

Innovative Rural Education in the Digital Era
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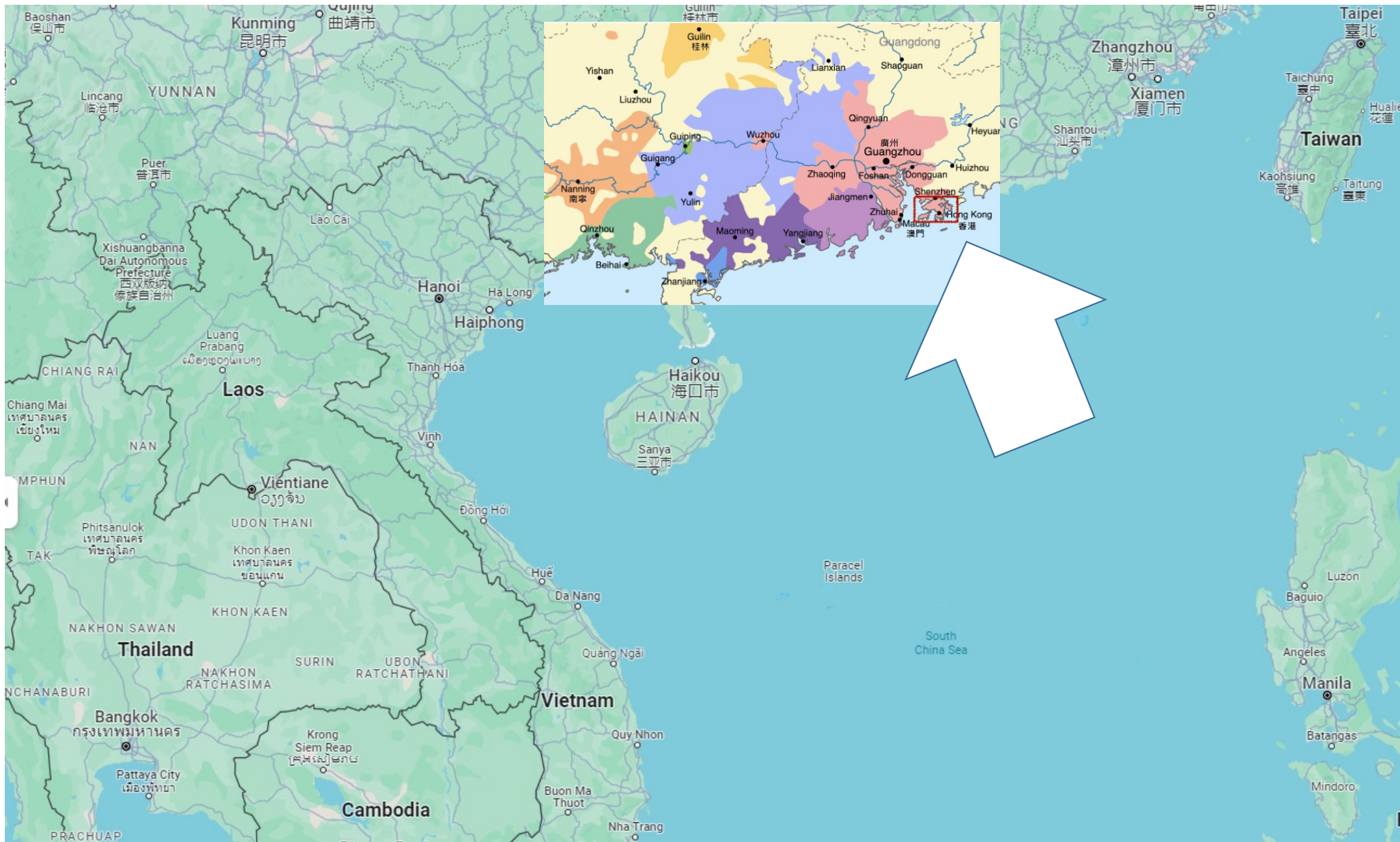


Teaching and Learning of Marginalized Languages in Hong Kong: Digital Tools and Cultural Contexts

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Language Use in Hong Kong

- **Cantonese** – The major spoken language in Hong Kong
 - Used in all domains
 - **Diglossia**: Written Cantonese used partially but not encouraged
 - Marginalized
- **English and Putonghua** – Used by more than half of the population
 - Actively promoted in the education system
 - Encroaching Cantonese in multiple domains
- **Local/indigenous Sinitic varieties (eg. Waitau, Hakka)** – Severely endangered
 - Speakers shifted to Cantonese
 - Low visibility

