

Cherry Chit-Yu Lam

Curriculum Vitae

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AREAS OF INTEREST

- Broad interests: Comparative syntax, Language change and variation,
Language documentation and conservation
- Specific topics: Negation, Aspect, Classifiers, Definiteness and specificity,
Yes-no questions, Backchannel (minimal responses)
- Frameworks: Minimalist Program (in practice), Lexical-Functional
Grammar (working knowledge)
- Language specialisation: Sinitic (Mandarin and Cantonese varieties)

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2021.9 – 2023.8 Assistant Professor, Department of English Language and
Literature, Hong Kong Shue Yan University
- 2019.8 – 2021.8 Research Assistant Professor, School of Education and Languages,
Hong Kong Metropolitan University

EDUCATION

- 2014–2019 Ph.D. in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics
University of Cambridge, the UK
Dissertation title: *Negation and Aspect: a comparative study of Mandarin
and Cantonese varieties*
Supervisors: Ian Roberts and David Willis
Viva committee: Lisa Cheng and Adam Ledgeway
- 2013–2014 M.Phil. in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics (Distinction)
University of Cambridge, the UK
Dissertation title: *Disambiguating [\pm Specific] noun phrases in Chinese: A
comparative study of Cantonese and Mandarin*
Supervisor: Ian Roberts
Viva committee: Theresa Biberauer and Dora Alexopoulou
- 2009–2012 B.A. in Linguistics; Language and Communication (First Class)
The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

GRANTS

- 2021.12–2023.5 Principal investigator
A comparative corpus linguistic study of Cantonese and English yes-no questions and answers in structured and non-structured conversations.
HKSJU University Research Grant, Grant no. URG/21/03 (HK\$37,389).
- 2021.6–2022.5 Co-investigator,
Study of reading texts in Chinese language education
PI: Edith Cheung
HKMU School Research Fund (School of Education & Languages), Grant no. R4095 (HK\$30,000).
- 2021.1–2021.11 Principal investigator
An exploratory study of yes-no questions in Cantonese and Mandarin: Inventory and functions
HKMU Financial Support for Pilot Work for Resubmission of Promising Faculty Development Scheme (FDS) Proposals, Grant no. R6397 (HK\$148,800).
- 2020.6–2021.6 Principal investigator
Yes-no questions and answers in natural conversations: A study of Hong Kong Cantonese
HKMU School Research Fund (School of Education & Languages), Grant no. R4091 (HK\$17,010).

AWARDS

- 2023.1–2024.1 Research-Active Teaching Relief Scheme (HKSJU)
2014–2015 Doris Zimmern HKU-Cambridge Hughes Hall Scholarship
2013–2014 Cambridge Assessment Scholarship

PUBLICATIONS

Journal articles

- Lam, C. under review. Standard negation and aspectual definiteness in Chinese varieties. *Journal of East Asian Linguistics*.
- Lam, C. under review. Standard negation in Gaozhou Yue. *Journal of Chinese Linguistics*. (first review completed)
- Lam, C. 2023. Rethinking postverbal ‘acquire’ and related constructions in Cantonese: Polyfunctionality and parameters. *Language and Linguistics* 24(4). 674-732.
- Lam, C. 2018. On the interaction between negation and aspect in grammaticalization: a cross-linguistic study of three Chinese varieties. *Current Research in Chinese Linguistics* 97(1). 215-232.

Book chapters

- Lam, C. submitted. Negation in Cantonese. In Andy Chin, Shin Kataoka & Bit-chee Kwok (eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Cantonese Linguistics*. Routledge.
- Lam, C. 2022. Croft's Cycle in Mandarin and Cantonese through history and across varieties. In Ljuba Veselinova & Arja Hamari (eds.), *The Negative Existential Cycle from a historical-comparative perspective (Studies in Diversity Linguistics Series)*, 357-401. Berlin: Language Science Press.
- Lam, C. 2020. Beyond one, two, three: Number matters in classifier languages. In András Bárány, Theresa Biberauer, Jamie Douglas & Sten Vikner (eds.), *Syntactic architecture and its consequences I: Syntax inside the grammar*, 511–525. Berlin: Language Science Press.

