**A corpus-based analysis of ongoing change in the adjective amplifier systems of Hong Kong and Philippine English**

This study focuses on one of ongoing change in adjective amplifiers (*very*, *really*, *so*, etc.) in Hong Kong and Philippine English based on data from the International Corpus of English.

While previous research on changes in amplifier systems has successfully applied multivariate methods and unearthed intricate interdependencies and highly systematic trajectories of change in inner circle varieties of English (e.g. D’Arcy 2015; Tagliamonte & Denis 2014), only few studies (e.g. Fuchs & Gut 2016) have analysed ongoing change in adjective amplification in Asian varieties of English. The current study adds to existing research in focusing on change in adjective amplification in Hong Kong English and Philippine English.

One of the most consistent findings in previous research on changes in adjective amplification in informal spoken discourse has been the replacement of very by really. The present study uses multivariate regression modelling to assess if this trend holds true for Hong Kong English and Philippine English and if the underlying factors that drive this change in inner circle varieties are also at work in these Asian English varieties.

Similar to the findings based on inner circle varieties, the present analysis shows that *very* is being replaced by *really*, that changes in adjective amplification in Hong Kong English and Philippine English is highly dependent on the frequency of host constructs (adjectival heads), and that ongoing changes are driven by collocational preferences of the host constructs.

In review of the converging results from previous research and the present study of Asian varieties of English, the paper proposes a cognitive, psychologically motivated mechanism that has explanatory and predictive power for changes where one incoming variant from a set of potential candidates becomes dominant.

**References**

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