Learning Mandarin and Cantonese
in Health Communication Context - Materials development process

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Overview

1. Background
2. Objectives
3. Process
4. Summary and Implications
Background
Mandarin & Cantonese in Bay Area
San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) 2019

- 19th century Cantonese-speaking Chinese immigrated to San Francisco
- 75% in SFUSD Cantonese as home language

https://www.sfusd.edu/school/chinese-immersion-school-cis-de-avila/about/why-chinese-immersion
“...Mandarin is the official language of China, and with more than a billion people speaking it...”

https://www.sfusd.edu/school/chinese-immersion-school-cis-de-avila/about/why-chinese-immersion
Chinese immersion

- K-5 (Cantonese)
- 6-8 (Mandarin)
- “...The transition to Mandarin is easier”
- Become literate in Chinese

https://www.sfusd.edu/school/chinese-immersion-school-cis-de-avila/about/why-chinese-immersion
Mandarin and Cantonese @ Berkeley EALC

Chinese 1A Elementary Chinese
Chinese 1X Elementary Chinese for Mandarin speakers
Chinese 1Y Elementary Chinese for dialect speakers

Chinese 3A Elementary Cantonese
Chinese 3X Elementary Cantonese for heritage speakers
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mandarin</th>
<th>Cantonese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Times</td>
<td>次 cì (Tone 4)</td>
<td>chi (Tone 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax</td>
<td>稅 shuì (Tone 4)</td>
<td>seui (Tone 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To stir</td>
<td>煽 shān (Tone 1)</td>
<td>sin (Tone 3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Similarities and differences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mandarin</th>
<th>Cantonese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sand</td>
<td>沙 (Shā)</td>
<td>sā</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poem</td>
<td>詩 (Shī)</td>
<td>sī</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxury</td>
<td>奢 (Shē)</td>
<td>X sē</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Same concept, different words

**Mandarin**
Kōngxīncài
(hollow)

**Cantonese**
Tūng choi
(through)
Same words, different concept

Mandarin: 姑娘 (gū niang)
               Young girl

Cantonese: 姑女 (gū nèuhng)
               Nurse
Transferable knowledge: Predictability

- Consonants
- Tones
- Professions
- Food
Objectives
Accurate language use is essential

- When Mandarin speakers learn Cantonese (vice versa), they enjoy abundant transferable knowledge, yet suffer from tricky exceptions.

- The situation is more acute when it comes to professional contexts, such as linguistic competence demanded in health communication context. Accurate language use is essential.
Language proficiency and health communication

...According to San Francisco’s language diversity data, more than 110,000 AAPI residents have limited English proficiency, with roughly 80% being of Chinese descent.

...one-third of Asians who reported difficulty accessing health care and mental health services cited limited language skills as a reason...

(San Francisco Chronicle, Mar 2023)
The materials

1. Highlight the non-transferable and/or unpredictable areas.

- Pronunciation
- Vocabulary
- Idioms

*(especially useful for unbalanced Mandarin/Cantonese bilinguals)*
The materials

2. Highlight the formal words.

*Examples:*

- Terminologies
- Organizations

*(especially useful for heritage speakers)*
3. Incorporate the words in health communication contexts

- Telling symptoms
- Giving commands
- Requesting services
- Conducting surveys
- Discussing treatments
- Debating about practices
- Disseminating information
...California has announced a new college service program, called Californians for All College Corps, that will give eligible students $10,000 in exchange for 450 hours of volunteer work during an academic year...beginning in fall 2022...

(Higher Ed Dive, by Laura Spitalniak, 2022)
Process
Process

Phrase book

Spreadsheet

Language Textbook and exercises
The spreadsheet
Making entries

Columns:

1. Source / Inspiration
2. English
3. Mandarin characters
4. Mandarin pinyin
5. Cantonese characters
6. Cantonese Romanization
7. Table of content

8. Pronunciation
9. Syntax
10. Cultural notes
I have a hoarse voice and I don't want to talk a lot.

我嗓子啞了, 不想多說話。

我把聲沙咗, 唔想講咁多嘢。
Spreadsheet

Summary:

1. 130 entries
2. Some columns are blank
3. Revisit
4. Refrigerator
1. Phrase book
Don't rub your eyes

Mandarin
不要揉眼睛。
Búyào róu yǎnjīng。

Cantonese
唔好捽眼。
m̀ hóu jēut ngáahn.