<https://scolarkhk.edb.hkedcity.net/sites/default/files/uploads/banner.jpg>



Language Marginalization and Endangerment in Hong Kong

- **Cantonese**

- De-facto lingua franca of Hong Kong
- Intergenerational Transmission
- Marginalized in some domains (despite its prevalence)

- **Waitau**

- Severely endangered
- Partially intelligible to Cantonese speakers

- **Hakka**

- Severely endangered
- Unintelligible to Cantonese/Waitau speakers

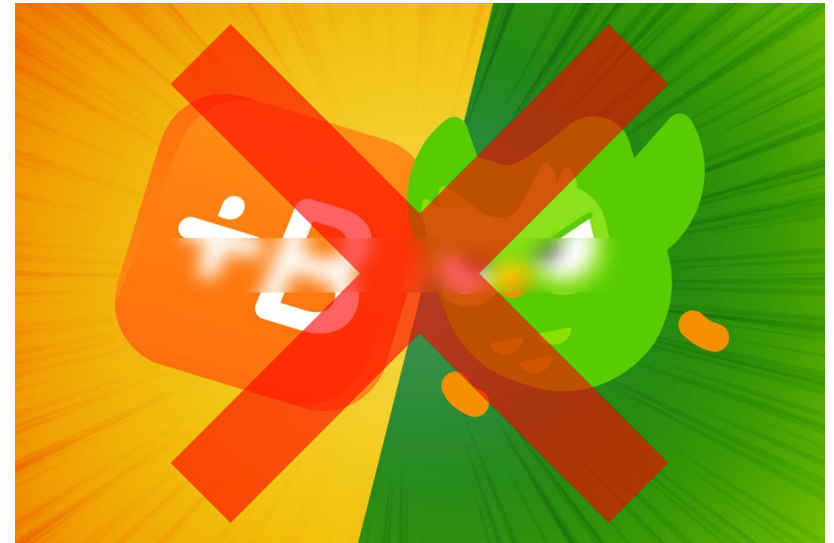
Language Marginalization and Endangerment in Hong Kong

LEI (Lee & Van Way, 2016)

	<i>No. of Speakers</i>	<i>Intergeneration Transmission</i>	<i>Speaker Number Trends</i>	<i>Domains of Use</i>	<i>Language Endangerment Index</i>
Cantonese Vulnerable	(0) ≥ 100,000	(0) All members of the community, including children, speak the language.	(1) Most members of the community speak the language. Speaker numbers may be decreasing, but very slowly.	(0) Used in most domains, including official ones such as government, mass media, education, etc.	$(0 + 0*2 + 1 + 0)/25 = 4\%$ Vulnerable
Waitau Severely Endangered	(2) 1,000-9,999	(4) Many of the grandparent generation speak the language, but the younger people generally do not.	(5) A small percentage of the community speaks the language, and speaker numbers are decreasing very rapidly.	(4) Used mainly just in the home and/or with family, and may not be the primary language even in these domains for many community members.	$(2 + 4*2 + 5 + 4)/25 = 76\%$ Severely Endangered
Hakka Severely Endangered	(0) ≥ 100,000	(4) Many of the grandparent generation speak the language, but the younger people generally do not.	(4) Less than half of the community speaks the language, and speaker numbers are decreasing at an accelerated pace.	(4) Used mainly just in the home and/or with family, and may not be the primary language even in these domains for many community members.	$(0 + 4*2 + 4 + 4)/25 = 64\%$ Severely Endangered

Rethinking Language Revitalization

- **✗** One big app
- **✓** Many small tools
- Goal: Daily use, not mastery



Edited from original photo: <https://www.fluentu.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/duolingo-vs-babbel.jpeg>

Limitations of Current Digital Resources

- **Failure of the “Monolithic Model”**
(“blank state” approach)
- **Pedagogical Mismatch**
- **Information Density in Dictionaries**
- **High Cognitive Load**
- **Lack of Cultural Context**

“Micro-Toolbox” Approach

- **Shift in Strategy**
all-in-one apps → smaller, targeted tools
- **User-Centric Design**
solve real-life problems
- **Stealth Learning**

What Works for Cantonese

• Pronunciation Lookups (eg. CCD & jyut.net)

