

MASTER'S THESIS

The interaction of viewpoint aspect and situation aspect in Cantonese

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**THE INTERACTION OF VIEWPOINT ASPECT
AND SITUATION ASPECT IN CANTONESE**

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Abstract

Cantonese, as a dialect of Chinese, exhibits a distinctive aspectual system. Aspectual meanings are shown by attaching aspect markers to verbs. Some aspect markers are compatible with certain verbs while some are not. The chief aim of this study is to find out the co-occurrence patterns of aspect markers with verbs and explain these patterns by applying Smith's (1991) Two-Component Theory. Two perfectives *jo* (咗) and *gwo* (過) and two imperfectives *gan* (緊) and *jyuh* (住) are examined.

Perfectivity presents a total view of situations. It is found that the completive *jo* (咗) is compatible with situations having inherent endpoints, i.e. Accomplishments and Achievements. For situations without inherent endpoints, i.e. States, Activities and Semelfactives, explicit endpoints must be provided for *jo* (咗) to occur. The experiential *gwo* (過) is compatible with all situation types since it does not require explicit endpoints.

Imperfectivity presents a partial view of situations. It is found that the progressive *gan* (緊) is compatible with durative events and incompatible with instantaneous events. When *gan* (緊) co-occurs with States, it is compatible with stage-level predicates only. *Gan* (緊) can be compatible with Accomplishments

which are not taking numerical NP objects. The static imperfective *jyuh* (住) co-occurs with stative verbs which have low value on the scale of dynamism. It can also co-occur with Activity verbs that have very low value on the scale of dynamism.

提要

粵語表達體貌(aspect)意義的方法，是在動詞後加上體貌標記(aspect marker)，但這些標記跟動詞的配搭往往又受到某些限制，並不是任何標記都可跟每一個動詞配合。

本文選取了四個粵語中較常用的體貌標記作分析，它們分別為表示完成態(perfective viewpoint)的「咗」和「過」，及表示未完成態(imperfective viewpoint)的「嚟」和「住」。本文會運用 Smith(1991)的「二元理論」(Two-Component Theory)描繪這四個體貌標記跟各類語境(situation types)的搭配模式，從而探討粵語的體貌系統。

表完成體(completive)的「咗」能跟帶終結點(endpoint)的語境配合，缺乏終結點的語境若要跟「咗」配合，就得加上終結點才行。表經歷體(experiential)的「過」可跟任何語境配合，不用特別加上終結點，因為「過」本身表明動作已在過去完成了，「過」已內含終結點。

表進行體(progressive)的「嚟」只能跟有延續成份(durative)的語境配合，不能跟瞬間完成(instantaneous)的動作配合。「住」只能跟狀態(States)及活動(Activities)配合，當「住」出現時，動作行為就失去了動態性，只是事實上保持仍在持續的狀態，沒有進行狀態。

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