Tips
(1) “Don’t (verb)”: In Mandarin, it's 不要 búyào or 別 bié, but in Cantonese, it's NOT 唔要 m̀ yiu, but 唔好 m̀ hóu. 唔要 m̀ yiu means “I don’t want”.

(2) “To rub”: 揉 róu in Mandarin generally corresponds to 捋 jēut in Cantonese. For example, “A lot of people rub the temple when they have a headache” 很多人頭疼的時候揉按太陽穴 hěn duō rén tóuténg de shíhou róuàn tàiyáng xué (Mandarin); 好多人頭痛啫陣捽太陽穴 hóu dō yāhn tāuh tùng gó jahn sīh jēut taai vēuhng yuht (Cantonese).
I feel like something stuck in my throat.

Mandarin: 我覺得有些東西卡在喉嚨。
Cantonese: 我覺得有啲穢棘住喺喉嚨。

Tips:
In Cantoese literary pronunciation, 棘 is usually read as gīk, such as 荊棘 gīng gīk, which means thorns. In Cantonese colloquial pronunciation, 棘 is usually read as kīk, such as “棘親” kīk chān, which corresponds to “絆倒” bàndǎo in Mandarin.
Cover one eye with your left hand

Mandarin

用左手蓋著一隻眼。
Yòng zuǒshǒu gàizhe yīzhīyǎn。

Cantonese

用左手揞住一隻眼。
Yuhng jó sáu ám jyu̍h yāt jek ngáahn。

Tips

“用”: In both Mandarin and Cantonese, 用 could mean “to use”, such as “to use computer” 用電腦 yòng diànnǎo (Mandarin) yuhng dihn nóuh (Cantonese). It could also mean “with +ways, method, tools”. For example, ‘Eat with chopsticks’ is 用筷子吃飯 yòng kuàizǐ (Mandarin) yuhng faai jí sihk faahn (Cantonese).
Phrase book

Summary:

1. 30 entries
2. Health communication
3. Comparison
4. Highlight
5. Light lunch
2. Language
Textbook
Learning Mandarin and Cantonese in Health Communication Context

By: Chihleung Chan chanchleung@berkeley.edu

Not for sale

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Module 1 – Senses

1. Visual
2. Taste
3. Touch and smell
4. Perceptual

Module 2 – Body parts

5. Head
6. Upper body
7. Lower body
8. Whole body
1.1 Listening and Speaking Practice - Conversation

Situation: Grandpa was happy to see his grandson visiting.

Preview questions:

1. How long has it been since they met last time? What about you and your grandparents?
2. How did grandpa react when he saw the gifts from his grandson?
3. How did grandson react to his grandpa’s hospitality?
4. Based on the conversation, do you think grandson and grandpa are close to each other? Why?
5. Based on your own experience, how do Chinese people react to compliments and hospitality among family, close friends, or coworkers?
6. Why doesn’t grandpa want to change his old glasses? Do you think grandpa is similar to your grandparents in some ways?
孫仔：阿爺，好耐冇見呀，一眨眼就一個月喇，好掛住你呀。買咗你最鐘意食嘅生果呀。

