

# Ka-Fai YIP 葉家輝

Ph.D. student in Linguistics  
Yale University

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Areas of interest: Syntactic theory, Semantics, Syntax-semantics interface, Syntax-phonology interface, Language variations, Corpus linguistics

Major research languages: Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese

Other research languages: Akan, Southern Min (Chenghai), Yoruba

## Education and qualifications

- 2020 – Ph.D. in Linguistics, Yale University, U.S.A.
- 2017 – 2019 M.Phil. in Chinese Language and Literature, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), Hong Kong  
Thesis title: *The Incompleteness Effects of Cantonese Verbal Suffixes* (written in Chinese)  
Committee: Bit-Chee KWOK (chair), Sze-Wing TANG (supervisor),  
Yam Leung Lawrence CHEUNG, Po Lun Peppina LEE
- 2013 – 2017 B.A. in Chinese Language and Literature (First Class Honors), Minor in Linguistics, CUHK, Hong Kong  
Thesis title: *The Relationship of Syntax and Semantics of Quantificational Verbal Suffix -can and its Preverbal Counterparts in Cantonese* (written in Chinese)  
Supervisor: Sze-Wing TANG
- 2014 Second Class Upper, Putonghua Proficiency Test

## Publications

### Journal article

- 2020 1. **Yip, Ka-Fai.** 2020. Three discontinuous constructions of Cantonese verbal suffix *can* (written in Chinese). *Current Research in Chinese Linguistics* 99(1):153-169.

### Book chapter

- 2022 1. **Yip, Ka-Fai,** and Tommy Tsz-Ming Lee. 2022. Modal movement licensed by focus. In Andrew Simpson, ed., *New Explorations in Chinese Theoretical Syntax: Studies in Honor of Yen-Hui Audrey Li*, 165-192. Amsterdam and Philadelphia: John Benjamins.

### Conference proceedings

- 2021 2. **Yip, Ka-Fai,** Tommy Tsz-Ming Lee, and Sheila Shu-Laam Chan. 2021. Deriving separable verbs in Cantonese. In Wei William Zhou, John Bundschuh, Mineharu Nakayama, and Zhiguo Xie, eds., *Buckeye East Asian Linguistics*, vol. 5, 94-104. Ohio State University.

1. Tommy Tsz-Ming Lee, and **Ka-Fai Yip**. 2021. Raising, phase unlocked.  
In Rachel Soo, Una Y. Chow, and Sander Nederveen, eds., *Proceedings of the 38th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL-38)*, 274-282. Somerville: Cascadia Proceedings Project.
- 2020 4. **Yip, Ka-Fai**. 2020. Syntax-prosody mapping of right-dislocations in Cantonese and Mandarin.  
In Hisao Tokizaki, ed., *Phonological Externalization (Vol. 5)*, 73-90. Sapporo: Sapporo University.
3. **Yip, Ka-Fai**, and Tommy Tsz-Ming Lee. 2020. Generalized Scope Economy.  
In Kaidi Chen, ed., *Proceedings of the 32nd North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics (NACCL-32)*, 345-360. Storrs, CT: University of Connecticut.
2. Tsou, Benjamin K., and **Ka-Fai Yip**. 2020. A corpus-based comparative study of light verbs in three Chinese speech communities.  
In Minh Le Nguyen, Mai Chi Luong, and Sanghoun Song, eds., *Proceedings of the 34th Pacific Asia Conference on Language, Information and Computation (PACLIC-34)*, 302-311. Association for Computational Linguistics.
1. Tsou, Benjamin K., Ka Po Chow, John Lee, **Ka-Fai Yip**, Yaxuan Ji, and Kevin Wu. 2020. Bilingual multi-word expressions, multiple-correspondence, and their cultivation from parallel patents: the Chinese-English case.  
In Minh Le Nguyen, Mai Chi Luong, and Sanghoun Song, eds., *Proceedings of the 34th Pacific Asia Conference on Language, Information and Computation (PACLIC-34)*, 589-602. Association for Computational Linguistics.

## Talks and presentations

### Invited talks

- 2022 1. Non-agreeing resumptive pronouns and partial Copy Deletion  
Invited talk at *LingLunch*, University of Connecticut, April 26, 2022.  
(Joint work with Comfort AHENKORAH)
- 2021 2. Universal concord as syntactic agreement  
Invited talk at *Syntax Brown Bag*, New York University, October 22, 2021.
1. CanTONEse (a self-learning mobile app for Cantonese tones)  
Invited talk at *School of Cantonese Studies 2021*, The Education University of Hong Kong (online), May 15-16, 2021. (Joint work with Mei-ying KI and Yik-Po LAI)
- 2020 1. Universal concord as syntactic agreement  
Invited talk at *Syntax+*, University of Southern California, October 5, 2020.

