



An online self-access Cantonese learning platform for local South Asian students

Shin Kataoka

LML

Funding on PD Initiatives in In-depth Use of LMSs and/or Handling Students with Diverse Backgrounds

- The fund received by LML was used in two projects:
- 1. Dr Rebecca Chen's project

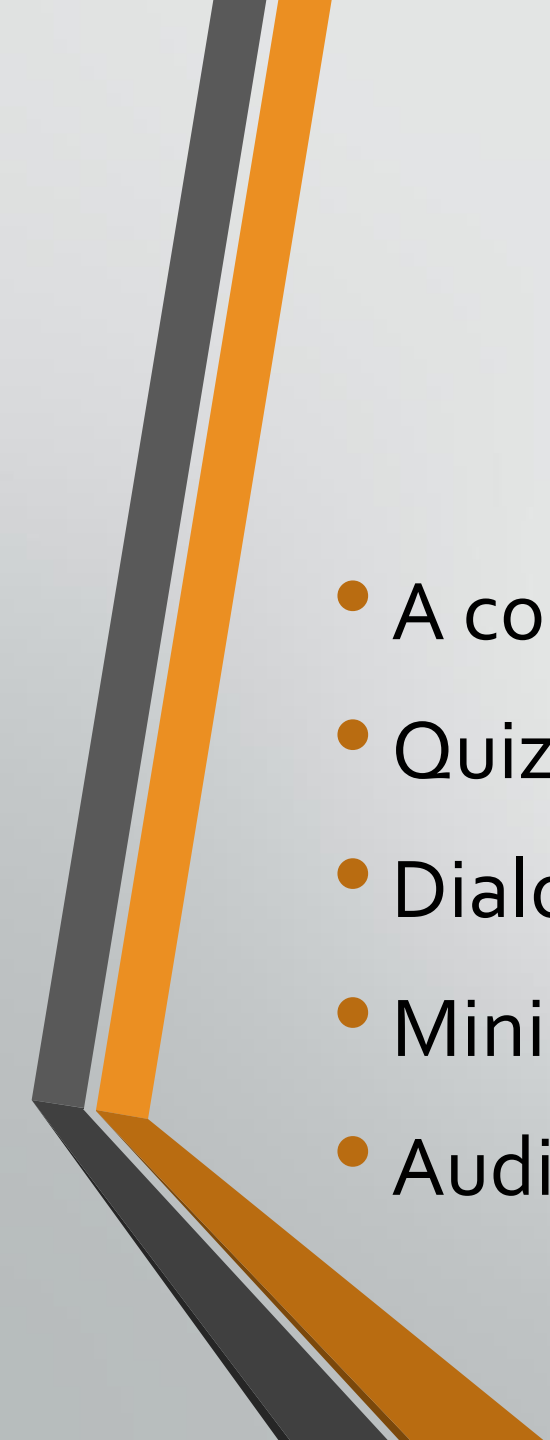
Developing a corpus-based online pronunciation learning platform for English and Mandarin in international and diverse classrooms

- 2. Dr Shin Kataoka's project

An online self-access Cantonese learning platform for local South Asian students

About my project

- My project is an extension of my TDG project:
“An Online Self-access Cantonese learning platform for Putonghua speakers”.
- Expected completion date: 31 August, 2016.



Contents of in this platform

- A course on Cantonese sounds and tones
- Quizzes and drills
- Dialogues using common vocabulary
- Mini-dictionary, searchable from Putonghua and English
- Audio files

Why Cantonese? Why now?

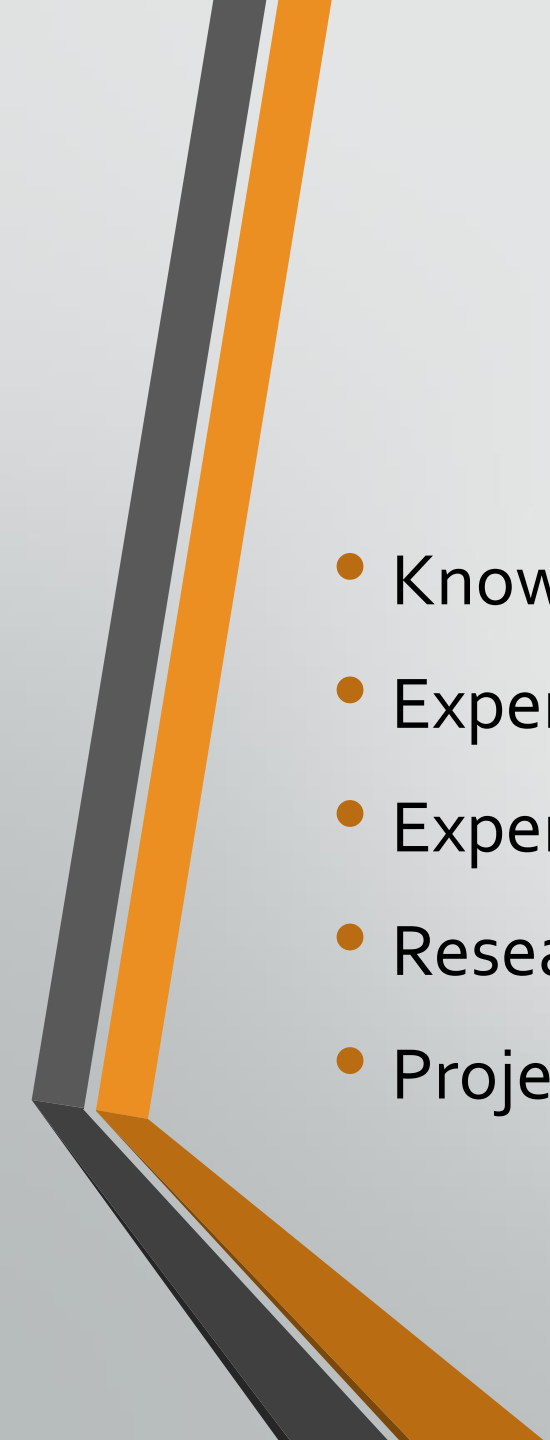
- Full-fledged language spoken by 90% of the population in Hong Kong
- Better communication with locals
- Advantage in future career
- Interesting research target
- ? Endangered language under the powerful influence of Mandarin

