A STUDY ON THE PRONUNCIATION
OF HONG KONG ENGLISH:
A VARIETY OF ENGLISH

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References
Abstract

It is attempted to describe the phonological processes of Hong Kong English (HKE) among some HKE speakers in the present study. The theoretical phonological approach of Mohanan (1992) is adopted to analyse the data. It is an attempt to describe HKE by investigating its internal phonological properties instead of comparing its sound system with that of RP. Fifteen university or college graduates of three different age groups performed three tasks, that is minimal pairs reading, passage reading and conversation. These subjects were chosen to be representatives of HKE speakers because they have learnt English for around fifteen years or more. They use English frequently in their daily life. Cantonese is their first language.

By analysing the data, different phonological generalisations are arrived, which indicate the characteristics of vowel and consonant system of HKE. From the data analysis, it is found that HKE is directly influenced by our first language, that is Cantonese. Meanwhile, other inputs to HKE such as RP also play roles in the existing HKE system. It is hoped to help people in Hong Kong to have a more detailed understanding of the phonological system of HKE through this study.