### Refereed presentations

- 2022 3. Non-agreeing resumptive pronouns and partial Copy Deletion  
Oral presentation at *The 46th annual Penn Linguistics Conference*, University of Pennsylvania (online), March 18-20, 2022. (Joint work with Comfort AHENKORAH)
2. Adverbial clauses with and without operator movement  
Oral presentation at *The 96th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*, Washington, DC, January 6-9, 2022. (Joint work with Zhuo CHEN)
1. Non-agreeing resumptive pronouns and partial Copy Deletion  
Poster presentation at *The 96th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*, Washington, DC, January 6-9, 2022. (Joint work with Comfort AHENKORAH)
- 2021 21. Converbs and adverbial clauses: a case study in Cantonese  
Oral presentation at *The 25th International Conference on Yue Dialects*, Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao University Alliance for Chinese (online), December 18-19, 2021.
20. Partial deletion at word-level: discontinuous predicates in Cantonese  
Oral presentation at *The Brussels Conference on Generative Linguistics 14 (BCGL-14)*, CRISSP of KU Leuven (online), December 16-18, 2021.  
(Joint work with Tommy Tsz-Ming LEE and Sheila Shu-Laam CHAN)

19. Non-agreeing resumptive pronouns and partial Copy Deletion  
Oral presentation at *SYNC 2021*, CUNY Graduate Center (online), December 4, 2021.  
(Joint work with Comfort AHENKORAH)
18. Two kinds of resumption in Cantonese  
Oral presentation at *2021 Linguistic Society of Hong Kong Annual Research Forum (ARF)*, City University of Hong Kong (online), December 4, 2021.
17. Adverbial clauses with and without operator movement  
Oral presentation at *The 9th International Conference on Formal Linguistics (ICFL-9)*, Fudan University (online), November 5-7, 2021. (Joint work with Zhuo CHEN)
16. Universal concord as syntactic agreement  
Oral presentation at *The 13th Workshop on Formal Linguistics (WFL-13)*, Auditório do Instituto de Letras, Universidade de Brasília (online), September 14-17, 2021.
15. Hyper-raising, evidentiality, and phase deactivation  
Oral presentation at *The 13th Workshop on Formal Linguistics (SLE-54)*, Auditório do Instituto de Letras, Universidade de Brasília (online), September 14-17, 2021. (Joint work with Tommy Tsz-Ming LEE)
14. Differential metaphorization and grammaticalization in Chinese light verbs  
Oral presentation at *The 54th Annual Meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea (SLE-54)*, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (online), August 30-September 3, 2021.  
(Joint work with Benjamin K. TSOU)
13. Concord as syntactic agreement: evidence from intervention effects  
Poster presentation at *Colloquium on Generative Grammar 30 (CGG-30)*, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (online), June 30-July 2, 2021.
12. Where is the dividing line between spoken and written Cantonese data source: from the LIVAC perspective  
Oral presentation (in Chinese) at *The 21st Workshop on Cantonese (WOC-21)*, The Education University of Hong Kong (online), June 26, 2021. (Joint work with Benjamin K. TSOU and Yaxuan JI)
11. Converbs and adverbial clauses: a case study in Cantonese  
Oral presentation at *The 33rd meeting of the North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics (NACCL-33)*, The University of Chicago (online), June 24-25, 2021.
10. MSC variations in metaphorization among Pan-Chinese speech communities  
Oral presentation at *The 33rd meeting of the North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics (NACCL-33)*, The University of Chicago (online), June 24-25, 2021. (Joint work with Benjamin K. TSOU)
9. Separable verbs as partial deletion in Cantonese  
Oral presentation at *The 33rd meeting of the North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics (NACCL-33)*, The University of Chicago (online), June 24-25, 2021.  
(Joint work with Sheila Shu-Laam CHAN and Tommy Tsz-Ming LEE)
8. Differential metaphorization and grammaticalization: a case study of Chinese light verbs  
Oral presentation at *Researching and Applying Metaphor (RaAM) 14: Metaphor and Space*, Vilnius University, June 23-26, 2021.
7. Syntax-prosody mapping of right dislocation: a comparative study of Cantonese and Mandarin\*  
Oral presentation at *The 7th International Conference on Prosodic Grammar (ICPG-7)*, Beijing Language and Culture University and Tianjin University (online), April 17-18, 2021.  
\*Awarded Young Scholar Award for Prosodic Grammar, First Place
6. Two types of temporal adverbial clauses in Cantonese  
Poster presentation at *The 39th meeting of the West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL39)*, The University of Arizona (online), April 8-11, 2021.
5. Universal concord as syntactic agreement  
Oral presentation at *The 45th Penn Linguistics Conference (PLC-45)*, University of Pennsylvania (online), March 19-21, 2021.
4. Verbal “infixation” as partial deletion: a case in Cantonese verbs  
Oral presentation at *The 45th Penn Linguistics Conference (PLC-45)*, University of Pennsylvania (online), March 19-21, 2021. (Joint work with Sheila Shu-Laam CHAN and Tommy Tsz-Ming LEE)