Why South Asian students?

- Diverse background
- With/without basic proficiency in colloquial Cantonese
- Low literacy in written Chinese
- “ngo⁵ dei⁶ ge³ uk¹ kei²” <=> “ngo⁵ mun⁴ dik¹ gaa¹”
- English can be used as a medium
- The target users can be extended to any other English-speaking learners

Rationale of my project

- 90% of the population speak Cantonese
- Online self-learning aids will be beneficial to non-local students who study at EdUHK and will work in Hong Kong.
- Upon completion, it can be used beyond the EdUHK campus.



About the project leader

- Knowledge of Putonghua and English.
- Experience in Cantonese learning
- Experience in publishing Cantonese textbooks
- Research-informed teaching strategies
- Project team including a linguist who specializes in Cantonese

Foreigners speaking Cantonese: What's so special about it?

回顧 | 「粵研粵有趣」第一講 非母語者的對談

原创 2016-05-18 陳紫嫣 语言学冰室

「粵研粵有趣」第一講
非母語者的對談



SCMP

Things that have been done

We recruited student helpers and RAs to help us:

- Identify some 6000 Cantonese entries
- Translate each entry into English
- Classify Cantonese entries based on situations and functions
- Write dialogues using basic vocabulary
- Write Course contents in English

Classification of Cantonese entries

- <http://corpus.ied.edu.hk/DH-Cantonese/DH-Survey/DH-Survey-Signin-StudentHelpers.php>

《粵語詞條分類》

(分配的詞條：1至6114條)

名詞：

人名(專有名詞)

地名(專有名詞)

