

Designing an Online Cantonese Learning Platform for English Speaking Students

Sharing Sessions on PD Initiatives in In-Depth Use of LMSs and/or Handling Students with Diverse (7 June 2016)

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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



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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



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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.



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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



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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>



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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.



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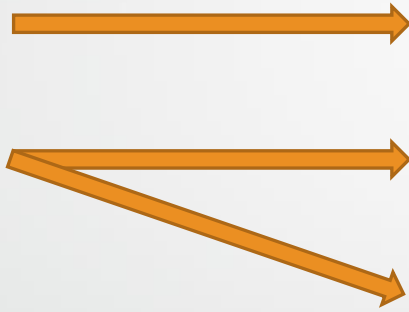
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Comparison of Vowles

Putonghua

- -ian
- -ao

- 面包 miànbāo (bread)



Cantonese

- -in
- -aau
- -ou

- min⁶ bou¹ or min⁶ baau¹?

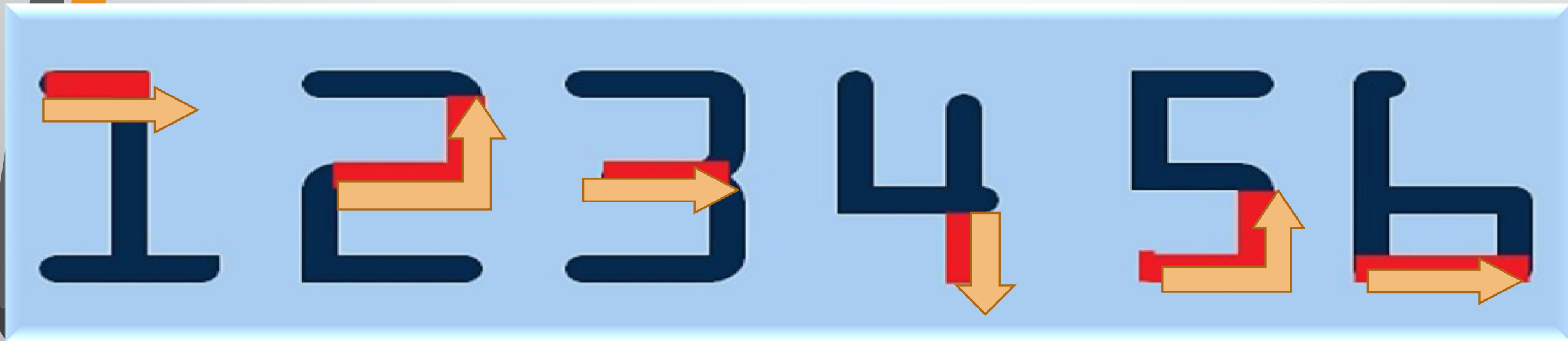


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Tone learning

Numerals denoting tones



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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。

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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我們會在下面分別介紹粵語的各類聲母：

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



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