3. Two types of temporal adverbial clauses in Cantonese  
Oral presentation at *Buckeye East Asian Linguistics Forum 4 (BEAL-4)*, The Ohio State University (online), March 5, 2021.
2. Deriving separable verbs in Cantonese  
Oral presentation at *Buckeye East Asian Linguistics Forum 4 (BEAL-4)*, The Ohio State University (online), March 5, 2021. (Joint work with Sheila Shu-Laam CHAN and Tommy Tsz-Ming LEE)
1. Separable verbs, syllable deletion, and micro-variations  
Oral presentation at *The 11th Workshop on Phonological Externalization of Morphosyntactic Structure (Phex-11)*, Sapporo University (online), February 13, 2021.  
(Joint work with Sheila Shu-Laam CHAN and Tommy Tsz-Ming LEE)
- 2020 15. Indirect evidence as a licensing condition of hyperraising in Cantonese and Vietnamese  
Oral presentation at *The Brussels Conference on Generative Linguistics 13 (BCGL-13)*, CRISSP of KU Leuven (online), December 16-18, 2020. (Joint work with Tommy Tsz-Ming LEE)
14. On the position of perfective aspect  
Oral presentation at *2020 Linguistic Society of Hong Kong Annual Research Forum (ARF)*, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (online), December 11-12, 2020.
13. A preliminary study on metaphorization of Chinese verbs: comparing Hong Kong, Macau and Beijing  
Oral presentation (in Chinese) at *2020 Linguistic Society of Hong Kong Annual Research Forum (ARF)*, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (online), December 11-12, 2020.  
(Joint work with Benjamin K. TSOU and Yaxuan JI)
12. CanTONEse: a self-learning mobile app for Cantonese tones  
Oral presentation at *The 24th International Conference on Yue Dialects*, University of Macau (online), November 13-14, 2020. (Joint work with Mei-ying KI and Yik-Po LAI)
11. Bilingual multi-word expressions, multiple-correspondence, and their cultivation from parallel patents: the Chinese-English case  
Oral presentation at *PACLIC Workshop on Multiword Expressions in Asian languages (MWEA 2020)*, VNU University of Science (online), October 26, 2020.  
(Joint work with Benjamin K. TSOU, Ka Po CHOW, John LEE, Yaxuan JI and Kevin WU)
10. A corpus-based comparative study of light verbs in three Chinese speech communities  
Oral presentation at *The 34th Pacific Asia Conference on Language, Information and Computation (PACLIC-34)*, VNU University of Science (online), October 24-26, 2020.  
(Joint work with Benjamin K. TSOU)
9. Generalized Scope Economy  
Oral presentation at *The 32nd North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics (NACCL-32)*, University of Connecticut (online), September 18-20, 2020. (Joint work with Tommy Tsz-Ming LEE)
8. Hyperraising and evidentiality  
Oral presentation at *The 22nd Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar (SICOGG-22)*, Gyeongsang National University, Korea (online), August 12-14, 2020.  
(Joint work with Tommy Tsz-Ming LEE)
7. Generalized Scope Economy  
Oral presentation at *The 22nd Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar (SICOGG-22)*, Gyeongsang National University, Korea (online), August 12-14, 2020.  
(Joint work with Tommy Tsz-Ming LEE)
6. Syllable deletion and morphological length in Cantonese verbs  
Oral presentation at *The Third Forum on Cantonese Linguistics (FoCaL-3)*, The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong, June 27, 2020. (Joint work with Sheila Shu-Laam CHAN and Tommy Tsz-Ming LEE)
5. How to identify intonations on sentence-final particles?  
Oral presentation at *The Twentieth Workshop on Cantonese (WOC-20)*, Hong Kong Baptist University (online), June 6, 2020. (Joint work with Him Nok LEE)
4. Zero-coded passives in Cantonese  
Oral presentation at *The 5th Workshop on Innovations in Cantonese Linguistics (WICL-5)*, The Ohio State University (online), April 18, 2020. (Joint work with Sheila Shu-Laam CHAN and Tommy Tsz-Ming LEE)