粵語審音配詞字庫

部首: 艸 [140] 筆畫: 10 字音分類: 異讀破音字 中文字譜 國語辭典

大五碼: D37D 倉頡碼: 廿一金田 頻率 / 頻次: 4616 / 18 CEDICT 林審堂

音節 (香港語言學學會)	粵音	根據	同音字	相關音節	詞例(解釋) / 備註
sai1		周(p.145) 李(p.131) 張群顯	西, 犀, 洒 [14..]	--選擇--	譯音用字
sin3		黃(p.28) 李(p.131) 何(p.198)	騙, 筭, 轉 [15..]	--選擇--	茜草, 茜素
sin6		周(p.145) 張群顯	善, 蟪, 鄩 [19..]	--選擇--	「茜sin3」的異讀字

Chinese Character Database: With Word-Formations Phonologically Disambiguated According to the Cantonese Dialect (CCD) 粵語審音配詞字庫

粵音資料集叢 關於 凡例 搜尋

輸入要查詢的字 (最多 20 個) 或搜尋條件

朝

一般資料 粵語讀音 時間: 由近至遠 隱藏概覽

讀音	根據	讀音分佈
[ngou4]	1 廣州話正音字典 P.581 #6023	
15	2 粵語同音字典(增訂本) P.254 #68625	
	3 商務新詞典 韜的異體 P.538	
	4 常用字廣州話讀音表 建議讀音 □ P.167 #3198 □ 〈異讀〉 P.130	
	5 廣州話標準音字彙 P.135	
	6 粵語查音識字字典 (韜的異體) P.73	
	7 粵語同音字典 □ P.96	
	8 同音字彙 P.161 #3758 (1997修訂本) P.167 #3758	

碼位 U+7FF1 倉頡 HJSM 宋本廣 P.158 #4 韻 異體字 韜 來源: Unihan

粵音資料集叢 (jyut.net)

What Works for Cantonese

- Cantonese Input Method TypeDuck



What Works for Waitau & Hakka

- Text-to-Speech (TTS) tool
- Audio stories
- Documentation of cultural experience



Waitau & Hakka TTS app

Waitau and Hakka: Hong Kong Indigenous Language Story Collection (Lau and Tang, 2024)



劉擇明、鄧以楷 合著

由聚星樓走到許願樹，從吃山頭談到舞麒麟，40個短篇小故事，帶你認識圍頭話與客家話，感受香港原居民的傳統文化。

客家話故事 8

死食嘅廖官玉

liáu gón ngiúk cūng sè ciu hâu sí sít
廖官玉從細就好死食¹。有
mí giá bá hí bài fóng cún zǒng
媪³其爸去拜訪村長，村長請其
sít yá
食夜⁵。

liáu gón ngiúk sít hói ng lúk vón fán
廖官玉食⁶五六碗飯，阿媪阿
mí hâu àn sít lá
「唔好更⁷食啦，唔係人家以為吾兜
ngò dāu ān yòng
餓到恁樣¹⁰。」村長講：「唔緊要，係
zàng hiáu kái gáu zǒng tài è
正曉¹⁴快高長大概。廖官玉，你食飯
mó
麼？」廖官玉就講：「有呀，厓¹⁵食飯食飽
cún zǒng lǎu pō mún
村長老婆問：「吾兜還有滴粥，你愛¹⁶麼
gón ngiúk tài sǎng góng
官玉大聲講：「愛呀！」廖官玉 yit vón yit vón
ài bǎu dí bòi dīt zúk dú sít ciu hói lí
咬¹⁷煲裏背¹⁸滴粥都食¹⁹掙²⁰啲。村長問：

1. 死食：饑嘴、貪吃
2. 摻：同、和
3. 媪：母親
4. 其兜：他們
5. 食夜：吃晚飯
6. 噍：表示完成，相當於或廣州話的「咗」、「晒」
7. 唔好：再
8. 吾兜：我們
9. 賴子：兒子
10. 恁樣：這樣、那樣
11. 係仔：小孩
12. 滴：一點點
13. 正：才、方才
14. 曉：會
15. 厓：我
16. 愛：要
17. 咬：那
18. 裏背：裏面
19. 掙：全部
20. V+ 啲哩：在動詞V後面，表示「已經V了」

圍頭與客家 / 故事 / 死食嘅廖官玉

客家話 民間傳說
死食嘅廖官玉

貪吃的廖官玉隨父母到村長家作客，食量和小聰明都令大人們哭笑不得。

00:02 -02:54

發音
劉鎮發教授

資料提供
嚴修鴻教授

插畫
Fiona Li

chaaklau.github.io

Beyond Technology: Psychology

- Cantonese: legitimacy
- Hakka/Waitau: stigma
- Goal: pride

Small Tools, Big Impact

- Not one system
- Many targeted tools
- Technology = bridge, not museum