secondary school students joined the study. They took perception and production test on realization of <th>. It was found that /θ/, /ð/, /f/, /d/, /v/ and /t/ exist in their realization of <th>, which is a lot richer than in previous studies in the past. This is an important step forward for HKE as an interlanguage as the result shows that HKE has its own phonology which evolves over time according to the theory of interlanguage.

題要

近年來，「香港英語」越來越被人視為擁有其獨一的語言系統。為解讀如何習得如「香港英語」般的第二語言，中介語的理論便被派上了用場。本研究將會集中討論如何以其中一個最特別的「香港英語」子音 <th> 的發音去解釋有關中介語的理論。

這次，一共有 37 位香港的本地中學生參與了本次研究並進行了對「香港英語」子音 <th> 的辨識測試和發音測試。研究結果顯示，當學生們嘗試發出 <th> 音時，多數得出了如 [θ]，[ð]，[f]，[d]，[v]，[t] 等等的發音，比以往的同類研究發現了更多音素存在。這對於我們研究「香港英語」實在是跨出了一大步，因為透過這次的研究結果，顯示了「香港英語」確實有其獨特的系統，而且這個系統還會隨著時間改變。

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