Conference proceedings

- Lam, C. 2022. Standard negation and aspectual definiteness: new evidence from Cantonese. *Proceedings of the 24th Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar (SICOGG 24)*, 59-81. Seoul: Hankook Munhwasa.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited talks

- 2022 Cohesion analysis of texts: A study on reading comprehension and teaching effect of Chinese pre-service teachers. The Hong Kong Metropolitan University RIBiLT seminar series. 26 January 2022. (with Edith Cheung)
- 2020 Rethinking polysemy: An all-in-one framework of *dak1* in Cantonese. The Open University of Hong Kong RIBiLT seminar series. 23 September 2020.
- 2016 Cantonese: the biggest endangered language. Cambridge Endangered Languages and Cultures. University of Cambridge. 2 March 2016. (with Ricky Chan)

Peer-reviewed conference presentations

- 2022 Standard negation and aspectual definiteness: new evidence from Cantonese. 24th Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar (SICOGG 24). Korean Generative Grammar Circle. 12–14 August 2022 [online due to pandemic].
- 2022 Revisiting postverbal 'acquire' in Cantonese. 28th Annual meeting of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL-28). The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong. 20–22 May 2022 [moved online due to pandemic].
- 2021 Postverbal acquisitive modal and related constructions. a parametric approach. 23rd Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar (SICOGG 23). Korean Generative Grammar Circle. 11–13 August 2021 [moved online due to pandemic].
- 2021 Postverbal “acquire” in Cantonese: a unified analysis. 33rd North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics (NACCL 33). University of Chicago. 24–25 June 2021 [moved online due to pandemic].

- 2020 Number matters in Mandarin and Cantonese. 24th International Conference on Yue Dialects. University of Macau. 13–14 November 2020 [moved online due to pandemic].
- 2020 Verbal definiteness and presupposition effects in Gaozhou Cantonese standard negation. North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics (NACCL 32). University of Connecticut. 18–20 September 2020 [moved online due to pandemic].
- 2020 A Chinese negation puzzle revisited: A study of Mandarin and Cantonese varieties. Workshop on Innovations in Cantonese Linguistics (WICL 5). The Ohio State University. 18–19 April 2020 [moved online due to pandemic].
- 2019 A DP account for variation in classifier dependency in Cantonese and Mandarin. LSHK Annual Research Forum. The Education University of Hong Kong. 7 December 2019.
- 2018 Presupposition effects and standard negation in Gaozhou Cantonese. LSHK Annual Research Forum. City University of Hong Kong. 1 December 2018.
- 2017 Polyfunctional GET marker in Chinese varieties: a unified account of postverbal DAK. 22nd International Conference on Yue Dialects. The Education University of Hong Kong. 8–9 December 2017.
- 2017 The shaping of Mandarin negation - a new perspective from grammaticalisation. 25th Annual meeting of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL-25). Budapest, Hungary. 24–28 June 2017.
- 2017 Croft's negative existential cycle and the shaping of the negation system in varieties of Chinese. Negative existential cycle workshop. Stockholm, Sweden. 4–5 May 2017.
- 2015 On the interaction between negation and aspects in grammaticalisation: a cross-linguistic study of three Chinese varieties. 20th International Conference on Yue Dialects. The Chinese University of Hong Kong. 11–12 December 2015.
- 2015 On the shaping of Chinese negation systems – interaction between Croft's negative-existential cycle and BE/HAVE evolution. 9th International Conference of the European Association of Chinese Linguistics (EACL 9). Stuttgart, Germany. 24–26 September 2015.
- 2014 Explaining variation in classifier dependency in Mandarin and Cantonese nouns. 2nd Asian and European Linguistic Conference (AE-Link 2). Newcastle, United Kingdom. 5–6 December 2014.

Other scholarly presentations

- 2017 ‘What do you mean by acceptable?’: rethinking the acceptability-grammaticality divide. Re-thinking grammaticality judgment workshop. University of Cambridge. 11 March 2017.
- 2017 The emergence of *mei(you)* as a perfective negator in Mandarin Chinese: a Croft's Cycle account. Negative cycles workshop. University of Cambridge. 23 February 2017.

- 2016 Unified polyfunctional postverbal DAK: a study of four Chinese varieties. SyntaxLab. University of Cambridge. 31 May 2016.
- 2016 Post-verbal DAK in Chinese: a comparative study of three Chinese varieties. Syntax research cluster workshop. University of Cambridge. 11 March 2016.
- 2015 Negation strategies: A dialectal study of Hong Kong Cantonese and Cantonese in western Guangdong Province, China. British Council Researcher Links workshop - Documenting and preserving indigenous languages: principles, practices and tools. Bangkok, Thailand. 8–14 February 2015.
- 2014 The evolution of A-not-A questions: From 19th century to present-day Hong Kong Cantonese. Cambridge postgraduate research seminar. 13 March 2014.