3. The prosodic syntax of right dislocation in Cantonese  
Oral presentation at *The 5th Workshop on Innovations in Cantonese Linguistics (WICL-5)*, The Ohio State University (online), April 18, 2020.
2. Raising, phase unlocked  
Oral presentation at *The 38th meeting of the West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL38)*, The University of British Columbia, March 6-8, 2020. (Joint work with Tommy Tsz-Ming LEE)
1. Syntax-prosody mapping in clausal domains: right dislocation in Mandarin and Cantonese  
Oral presentation at *The 10th workshop on Phonological Externalization of Morphosyntactic Structure: Universals and Variables (Phex 10)*, The University of Tokyo, February 15, 2020.
- 2019 6. Sentence-initial root modals and focus  
Oral presentation at *2019 Linguistic Society of Hong Kong Annual Research Forum (ARF)*, The Education University of Hong Kong, December 7, 2019. (Joint work with Tommy Tsz-Ming LEE)
5. The prosodic syntax of right dislocation in Cantonese  
Oral presentation (in Chinese) at *2019 Linguistic Society of Hong Kong Annual Research Forum (ARF)*, The Education University of Hong Kong, December 7, 2019.
4. Verbs of saying in Chenghai Min  
Oral presentation (in Chinese) at *The 5th Inter-Regional Forum on Dialectal Grammar (IRF-5)*, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, June 15-16, 2019. (Joint work with Jia JIN)
3. Attitude verbs, uncertain propositions and hyper-raising  
Oral presentation at *The Second Forum on Cantonese Linguistics (FoCaL-2)*, The Education University of Hong Kong, June 1, 2019. (Joint work with Tommy Tsz-Ming LEE)
2. Re-classifying Cantonese verbal suffixes  
Oral presentation (in Chinese) at *The Second Forum on Cantonese Linguistics (FoCaL-2)*, The Education University of Hong Kong, June 1, 2019.
1. Subordinate affixes in Cantonese and intervention effects  
Oral presentation at *The 27th Annual Conference of International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL-27)*, Kobe City University of Foreign Studies, Japan, May 10-12, 2019.
- 2018 4. A preliminary study on subordinate affixes in Cantonese  
Oral presentation (in Chinese) at *The 23rd International Conference on Yue Dialects*, Jinan University, Guangzhou, December 15-16, 2018.
3. Two subclasses of verbs of thinking in Cantonese  
Oral presentation at *2018 Linguistic Society of Hong Kong Annual Research Forum (ARF)*, City University of Hong Kong, December 1, 2018. (Joint work with Tommy Tsz-Ming LEE)
2. Complex sentence formation of Cantonese affix *can*  
Oral presentation (in Chinese) at *The 8th International Conference on Formal Linguistics (ICFL-8)*, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, November 24-25, 2018.
1. Cantonese verbal suffix *dak* and intentionality  
Oral presentation at *The 4th Workshop on Innovations in Cantonese Linguistics (WICL-4)*, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, June 23-24, 2018.
- 2017 2. Three discontinuous constructions of Cantonese verbal suffix *can*  
Oral presentation (in Chinese) at *The 22nd International Conference on Yue Dialects*, The Education University of Hong Kong, December 8-9, 2017.
1. A study of Cantonese intentional verbal suffix *dak*  
Oral presentation (in Chinese) at *2017 Linguistic Society of Hong Kong Annual Research Forum (ARF)*, Hong Kong Baptist University, December 2, 2017.
- 2015 1. Properties of Cantonese classifier *zan*  
Oral presentation (in Chinese) at *The 20th International Conference on Yue Dialects*, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, December 11-12, 2015.

