
Plan Overview

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Title: The influence of typology and microvariation in L2: The case of the interplay of Cantonese, Mandarin and English in comparative constructions

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Project abstract:

This study examines the acquisition of predicative comparatives by 2 groups of L2 speakers of English: L1 Cantonese-L2 English and L1 Mandarin-L2 English. Given the strong typological similarity between the two L1 groups, this provides a unique testing ground for investigating the unique learnability issues facing each group and the trajectory of L2 acquisition, since any inter-language variation between the two L1s has been maximally controlled for. Results can shed light on what actually transfers during the initial stages of L2 Acquisition and the degree to which linguistic microvariation leads to the (non-)facilitation of the linguistic property in question.

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The influence of typology and microvariation in L2: The case of the interplay of Cantonese, Mandarin and English in comparative constructions - Initial DMP

Ethics and responsible research and innovation (RRI)

What are the ethical or RRI implications and issues relating to the proposed work?

As data are predominantly collected from participants under the age of 18 in Hong Kong and/or mainland China, consent must be obtained from the participants and their parent(s) or guardian(s). Data will be pseudonymised, and participants will be assigned a numerical ID. A copy of the data will be created and saved separately in a separate, encrypted folder on the university's X drive in addition to copies of the data on Google Drive and my own password-protected storage device.