

MASTER'S THESIS

Possibilities beyond the fifty-three traditional Cantonese finals

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**POSSIBILITIES BEYOND THE FIFTY-THREE
TRADITIONAL CANTONESE FINALS**

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**A Dissertation Submitted In Partial
Fulfilment Of The
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Abstract

This dissertation is an attempt to take a look at the Cantonese syllables which are the combinations of the already recognized initials and the nine finals which have been conventionally excluded from the phonological system. In this study, nine native Cantonese speakers are interviewed in which they are presented verbally with the syllables in questions and asked to relate to and give comments on their use. The aim is to gather more information on these syllables, most of which are not documented, as well as to prove that although they are mostly regarded as colloquial, slangy or even vulgar, they are a very important part of a dialect like Cantonese, which remains largely spoken. Their importance lies in the fact the these syllables represent morphemes that are sometimes not sufficiently substituted by another.