其他專有名詞

數詞

時間

空間

親屬稱謂

職稱

自然

身體

動物

植物

飲食

活動

性格

學習

工作

代名詞

服裝

其他

形容詞：

心情

性格

外形

物體狀態

性質

抽象概念

其他

動詞：

日常生活

工作

學習

業餘

手腕動作

腿腳動作

口眼耳鼻動作

言語活動

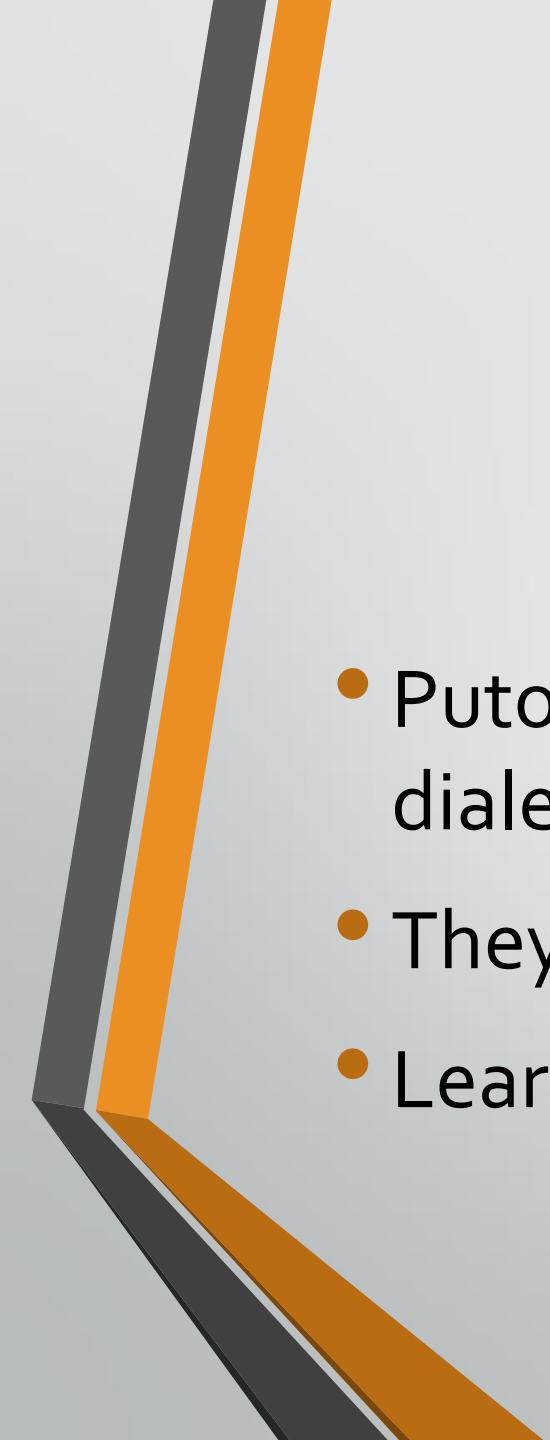
其他

疑問詞：

疑問詞

Sample of Cantonese entries

Zhōngguó 中国	Zung ¹ • gwok ³ 中國	<i>China</i>
Zhōngguórén 中国人	Zung ¹ • gwok ³ • jan ⁴ 中國人	<i>Chinese people</i>
Zhōnghuá 中华	Zung ¹ • waa ⁴ 中華	<i>Chinese</i>
Zhōnghuán 中环	Zung ¹ • waan ⁴ 中環	<i>Central</i>
zhōngjiān 中间	zung ¹ • gaan ¹ 中間	<i>middle</i>
zhòngjiǎng 中奖	zung ³ • zoeng ² 中獎	<i>win the prize</i>
zhǒnglèi 种类	zung ² • leoi ⁶ 種類	<i>type</i>
Zhōngliánbàn 中联办	Zung ¹ • lyun ⁴ • baan ⁶ 中聯辦	<i>Liaison Office of the Central People's Government</i>
zhòngliàng 重量	cung ⁵ • loeng ⁶ 重量	<i>weight</i>
zhōngnián 中年	zung ¹ • nin ⁴ 中年	<i>middle-aged</i>
Zhōngqiūjié 中秋节	Zung ¹ • cau ¹ • zit ³ 中秋節	<i>Mid-Autumn Festival</i>



Quizzes and Drills:

Based on contrastive research

- Putonghua (Mandarin) and Cantonese are both Chinese dialects.
- They share a lot of etymologically-related vocabulary.
- Learning tips will be included in the course contents.

Comparison of Vowles

Putonghua

- -ian

- -ao

- 面包 miànbāo (bread)

Cantonese

- -in

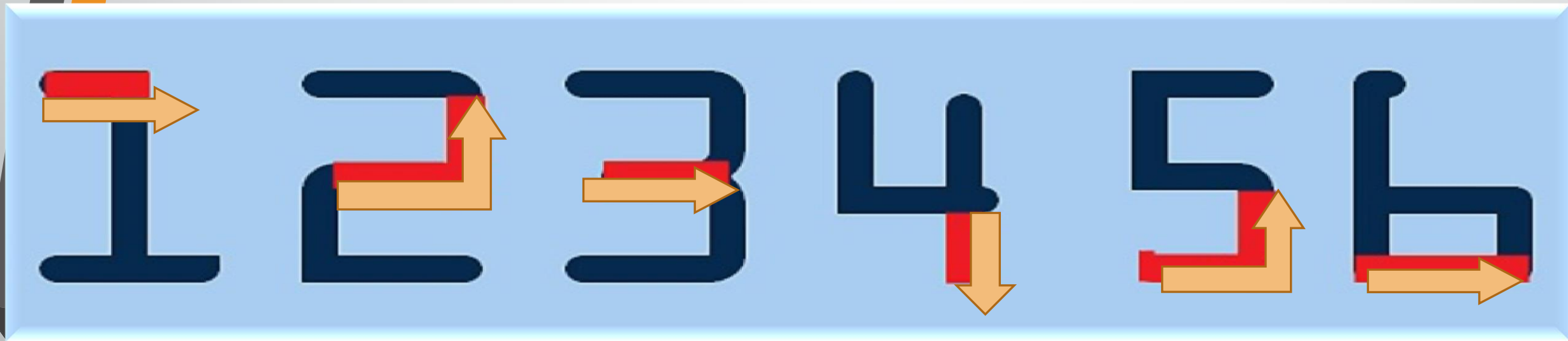
- -aaU

- -ou

- min⁶ bou¹ or min⁶ baau¹?

Tone learning

Numerals denoting tones



Sample of Course Content

粵語的 20 個聲母

粵語的聲母可按發音部位分和特點分成 7 大類。

雖然粵拼和漢語拼音相類似，但當中有的語音符號（例如：「h」、「j」等）所代表的是不同的發音，而粵語有些聲母（例如：/ng-/ 和 /gw- kw-/）又是普通話所無。學習起粵語來，需要多加注意才行。

我們會在下面分別介紹粵語的各類聲母：

The 20 Initials of Cantonese

Cantonese initials can be categorized into 7 sets, according to how the sounds are made.

While Jyutping & Hanyu Pinyin are similar, some letters (such as 'h' & 'j') are pronounced differently. What's more, there are some Cantonese initials (such as /ng-/ & /gw- kw-/) that are not found in Putonghua. When we learn Cantonese, we need to pay attention to these differences.

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- Many of the contents are still in construction.
 - We will try our best to complete this platform by August.
 - Thank you for the funding!