

Onset, Rhyme and Coda Corresponding Rules of the Sino-Korean Characters between Cantonese and Korean

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Korean language has a large number of vocabularies which contain Sino-Korean characters. Sino-Korean characters are words in Korean which are originated from ancient or middle Chinese. Cantonese, one of the Chinese languages, also preserves a lot of phonological features from Middle Chinese, like the codas /p/, /t/ and /k/. There are many similarities between the pronunciation of Sino-Korean words in Cantonese and Korean. For most of the Chinese characters with codas /p/, /k/, /m/, /n/ and /ŋ/ in Cantonese, their corresponding Korean pronunciation also have the same coda (e.g. /hək/ in Cantonese and /hak/ in Korean for the Chinese character 學). For most Chinese characters with coda /t/ in Cantonese, the corresponding pronunciation in Korean is /l/ (Kang & Simmons, 2001).

In this study, a corpus based study is carried out to investigate the corresponding relationships in the onset, rhyme and coda positions between the pronunciations of the Chinese characters in Cantonese and Korean. 2044 frequently used Sino-Korean characters which are selected by the Korean Ministry of Education were used in this study (Kim & Jang, 2003). The pronunciations of the Chinese characters in Cantonese were based on He and Zhu (2001). The Cantonese-Korean correspondence table for onsets, rhymes and codas were composed to show the percentage and the number of words using each corresponding rule. A summary of the major corresponding rules are listed in the appendix.

Many content words in Korean consist of Sino-Korean characters. For example, 學生 [hak.sæŋ] (Noun), 入學 [ip.hak] (Verb), 幸福 [hæŋ.pok] (Adjective) and 特 [tʰik] (Adverb). I am going to illustrate how these Cantonese-Korean corresponding rules can be used to facilitate the learning of Korean vocabularies and pronunciations by native speakers of Cantonese.

Appendix

Onset :

Cantonese [k-]	→	Korean [k-]	Example :	基、假、古、界
Cantonese [k ^h -]	→	Korean [k-]	Example :	期、啟、球、拒
Cantonese [k ^w -]	→	Korean [k-]	Example :	季、果、過、怪
Cantonese [k ^{wh} -]	→	Korean [k-]	Example :	誇、困、狂、規
Cantonese [m-]	→	Korean [m-]	Example :	馬、母、貿、美
Cantonese [j-]	→	Korean [ø-]	Example :	入、言、恩、業

Rhyme :

Cantonese [-ei]	→	Korean [-i]	Example :	基、美、氣、李
Cantonese [-au]	→	Korean [-o]	Example :	考、教、貌、抄
Cantonese [-eu]	→	Korean [-u]	Example :	宙、九、球、口
Cantonese [-ɛ]	→	Korean [-a]	Example :	社、夜、野、者
Cantonese [-ɔi]	→	Korean [-æ]	Example :	開、內、海、代
Cantonese [-iu]	→	Korean [-o]	Example :	小、紹、標、要
Cantonese [-a]	→	Korean [-a]	Example :	打、沙、家、他

Coda :

Cantonese [-p]	→	Korean [-p]	Example :	十、習、業、接
Cantonese [-t]	→	Korean [-l]	Example :	一、八、術、脫
Cantonese [-k]	→	Korean [-k]	Example :	百、國、德、學
Cantonese [-m]	→	Korean [-m]	Example :	三、音、驗、男
Cantonese [-n]	→	Korean [-n]	Example :	半、段、真、戰
Cantonese [-ŋ]	→	Korean [-ŋ]	Example :	定、等、爭、中