

MASTER'S THESIS

Utterance particles in Hong Kong Cantonese: discourse markers for intonation units in the flow of information

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**UTTERANCE PARTICLES
IN HONG KONG CANTONESE --
DISCOURSE MARKERS FOR INTONATION UNITS
IN THE FLOW OF INFORMATION**

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Abstract

Cantonese is very rich in utterance particles [UP], but it was only until recently that they received more attention, and most of the studies examined the function of those particles at sentence-final positions. The present study pays attention (1) to utterance particles which are attached to topicalized chunks of an utterance, and (2) to chunks uttered after sentence-final, they are followed by an unfilled (zero-particles) position. Following Chafe, it is hypothesized that utterances consist of intonation units, they process given, accessible, or new information. From the data collected from spontaneous spoken language, it is evident that nearly all topicalized chunks (marked with [+UP]) and all chunks uttered after sentence-final (marked with [-UP]) contain given or accessible information. It is concluded that utterance particles facilitate the processing of information by the hearer. Moreover they provide evidence for how information flow in an interaction and cues for how information is processed.

論文摘要

廣東方言中有極大量語氣助詞 (utterance particles) [UP], 但傳統研究多只集中於其出現於句末位置的。是次研究對象為兩種出現於非句末位置的 UP : (1) 附於前置成份的[+UP]; (2) 附於後置成份的零 UP [-UP]。CHAFE 假設說話是由語氣單位組成, 其中包括: 已被引發、可被引發及未被引發資料。根據是次對日常口語研究的結果, 發現絕大部分附於前置成份的 UP 都是已被引發或可被引發資料, 而所有後置成份均非未被引發資料, 且不帶 UP。結論是 UP 便利受話人處理資料, 亦有助對傳意及資料處理的研究。

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