…

阿爺：你咪話想做眼科醫生嘅？你就快考試嘅喇，溫晒書未呀？唔好掛住玩呀！

…
## Textbook - Core vocabulary

### Mandarin versus Cantonese highlights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Cantonese</th>
<th>Mandarin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Paternal grandfather</td>
<td>阿爺 a-yēh</td>
<td>爸爸 bàba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 To miss (someone)</td>
<td>望住 Gwa jyu</td>
<td>望 wàng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Fruits</td>
<td>生果 Sāng gwó</td>
<td>果 guǒ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 A lot (colloquial)</td>
<td>大把 Daal bā</td>
<td>很 hěn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 To finish off eating (something halfway done)</td>
<td>吃完 Sīh māa</td>
<td>吃 chī</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 To rub</td>
<td>摸 jūt</td>
<td>摸 mō</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 A pair of glasses</td>
<td>頭眼鏡 Fu ngāahn gēng</td>
<td>頭眼鏡 tóu yǎn jǐng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 To take off glasses</td>
<td>除低 Chēuh dài</td>
<td>摘 chāi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 To put back on (glasses)</td>
<td>戴返 Dāi fān</td>
<td>戴返 dàifǎn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Isn’t it OK? (rhetorical)</td>
<td>瞟得嘅 Maih dâk lò</td>
<td>瞟得嘅 miāo de</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Advanced vocabulary highlights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Chinese characters</th>
<th>Cantonese Yale Romanization</th>
<th>Mandarin Pinyin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 In the blink of an eye</td>
<td>一眨 yī zhā</td>
<td>yān zhā yǎn</td>
<td>yī zhā yǎn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 ophthalmologist</td>
<td>眼科 yǎn kē</td>
<td>yǎn kē yì shēng</td>
<td>yǎn kē yì shēng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 (literal) ten lines at a glance</td>
<td>十行 zhí huáng</td>
<td>yān kē yì shēng</td>
<td>yī mù shí háng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 glass frame</td>
<td>鏡框 géng kuàng</td>
<td>jīng kuàng</td>
<td>jīng kuàng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 degree</td>
<td>等級 děng jí</td>
<td>děng jí</td>
<td>děng jí</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Optometrist</td>
<td>眼科 yǎn kē</td>
<td>shí guāng shì</td>
<td>shí guāng shì</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 vision</td>
<td>眼 yǎn</td>
<td>shí lǐ</td>
<td>shí lǐ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 control by voice</td>
<td>用声 yōng shēng</td>
<td>shēng kōng</td>
<td>shēng kōng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 glaucoma</td>
<td>青光眼 chēng guāng yǎn</td>
<td>qīng guāng yǎn</td>
<td>qīng guāng yǎn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Unwilling to make the slightest change</td>
<td>一絲不苟 yī sī bù gǒu</td>
<td>yī sī bù gǒu</td>
<td>yī chéng bù biàn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To take off glasses

除低
Chèuih dāi

摘下
zhāi xià

Yellow - Cantonese only

Blue - Mandarin only
Textbook - Idiomatic expressions

New romanization


Cantonese

Learning Mandarin and Cantonese in Health Communication Context

Yellow - Cantonese only

Blue - Mandarin only

Exercise

Idiomatic expressions about eyes

Guess what the idiomatic expression mean in Mandarin and Cantonese:

<table>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>瞎眼落水</td>
<td>漏水落眼</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Literal translation: Saying "blind waters" with eyes wide open

Which one is the correct meaning of the above expression?
A. The blind leading the blind
B. To cry your eyes out
C. To give a blind eye to
D. To tell an obvious lie
Idiomatic expressions

Mandarin: Saying ‘blind words’ with eyes wide open
Cantonese: Saying ‘big’ things’ with eyes wide open
Which one is the correct meaning of the above expression?

A  The blind leading the blind  
B  To cry your eyes out  
C  Turn a blind eye to  
D  To tell an obvious lie
Language textbook

Summary:

1. 2 chapters (target 8)
2. Health communication
3. Comparison
4. Highlight
5. Full course dinner
Summary and Implication
Summary

1. Mandarin and Cantonese @ Bay Area.
2. Mutually beneficial, not exclusive.
3. Useful in health communication contexts.
4. Spreadsheet.
1. Start with your fridge.
2. Explore grocery stores and enrich your fridge.
3. Explore your food combinations.
4. Cook something light to test out.
5. Cook something heavier.
6. Consider what your guests need.
7. Apply for the BLC fellowship!
The End!

Q & A
Chinese Immersion School – An ideal model

- 1/3 Native English Speakers
- 1/3 Native Chinese Speakers
- 1/3 Bi-lingual and bi-literate Speakers

https://www.sfusd.edu/school/chinese-immersion-school-cis-de-avila/about/why-chinese-immersion
Language proficiency and health communication

...A volunteer at a Chinese hospital spoke about how her Cantonese speaking abilities helped her contribute to vaccinating “hundreds of people per day” against COVID....

(AsAmNews, by Julia Tong 2022)