TEACHING & COURSE DEVELOPMENT

Hong Kong Shue Yan University (Department of English Language and Literature)

- 2023–present Course developer, *Foundations to Applied Linguistics, The Interplay between Grammar and Meaning*
- 2022–present Course developer and instructor, *Introduction to Linguistics, Issues in Pragmatics, Linguistic Approaches to Translation*
- 2022–present Instructor, *Academic Writing*
- 2021–present Instructor, *English Usage*

The Open University of Hong Kong (School of Education and Languages)

- Autumn 2020 Instructor, *Effective Use of English I*
- Autumn 2019 Instructor, *Effective Use of English I*

The City University of Hong Kong (Department of Linguistics and Translation)

- 2019–2020 Invited instructor, *English Academic Writing Workshop*

The University of Hong Kong (School of English)

- Spring 2019 Instructor, *MAES Capstone experience: dissertation* (and MA thesis supervision)

Hong Kong Shue Yan University (Department of English Language and Literature)

- Spring 2019 Instructor, *English Usage*

Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, UK (Department of English and Media)

- Autumn 2016 Instructor, *History of the English Language*

University of Cambridge (Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics)

- 2015 Supervisor, *Structures and Meanings*

The University of Hong Kong (Department of Linguistics)

- Spring 2013 Tutor and course coordinator, *Syntactic Theory*

Spring 2013 Tutor, *Introduction to Linguistics*
Autumn 2012 Tutor, *Introduction to Linguistics*
Autumn 2012 Tutor and course coordinator, *Grammatical Description*
Autumn 2012 Tutor, *Human Language: nature vs. nurture*

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP

2012–2013 Data collection on Chinese classifiers
Supervisor: Adams Bodomo
Department of Linguistics, The University of Hong Kong

2011–2013 Literature review on Kwa and Sinitic syntax
Supervisor: Umberto Ansaldo
Department of Linguistics, The University of Hong Kong

2011–2012 Psycholinguistic experiments on implicit learning
Supervisor: Janny Leung
School of English, The University of Hong Kong

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Departmental service

2022–present Department secretary
2021–present Undergraduate mentor

Reviewing

2023–present Reviewer, *Language and Linguistics* (John Benjamins)
2023–present Reviewer, *The English Teacher (Malaysian Journal of ELT Research)*
2022–present Reviewer, *Australian Journal of Linguistics* (Routledge)
2021–present Reviewer, *Journal of Linguistics* (Cambridge University Press)
2021–present Reviewer, *Journal of Historical Linguistics* (John Benjamins)
2019–present Reviewer, *Studies in Chinese Linguistics* (CUHK Press)
2018 Reviewer, Conference of the Student Organisation of Linguistics in Europe (ConSOLE)
2017 Reviewer, Undergraduate Linguistics Association of Britain (ULAB)

Organising

2021 Coordinator, RIBiLT monthly seminars, The Open University of Hong Kong (duties: invite speakers and design theme and programme)
2017 Organisor, Re-thinking grammaticality judgments workshop, University of Cambridge
2017 Organisor, Historical Linguistics research cluster workshop ‘Negative Cycles’, University of Cambridge
2016–2017 Coordinator, Historical Linguistics cluster, University of Cambridge (duties: invite speakers and design programme for historical linguistics cluster meetings)

2015–2017 Secretary, Cambridge University Linguistic Society (duties: invite speakers and host bi-weekly linguistic talks)

OTHER TRAININGS

- 2016 Lancaster summer schools in corpus linguistics and other digital methods
Lancaster University, the UK
- 2016 Norwegian summer institute on language and the mind
University of Oslo, Norway
- 2015 Language documentation workshop
SOAS, University of London, the UK and Mahidol University, Thailand
- 2015 Autumn school of Advanced Core Training in Linguistics (ACTL)
University College London, the UK
- 2012 Swahili summer school
The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
- 2011 Spanish language training
The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

LANGUAGES

Standard Cantonese (native), Mandarin (fluent), English (fluent, IELTS 8.5);
Fieldwork knowledge in Gaozhou Cantonese;
Coursework on Swahili and Spanish.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

European Association of Chinese Linguistics (since 2015)
The Linguistics Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (since 2015)
The Linguistic Society of Hong Kong (since 2015)
International Association of Chinese Linguistics (since 2016)

last updated in November 2023