

## MASTER'S THESIS

### The dative construction in Hong Kong Cantonese

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**THE DATIVE CONSTRUCTION IN HONG KONG CANTONESE**

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## Abstract

In this study, we adopt the analytical framework which has been proposed by Zhu Dexi (1979) and further elaborated by Peyraube (1988) for the study of the dative construction. We examine the acceptability of the four dative construction - S1: S+V+DO+PREP 畀 bei +IO, S2: S+V+PREP 畀 bei +IO+DO, S3: S+V+DO+IO and S4: S+V+IO+DO in contemporary Hong Kong Cantonese. Judgments are given by five native informants, who are in their twenties, were born in Hong Kong and have continuously lived in the city. Three of them are University graduates and two of them have received Form Five education and two more years professional training. A 30-page long questionnaire has been designed to collect data, and follow-up interviews have been conducted. As was expected, the findings show that structure S1 is the standard form; but, they also show that structure S2, receives considerable rankings of acceptability when special semantic and discursive factors are introduced. Structure S3 appears to be the least preferred one, and structure S4 is obligatory or possible only with a few verbs.

## 摘要

在此項研究中，我們採用了朱德熙於一九七九年對研究與格結構提出的分析架構。該架構其後於一九八八年由貝羅貝加以闡釋。我們檢閱了四種與格結構在當代香港廣東話中的接受性——句式一：主語＋動詞＋直接賓語＋前置詞(畀)＋間接賓語、句式二：主語＋動詞＋前置詞(畀)＋間接賓語＋直接賓語、句式三：主語＋動詞＋直接賓語＋間接賓語，及句式四：主語＋動詞＋間接賓語＋直接賓語。我們邀請了五位在香港土生土長，並以廣東話為母語的人為本研究提供資料。她們均是二十餘歲之女性。其中三人曾接受大學教育，另外二人曾接受中五教育及兩年專業訓練。我們設計了一份三十頁長問卷，並進行了補充的會談。研究結果顯示句式一為標準形式，而此結果也是在預期中的。而當特別的語義及推論因素涉及在句式二當中時，此句式在接受性中也佔相當高的位置。句式三是最不可取的。而句式四只對某些動詞而言是強制的或可行的。