



Department of
Linguistics and Modern Languages
語言學及現代語言系

Prosodic Phonology of the Fuzhou Dialect

Linguistics Seminars

Mr. Shuxiang YOU

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Date: January 23, 2018 (Tuesday)

Time: 11:00am - 12:30pm

Venue: Lecture Theatre 4, Lee Shau Kee Building,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Abstract

This study investigates the phonological system of the Fuzhou dialect within the framework of prosodic phonology. In this study, six universal prosodic constituents are examined, including the syllable, the foot, the prosodic word, the clitic group, the phonological phrase, and the intonational phrase, in terms of their definition and role(s) in the Fuzhou dialect. Several important discoveries are made in this study. First of all, on the basis of the discussion of Fuzhou phonological rules, this study provides empirical evidence for the existence of most universal prosodic constituents in the Fuzhou dialect. Second, through the analyses of these prosodic constituents, this study proves that the domains of different constituents in this dialect are defined by making use of different types of phonological and non-phonological information. Third, this study demonstrates that different Fuzhou phonological rules refer to different prosodic constituents as the domain of application—a particular rule may apply within one domain while be blocked within another, and a rule applying within more than one domain may exhibit different degrees of application. Fourth, the evidence from the Fuzhou dialect, together with evidence from other languages, shows that the Strict Layer Hypothesis as the well-formedness condition of prosodic phonology should be weakened.

This study is the first comprehensive analysis of the Fuzhou phonological system from the perspective of prosodic phonology. In addition to presenting a thorough description and analysis of the phonological system as well as the interactions between phonology and other components of the grammar in this dialect, this study also provides supporting evidence for main claims of the theory of prosodic phonology and has many significant theoretical implications, which will further our understanding of prosodic phonology in general.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Enquiries

Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages, CUHK.

Tel: (852)3943 7911/7025 Fax: (852)2603 7755 E-mail: lin@cuhk.edu.hk

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