## Other presentations

- 2022    1.    On Cantonese yes-no question particle *aa4*: evidential bias and confirmation  
Poster presentation at *Language Diversity, Linguistic Theory and Cultural Identity in South Asia*, Yale University, April 29-30, 2022.
- 2021    2.    Tones are colourful and animate: the self-learning mobile app CanTONEse  
Oral presentation at *International Conference on Technology-Enhanced Language Learning and Teaching & Corpus-based Language Learning and Teaching 2021 (TeLLT & CoLLT 2021)*, The Education University of Hong Kong (online), July 7-9, 2021. (Joint work with Mei-ying KI and Yik-Po LAI)
- 1.    Exclusive focus in Yoruba  
Oral presentation at *The Southern New England Workshop in Semantics (SNEWS) 2021*, University of Connecticut (online), May 1, 2021.
- 2020    1.    Facilitating the self-learning of Cantonese: an innovative e-approach  
Oral presentation at *Teaching and Learning Innovation Expo 2019/20*, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (online), July 28-30, 2020. (Joint work with Pit Shun LAI and Yik-Po LAI)
- 2019    1.    Universal Concord: evidence from Cantonese pseudo affixal quantifier *-can*  
Poster presentation at *2019 LSA Linguistic Institute*, University of California, Davis, July 7, 2019.

## Other study experience

- Jun 2019 – 2019 LSA Linguistic Institute, Linguistic Society of America, University of California, Davis,  
Jul 2019    U.S.A.
- Jul 2017 – Summer Institute, 2017 Core Course (First Grade), Linguistics Institute of China, Tianjin
- Aug 2017    Normal University, China

## Research and teaching experience

- Jul 2021    Research Assistant, ChiLin (HK) Limited  
              - Supervisor: Benjamin K. TSOU
- Oct 2019 – Junior Research Assistant, Department of Chinese Language and Literature, CUHK  
Jul 2020    - Assisting online learning of Mandarin and Cantonese  
              - Supervisor: Sze-Wing TANG
- Feb 2020 – Research Assistant, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)  
Jun 2020    - Project: A corpus-based comparative study of light verbs in three Chinese speech communities  
              Teaching Assistant for MILE5304 Chinese Lexicology  
              - Supervisor & Instructor: Benjamin K. TSOU
- Dec 2018 – Designing teaching materials of the self-learning app *CanTONEse* for learning Cantonese  
May 2019    tones, CUHK
- Sep 2018 – Teaching Assistant for CHLL2131 Intro to Chinese Phonology, CUHK  
Dec 2018    - Instructor: Bit-Chee KWOK
- Jul 2018    Designing a self-assessment test on Cantonese, CUHK
- Jun 2014 – Student helper, Human-Computer Communications Laboratory, CUHK  
Aug 2014    To transcribe and assess data of interviewees having central dysarthria



## Scholarship and honors

- 2020 – Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Fellowship (tuition and stipend)
- 2021 Young Scholar Award for Prosodic Grammar, First Place  
The 7th International Conference on Prosodic Grammar (ICPG-7), Beijing Language and Culture University and Tianjin University, April 17-18, 2021.
- 2017 – 2019 Postgraduate Studentship, CUHK
- 2017 Undergraduate “Independent Research” Paper Award (Language and Linguistics)  
Department of Chinese Language and Literature, CUHK
- 2014 Gold Award, Best Essay Award (In Dialogue with Nature)  
General Education, CUHK

## Academic services

### Conference organization

- 2022 Organizing committee of The Fifth Forum on Cantonese Linguistics (FoCaL-5), to be held at City University of Hong Kong on 4 June, 2022.
- 2021 Organizing committee of The Fourth Forum on Cantonese Linguistics (FoCaL-4), held at Hong Kong Baptist University (online) on 29 May, 2021.
- 2020 Organizing committee of The Third Forum on Cantonese Linguistics (FoCaL-3), held at The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong on 27 Jun, 2020.
- 2019 Organizing committee of The Second Forum on Cantonese Linguistics (FoCaL-2), held at The Education University of Hong Kong on 1 Jun, 2019.
- 2018 Student organizer of the 11th Cross-Strait Symposium on Modern Chinese Language, held at The Chinese University of Hong Kong on 7-8 Dec, 2018.
- 2018 Organizing committee of The First Forum on Cantonese Linguistics (FoCaL-1), held at The Chinese University of Hong Kong on 31 May, 2018.
- 2017 Student helper of the International Symposium on Chinese in the Maritime Silk Road, held at The Chinese University of Hong Kong on 7-8 Apr, 2017.

### Reviewing for journals

- 2021 *Journal of East Asian Linguistics*  
*Yale Undergraduate Research Journal*

## Other services

- 2016 – 2017 Publishing Secretary, The 43rd Organizing Committee, Youth Literary Awards Association
- Aug 2014 Investigator, Youth Journey to China 2014 – Social Research Program, China Young Leaders Foundation

## Language skills

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|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Cantonese: Native | English: Fluent       |
| Mandarin: Fluent  | Japanese: Course work |